

Queen Mary PS – School Council Meeting
Tuesday October 8th, 2019 at QMPS Main Office

Minutes prepared by: Jill Staveley & Chris Gooderham

Present: Heather Ray, Chris Gooderham (Chair), Matt Jarvis (Vice Chair), Jill Staveley (acting Secretary), Sonal Gohil, Amanda Fuller

Regrets: Charlie Martin (Treasurer)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:36am. Chairs remarks and welcome.

2. Old Business/Updates

2.1. **Crosswalk:** Dean Pappas attended our first meeting in September. Heather Ray will take point on this initiative, and request support from council/staff as needed.

2.2. **Adopt-A-School:** QMPS was chosen as the “adopted school” at Chapters in Peterborough. Ms. Seargent oversaw the initiative as a staff member, and the whole thing seems very successful. Exact numbers will be available at the next meeting. Sonal Gohil will follow up with teachers regarding whether or not they enjoyed the “Cookies & Bookies” event before Winter Holidays in December last year, and if they would like to do it again with support from Council.

2.3. **Pizza Lunch / Hot lunch:** QM Admin staff (Amanda) will contact Pizza Hut, and communicate with Lee May (last year’s behind the scenes volunteer) to determine how best to move forward, and if this is an initiative that Council will continue to take responsibility for. We have decided to move ahead with the Pizza Lunch.

3. New Business

3.1. **Fundraising & Events:** After much discussion, it was determined that Matt Jarvis & Heather Ray will co-chair a “Fun Fair” subcommittee this year to make some version of this event happen in the Spring. There was also a brief mention of looking to QMPS Alumni for financial support in making improvements at the school (playground, music equipment – etc?). tabled for discussion at the next meeting.
Scientists in the Schools is a desirable event - applicable to all grade levels.
DePave: Heather Ray to follow up on designing a yard plan.

3.2. **Lunch Program budget:** Look for synergies: tabled for discussion at the next meeting.

3.3. **Parent Involvement Poll:** Chris would like to reach out to families for input on what is important to them, and how they could get involved at QMPS. Tabled for discussion at the next meeting.

3.4. **Communication Channels:** It is vital that we use and promote one simple resource for communication between the school and families. One positive outcome this year can be the streamlining of communication channels. The new Admin are using the school website and Twitter, along with School Messenger & Edsby. Edsby currently has 251 parents registered and is a good platform for the staff. However, we need to support

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parents through the learning curve of accessing the platform consistently. Sonal will prepare a simple text/blurb that we will distribute broadly with the hopes of informing families of new communication channels, and keeping the community connected effectively.

QM School Council will continue to use Facebook for announcements. Sign up Genius works well for a specific event where we are asking volunteer parents to sign up for a specific time slots to support an activity/event.

- 3.5. **Playground:** Council was billed & paid \$1000 to the annual play-structure inspection & repairs. It was noted during our meeting that the “webbing” has been removed from the main yard structure and boarded off. Was this due to safety or budget? Sonal will find the report, and share upon receipt.. In general, the yard is a priority for Council, as outdoor physical activity is important to a child’s (and adult’s) wellbeing. Council will work to find affordable and simple ways to support the development of the school grounds to benefit the school as a whole.

4. Principal’s Report

- 4.1. **Strike Update (CUPE):** It was reported that as a whole, the school and all the staff were very calm, respectful and supportive of one another through this time.
- 4.2. **Cell Phone Policy:** The outcome has been good. Kids are playing ‘cards’ instead of on their phones, and the removal of phones during class time has been creating a positive environment overall in the classroom.
- 4.3. **EQAQO:** It was reported that school scores seem generally low (though we were not comparing the scores to those of other schools), but that they were relatively consistent with last year. There are practical and clear plans to address the needs of the students.
- 4.4. **School Drills:** There are to be 6 Fire Drills and 2 Lock Down Drills per school year. Families will be given information about the Lock Down Drills, at the appropriate times.
- 4.5. **Fundraising plan:** Sonal will prepare a budget summary and a fundraising plan for 2020 with input from staff and Council to submit to the Board in November.

5. Next Meeting Dates

It was proposed that we continue meeting at 9:30am on the first Tuesday of the month, and provide one evening meeting in each of the Fall and Spring. (Evening meeting 2020 TBD.):

November 5th, 9:30 AM, QM Office

December 2nd, 6:30 PM, QM Office — (Evening Meeting)

February 4th, 2020, 9:30 AM, QM Office

March 3rd, 2020, 9:30 AM, QM Office

April 7th, 2020, 9:30 AM, QM Office

May 5th, 2020, 9:30 AM, QM Office

June 2nd, 2020, 9:30 AM, QM Office

6. Adjournment: 11:00 AM