

École Margaret Jenkins School

Parent Advisory Council

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, April 20, 2023 (7pm, hybrid: EMJS library & Zoom)

Present: Heather M, Betty G, Britta B, Sarah T, Lisa M, Tara P, Emily R, Leia V, Sam G, Maggie B, Andy M, Claire H, Tonya W, James H, Ashley F, Steph B

Zoom: Rosie B, Tariq A, Megan H, Alanna G, Chelsea P, Kiera H

Welcome and introductions.

- Heather started with territory acknowledgement. Round table introductions including those on zoom.

Approval of the agenda and February 24th meeting minutes. Approved.

Principal & VP's update

- Ashley Frketich – staff appreciates coffee and goodies from PAC
 - Pizza days have been going really well, thanked parents for support.
 - Tonya Winton – lunch schedule switched in order to test which process is best (lunch before or after play). Parent feedback will be solicited.
 - Grade 5 legacy art project underway. Every year Grade 5s do an art project to leave behind for remaining students.
 - Grade 5 celebration will be 2nd last day of school.
 - District transition meeting on May 18th - grade 5 students will go to their catchment middle schools for afternoon.
 - Logo – wanted to change logo to reflect community. A community elder has agreed to participate in the process which will take time.
 - Feels more like a typical year with afterschool sports in full swing, PAC spring fair, and other performances.
 - Intermediate concerts are on May 9th and 10th.
 - May 4th: student-led conferences; students will be let out at 11:50.
 - Next year:
 - 10 English and 11 French, English is getting tight.
 - Try to put intermediates with 4/5 splits and get to do mini exploratories. Each teacher does a theme project for 6 weeks.
 - Kindergarten is comprised of 2 French, 1 English, and English K/1
 - Next year should have strings and crossing guard programs.
 - Cell phones with kids. Considering asking cell phones to be away from bell to bell. No plans to overregulate but would like phones to be left alone during class hours. Currently no district policy.
 - Custodial budget – district can fund 5 more daytime custodians, hoping to get more hours at EMJS.
 - Lead testing in water at EMJS, and higher levels found. Now have filtered water fountains, and this school still has 2 sinks requiring flushing (located in places where students don't have access). One of these 2 sinks should have a filter, Water fountain filters are changed throughout the year.
 - Technology upgrades – staff open to feedback. Most days are screenless other than short periods of time.
 - The condition of school technology at EMJS is ok. The best way to maintain is replace a few every year, but no replacement or maintenance has taken place over the last few years. The school needs 15-18 more iPads for next year. EMJS librarian is the school tech expert who guides staff on programs and devises.
 - School uses iPads, Chromebooks and PC computers.
 - Top floor has 12 iPads for classes with 22 students and sharing seems to work well.
 - Issue is many iPads will be obsolete soon.
 - Ideal to take an inventory and see what is needed to fill in the gap.
- ACTION: Teacher Librarian to provide current technology summary as well as what the school needs.**

PAC Event / Project Updates

- Hot lunch – Hot lunch program is going well. Jess in office said the busiest day for no snacks is hot lunch day so remind parents kids need snack that day. Requested Thrifty's to provide smile card for extra snacks in the office.

Q: Request families to donate granola bars to office? Might be difficult to find a place to store donation; smile card is likely easier.

- Next year Megan H. and Andy plan to take over the hot lunch program.
- Walk-a-thon – pledges are coming in, tracker is up. Families are encouraged to submit pledges online or by cheque with details and student name to be included with pledge.
- DJ Am to set up in the field.
- Food allergy - Ice cream prize might be substituted with market bucks for Moss Street Market for one family.
- Outdoor classroom project: Heather Sanche plans to put together a vision board to display at spring fair. Clear messaging for walk a thon in pledge sheets.
- Spring Fair: June 16th from 5-8 pm. Planning is in progress. So far there will be 3 bouncy castles, parent DJ to bring equipment, food vendors have been consulted, and putting together games.
- Food and entry tickets will be sold in advance.
- Idea was discussed to survey parents to acquire feedback on what they want to see more of in the school, specifically around hot lunch as it raises a lot of money for the PAC. The teachers find hot lunch days really busy and a lot of work.

Proposed changes to PAC Constitution & Bylaws. All in favor.

- Lower quorum to 10
- Add requirement for PAC to include a DPAC rep
- Add bylaw to section 10 to allow the executive to approve up to \$500 and \$1500 annually without needing general PAC vote.
- Definition of Exec roles and allowance of up to 5 additional members at large.

Budget update and draft for 2023/24. All in favor.

- Current financials reviewed and can be shared upon request.
- Teacher funds yet to spend but teacher receipts expected to come in towards the end of the year. Funds not spent go toward the following year.
- Projected to be on track to be able to fund the same slate of PAC-funded activities next year.

PAC Executive nominations for 2023/24. Approved as follows:

- Co-chairs: Claire Helm & Leia Vik
- Co-treasurers: John MacKenzie & Sam Goldman
- Secretary: Lisa Mann
- VCPAC Rep: Rosie Burn
- Signing authorities: Sam Goldman, Claire Helm, Rosie Burn, Heather Sanche
- Members-at-large: Tariq Amlani, Megan Harvey, Andy Moll, Heather Macdonald, Heather Sanche
- Thanks to Britta Bentz, Betty Greer & Sarah Turnbull for all of their contributions!

Next meeting: May 25, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the library and on Zoom - register [here for Zoom link](#)