

## Mutchmor Public School Council

January 22, 2020

**Present:** Sandra Walker, Marie-Pierre Roure, Sheri Segal Glick, Elizabeth Nicholds, Kevin Smith, Kiersten Love, Melanie Love, Kate Swan, Kate Binnie, Alexandria Sjoman, Roselle Adler, Kathy Cowan, Adrienne Annan, Liane Wray

**Guests:** N/A

**Regrets:** Rob Gottschalk

### Approval of agenda

Agenda was approved by Kiersten Love and seconded by Kate Swan.

### Approval of minutes from previous meeting

Last meeting's minutes were approved by Sherri Segal Glick and seconded by Kate Binnie.

### Co-Chair update

Sheri went to the GNAG meeting and they were very receptive to donating money for the playground, given how much their kids use it as well. She also received some good ideas for corporate sponsorship possibilities for the playground.

Rink follow-up Discussion ensued:

Alex is doing some research with regard to what square footage is required per student legally in terms of play space.

Although Sandra can notice some space issues on the yard, she indicated that cursory surveys of the students seems to suggest that they are not too bothered about their play space being affected. Classes are using and enjoying the rink. Collaboration with the community center is going well, they are providing volunteer help to lace the younger students' skates at times in addition to the parent volunteers. The Grade 5 class is doing some research and crossover math looking in to the space of the yard as well as the relevance of student voice as part of the decision making. Students may produce an article to send to the Glebe Report community newspaper.

Concerns voiced with regard to the Glebe report article suggesting that the rink could get bigger. Sandra pointed out that the school was a third of the size that it once was when the rink was last larger.

Kate Swan voiced that from the community side there has been a huge benefit so far but acknowledged the challenges from the school's viewpoint. In relation to school concerns, she queried the possibility of a reciprocal arrangement for sharing Corpus Christi yard space since they use the Mutchmor yard. Sandra and Marie-Pierre explained that supervision is a challenge with this since Mutchmor has two yards to account for (in terms of staffing supervision).

Adrienne asked whether any classes had missed out on skating due to a lack of volunteers so far and Sandra said no.

Roselle queried as to whether all classes will be skating. Sandra said it is at the teacher's discretion as to whether they take their class to the rink. Some classes voted on canal vs. rink, and subsequently have been unable to go to the canal since it has been closed and also counts as a field trip, which is now struck work.

### **Principal's report**

Sandra opened the floor to questions surrounding current work action, then gave some information on the current circumstance as it relates to Mutchmor.

ETFO members include all elementary teachers

OSSTF includes support staff at elementary.

Mutchmor has been affected by both union work action as a result. When either group of staff are missing, students cannot be in the building. Latest sanction by ETFO is that report cards won't be written. Everything in the class is proceeding as normal, parents just won't receive a paper version of feedback in relation to this. Teachers will submit marks without comments including learning skills to admin. Teachers will still provide feedback to parents upon request. In a situation where a child is not performing as expected, these concerns will already have been communicated. IEPs will still be updated, but not sent home. Parents can request copies of their child's IEP directly through Sandra or Marie-Pierre.

Generally the scope of teacher work is not changing at this stage, only the formal paper copy will be lacking. Roselle asked if printouts of grades could also be provided to parents, similar to IEPs. Sandra suggested that teachers could provide a printout of student grades to parents upon request (not in report card format) after the mark deadline of Feb. 13th.

There was some discussion surrounding how students are listening to the media and sometimes misinterpreting messages. High schools will not be disrupting exams, ETFO has not yet released a predictable schedule. Board/public must receive five days notice in advance of a strike day by law.

Question from Elizabeth surrounding media messages about class sizes. Sandra explained how class sizes are averaged across all of our board's classes including specialized classes. Brief discussion about how mandatory online courses may impact the secondary panel.

Question from Roselle surrounding whether mandated number of days would affect students completing their year. Sandra clarified that the number of days missed is less of an issue for elementary than it is for secondary. 2-4 days missed will not have too much of an impact, however 2 weeks or more may.

Sandra is working on getting the city to address the lack of plowing which is making the crosswalk at Fourth Ave. dangerous as soon as possible.

### **School report**

Marie Pierre - Reassured the group that there is a lot of learning going on despite current work action. Knitting club, silver birch and snowhawks are still happening in terms of extra curriculums.

Volunteers still needed for the lost and found. Suggestion from within the group of pizza volunteers taking this on? Warning to families to be sent out in the next newsletter that the lost and found will be donated with a two week period.

Feb. 14th Dance-a-thon will likely be affected (missed) as a result of labour action.

Roselle asked if the Love to Groove event could be revisited. Her feedback was that the noise level for this activity is too loud. There have been noise complaints in the past, some students are wearing noise cancelling headphones. Marie-Pierre indicated that when asked, the Love to Groove teacher did cooperate to turn the volume down. The event is planned and organized by teachers. Sandra and Marie-Pier will bring feedback surrounding the volume to organizing staff. Sandra and Marie-Pierre offered to consider other options for next year, with parental input.

### **Treasurer Report**

Many new pizza orders, funds increasing with this event.

Outstanding invoices pending payment: Silver birch, fall piano tuning, book sale webpage hosting domain (to Elspeth), bouncy castle payment. Sandra will forward receipts/invoices for silver birch and piano tuning.

As of the end of December there was \$141,282.68 in the bank account.

### **Engagement Coordinator Update**

No one is signing up for membership toolkit anymore. Feedback from parent council is that there are not enough people using the toolkit to make it a useful "tool" at present. No solutions discussed to increase enrolment.

### **Book sale Update**

Committee met last week, all of the positions needed have been filled. Elspeth and Adrienne are meeting with Sandra next week to discuss logistics. They are getting started on clearing out the space. Query about whether or not mailouts will still be possible despite work action since they are found to be more effective than strictly emailouts. Some discussion as to whether teachers may be able to help with getting notes home under the "charitable" loophole of their work sanctions. If not, Marie-Pierre and Sandra may be able to help with class to class deliveries. Hoping that mailouts could go home next week as getting the message out that book sale is coming and that people should start putting their books aside is a priority. Facebook site has been created to promote the event. Afternoon/evening volunteer spots are being saved for teachers to volunteer as per their request. Book collection will be from 8:45-

9:15AM and also 7-8:30PM starting March 30. Sarah Dingle and Sarah Williams-McFall will be doing volunteer coordination this year.

### **Fun Fair Update**

Fun fair committee is getting together again soon. Still looking for additional people for the fun fair committee and the bouncy castles have been booked.

### **Outreach**

Kiersten Contacted Cambridge to offer financial and/or skilled support and discovered that their school is down to 70 students which means that they have very little per pupil cumulative funds to support additional events. Their school council chairs will explore which ways they would like help and get back to Kiersten. Discussion of looking into which other RAISE schools are in the board to potentially consider supporting. Still determining where the remainder of allocated outreach funds are going to go.

Prepared handout (attached) of a summary of former outreach committee givings to inform this year's choices.

Suggestion to prepare criteria to get Mutchmor students to weigh in on and perhaps "pitch" worthy causes for consideration.

### **OCASC (Ottawa Carleton Association of School Councils)**

Alex said there was nothing new to report this month.

### **Playground committee Update**

Sandra was able to confirm that every two years is when the board staff will come in to evaluate whether the playground needs to be replaced. Decision rests with the school as to when and if it gets replaced in relation to the expiry timeline given. The only way that the board will pay for the removal is if the structure is condemned. Melanie suggested that at this stage, a landscape architect needs to look at the situation as the first point of call. Looks like many decisions will need to be made simultaneously once we agree on a timeline. Alex requested that the last third party update on replacement be acquired to see if it can provide any information to us. Sandra will try to locate this. Discussion surrounding timeline. Alex also offered that according to OCASC, some schools have recently built play structures that are close enough to the ground to stay open in winter which is interesting for our consideration.

Next steps: Melanie will connect with landscape architects, Alex will survey OCASC for recommendations of landscape architects.

### Community rep

Not present, sent regrets.

### Other Business

Kate Swan was wondering if anyone uses flip give? It is an app that you can use to fundraise. It offers a bank of online vendors (ex: indigo, amazon) who choose to participate and provide kickbacks to your charity when people make purchases through these vendors. Interest expressed around the table. Kate Swan will create an account and parent council will trial this fundraising effort with a purvue to potentially extend it to the larger parent community.

Next meeting: **February 26th, 2020**