

École Montgomery Middle School

PAC Meeting Minutes via Zoom

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Attendees: Kim Cameron, Melissa Plouffe, Deana McLean, Kimberley Tran, Linda Intihar, Michelle Wong, Michele Mihailoff, Christine Friend, Manjit Herar, Kori Gillanders, Sarah Husband, Cristina Avila

Regrets: Janice Doege

7:00pm Motion to adopt Agenda: Kim Cameron adopt, Christine Friend second

1. Welcome & Introductions:

2. Approval of September 22, 2020 Minutes: Linda Intihar adopt, Michelle Wong second

3. President's Message: Linda Intihar:

Thank you Sarah, Deana and staff for the open house via zoom. Worked very well. Welcome to everyone. Your thoughts/ideas are always welcomed and valued. PAC minutes, budget updates and other communication items are posted on the Montgomery website under the PAC heading.

4. Treasurer's Report: Kim Cameron

a. Proposed Budget for 2020/2021 -See attached sheet

i. We needed to reflect a tight budget since we do not know how things will progress this year.

ii. School account = \$0 since we will not ask for donations this year

iii. Gaming account

1. expecting \$9600 based on number of students but haven't heard confirmation. Will hear by the end of Oct. Right now we have approximately \$1847.88. Expenses are based on school priorities (technology or sports

equipment about \$5000 each) option to move \$2000 to sports based on how things go with everything. Total expense about \$10K.

iv. General account

1. Gift cards that we bought last year for hot lunch were donated to the school breakfast/lunch program.
2. Students leaving ceremony: we wanted to keep that the same for the grade 8s and recognize them. Last year we were able to give each student a gift certificate to Rocky Point Ice Cream .
3. Teachers' discretionary funds we put at \$500 because we have limited income this year and in the past has always come from parents' donations. Staff appreciation could be adjusted to discretionary funds instead. Discretionary funds are used for projects, supplies, etc. that teachers feel they need to enhance their classroom learning that are not paid for by the school. Motion to change name to Supplementary Classroom materials - a more accurate description of the fund. We would like to support them in this area.

v. **Questions/Discussion arising from proposed budget:**

1. **What is the plan for technology?** Maybe some new devices, maybe apps, depending on school needs. Sarah - probably at this point, there is not a need to increase the laptops but for accessories for the devices (ie speakers to give better audio in classrooms.) \$5000 will easily accommodate.
2. **What's the game plan for how much to save for the aging out devices? Is there a long term plan? Do we have that forecasted?** Sarah - Bring your own device will be our aim as our devices age out. Right now, we will start with four classes and maybe/hopefully, after spring break will be four more classes. That will help us and decrease the burden but there will be other kinds of devices that will help in other ways. We are hoping the need will come down but the reality is that we will have to live within our means.

3. **Sports/school culture - do we know what we will be doing? Spending on?** PAC has previously purchased outdoor equipment. We did a survey from the classes to see what else they need. Not quite enough sports equipment because use of it is way up and kids are playing like before (1970) which is wonderful. Some of the equipment ended up on the roof but they were brought down recently.
4. **As a response to not being able to provide sufficient money in our budget for teachers' discretionary funds and finding out we can't do fundraisers, we needed to revisit prior decisions**
 - a. Revisited from the October meeting where we decided not to do Parent donation letters. Linda didn't feel right asking parents for donations. We thought parents could prioritize where their money went, for example, parents could put that money toward other areas like saving for laptops for their children or the breakfast/lunch program.
 - b. We are now aware that district policy does not support fundraisers at the moment. A discussion occurred "Are people in favour of asking for parents' donations in a very respectful way?".
 - c. **Motion to proceed with a donation letter -approved by all.**
 - *Manjit will help draft the letter and will run it by Linda and Sarah, before the November newslette. Donations we get will be bonus. We will meet our requirement for fundraising with the gaming policies too.
 - *Money we collect will be allocated to supplementary classroom supplies (previously named teacher discretionary funds) and other high priority needs (such as lunch equipment)

- vi. **Suggestion - Have there been any requests from Best Buy, Michaels, Amazon for donations? Have worked with a team**

getting laptops for a classroom before. Other groups have been doing services (ie a chef teaches how to cook or make drinks via zoom) Great idea, to help. Kimberley T. will help Linda with this. The school receives some donations from Superstore for the breakfast club.

Action: Linda & Kim will touch base and revise the budget based on tonights' decisions, and then send it out to everyone. Everyone in agreement and we will vote through email.

5. DPAC Report: Sabine Sengmueller

- a. No report

6. Fundraising Reports:

- a. No fundraisers at moment due to district protocol and because we are asking for donations
- b. Masks - a neat idea for school spirit. Linda will continue to look into it. Thanks to Manjit for gathering info.

7. Member-at-Large Report: Janice Doege, Manjit Herar, Christine Friendpurc

- a. No report

8. Tabled Business:

- a. Movement of AGM/Fiscal Year End - tabled to next meeting

9. New Business:

10. Administration report: Ms. Husband and Ms. McLean

a. School update

- Feedback on the virtual open house
 - * Challenge for parents who had two teachers in two different classes. Next time school can record on zoom.
- no update on Band - still on hold
- preparing for a three way conference which is in line with the early dismissal days; It will be the same as before with online booking.
- Bring your own laptop
 - *info. session on will happen soon

*will start with the four classes. There will be one English class (Welch), Montessori(Piper) and two LFI(Blizzard, Lepin/Griffin). Trying to get some of the grade 8s in that group especially because in highschool, they will need to bring their own devices. For families who cannot afford it, there is a loan program. The district said, there are usually less than 5% of the school on that support.

- Covid protocol

* if there's an exposure at the school. Sarah presented a slide to help more people understand the process. Have to follow directions from Fraser Health. Enormous amount of information would be needed to give to Fraser Health, so they can decide who needs to be contacted. If there's an exposure, the community will be notified. But the people who are directly involved, would only be informed. It's a learning process. Our colleagues are learning about it too. Hard part for our community is the degree of knowledge does not happen unless it's directly impacted.

b. **Question and answer time**

i. **If there were an exposure and the families are notified, do the rest of the household need to be quarantined?** The rest of the family may have to self isolate until they are notified. It would be self Isolate, test, depending on results and living circumstances, they may be allowed to go to school or to work.

- **Who manages Monty hoodies? Very reasonable price.** Some of the staff. It's for spiritwear. Creating normalcy. Important to keep the tradition.

- **Mask - could we hire a seamstress to cut the cost down?** Like the idea as a spiritwear. Keep it generic to the school. Versatility for all.

- **What will sponsor a family for Christmas look like this year?** Look mainly like gift cards. Last year we funded 10 baskets through the Christmas Market and other resources; portions of it were gift cards but this year there will be more gift cards. Gift cards (i.e Superstore, Walmart, etc.) meet the differing needs of families better. Contact lindamontypac@gmail.com if you would like to participate.

- **Question on emergency supplies?** In the past, we had a storage container outside but it was broken into so it's moved inside with outside access. Do we need to do more? Absolutely. The school recently ordered more emergency supplies from the School District. We will need to do an inventory to see what is there and what is needed - perhaps a PAC goal for 21/22
- **Allergies at school?**
From an allergy standpoint we have to be nut free and egg free.

11. Next Meeting: November 10 , 2020 @ 7 p.m. via Zoom

12. Adjournment: October 13, 2020 @ 8:33pm