

Eagle Mountain Middle PAC General Meeting
Tuesday, October 20, 2020
7:00pm held via Zoom

Attendance:

Diane M (Chair)
Shannon V (Treasurer)
Annie T (DPAC)

Katie G (Vice Chair)
Mary Anne P (Secretary)
Marcela P (Member-at-Large)

Darren Macmillan
Simon Kwok
James McConville

Kirsten Paterson
Daniel Martin

20 parents in attendance

Meeting was called to order by Diane M at 7:00pm.

1. Welcome & Introductions & Procedures for Zoom meeting

- Welcome and thank you for joining us tonight.

2. Presentation by staff members

- The Learning Commons (Library) - Mr. Kwok
 - His 3 year project is finally being completed. Thank you to the PAC for your contributions. Money also comes from the annual Scholastic Book Fair. (Book Fair will happen this year entirely online in November. Stay tuned!)
 - Mr. Kwok showed pictures of the new set up with new furniture and equipment.
 - Classes come into the library once every two weeks.
 - He has instituted many protocols surrounding looking at books. There is a lot of sanitizing of books!
 - Kids can sign out books online. He calls it Uber Reads.
- The Outdoor Learning Space
 - Mr. McConville
 - Presentation about the outdoor learning space.
 - Our plan is make a universally accessible space.
 - We want to include First Nations considerations.
 - Our goal is to learn about what species are considered invasive and remove those to allow the native species to flourish.
 - Mr. Martin
 - Outdoor education is so important. We have so little outdoor space available to us so to establish a proper outdoor learning space is incredible.

- Vision: eventually have a clear area where students can go at lunch time or with their class for learning opportunities.
 - Currently one “classroom” area is cleared.
 - We also want to build 4 more - have 5 classrooms, named after the 5 EM teams.
 - We want to have the students involved in the process. Learn how to do this in a sustainable way.
 - District is working, too, to get things moving.
 - Mr. Martin shared a number of photos. We could see the pathway from the upper parking lot to the first classroom and stumps being cut for “chairs”.
 - Two amazing Grade 8’s spoke too: Kate & Eliska. They highlighted some benefits they have experienced in outdoor learning: fresh air, decreased stress, increased concentration and inspiration, safe and quiet space, and the theme of “learn, explore, play”.
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- Questions:
 - How is this funded? Does PAC have ongoing funds allocated to it?
 - The PAC has allocated funds to this outdoor space for this year. We have also allocated funds to each team to use at their discretion.
 - Mr. McConville explained that there may also be some funds available from grants eg. Rotary
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- Have all classes been invited out to participate and explore the area?
 - Mr. Martin said that, yes, some of the classes have been out and all are 100% welcome to visit.
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- Mike K offered his help for the work to make the area wheelchair accessible.
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- Is the work only done during the class time? Or can this be incorporated into an “outdoor club” or something after school?
 - Mr. Martin said that is a great idea and one that had not been considered to date. He would lead a group like that, as long as it can be done safely and within the Covid guidelines.
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- Could there be a time or way for parents to come and see and, maybe, even take part?
 - Mr. Macmillan said to stay tuned and we will see what we can arrange.

- Any parents who are interested in contributing skills, talents or resources should contact Ms. Paterson, Mr. McConville or Mr. Martin directly.

3. Approval of the Agenda

- Annie motions to approve the agenda. Shannon seconded the motion. All were in favour. The motion carried.

4. Adopt minutes from September 22, 2020

- Shannon motions to adopt the minutes of the meeting held by Zoom on Tuesday, September 22nd. Lisa seconded the motion. All were in favour. The motion carried.

5. Admin Report

- We are really trying to keep the school safe and to keep it “school”.
- Kids want to be connected to each other. They miss the connection. They miss the school. They get excited and sometimes forget the safety protocols so we are constantly reminding them.
- Darren, Kirsten, Crista Jones & Marilyn Abram are conducting Class reviews with each of the classroom teachers. Teachers speak about strengths within their classes and areas for growth. These meetings have been very “normal” and feel good.
- One thing that keeps coming up is “technology addiction”. So getting out in the forest will be a good thing!
- Another thing that has come up as well is the need to think deeply as opposed to simply filling out a worksheet.
- Picture day on Thursday.
- Ambassadors meet every Thursday and working on some projects.
- Some of our teachers are going to start work on a project called “Open Parachute” which is all about mental health. There are three areas of focus: interpersonal skills and anti-bullying, cultural sensitivities, and mental health.

- Questions:
- How are masks being handled? Will anything change to make mask wearing more “normal” especially as numbers continue to rise?
- Certainly teachers have been asked to not ask someone to take a mask off. If working in small groups and close together, then masks should be recommended.

- With lockers, the phones can be locked away. But without lockers, what can be done to keep the phones put away?

- We may need to make the “phone hotels” mandatory. Darren acknowledged that the rules need to be reinforced better.
- What does “addicted to technology” look like in middle school?
- eg. the teacher tells them to open up Teams or a word document and the student keeps going back to the video game that they’re playing

6. Treasurer Report

- Gaming grant (\$20 per student based on last year’s enrollment) came in last week. Can only be used on non-curricular items.
- In the General account, we have spent a few of the wish list items.
- We typically have three fundraisers (hot lunches, Tunnel of Terror and the Winter Market). When we did the budget, we did not know what things would look like so we ensured that we have the funds to cover all budgets expenses even if fundraising does not happen.
- The PAC provided \$5,000 for the outdoor learning space, as Mr. McConville noted.

7. DPAC Report

- Not much to discuss yet. There was a “DPAC 101” earlier this month.
- Next meeting is Oct 28th.
- All parents are welcome to join any meeting. You don’t have to be the DPAC rep.
- Diane will send the link for the Oct 28th meeting to Kirsten for distribution to everyone.

8. Event / Volunteer Opportunity for 2020/21

- Member at Large position open Election Nov 17,2020
 - This is an Executive position.
 - We sometimes discuss issues in between meetings and so this position is included in those discussions.
 - Nicole N put her name forward.
 - Julie C put her name forward.
 - The vote will take place at the next meeting.
- Fundraising Committee (mini poll)
 - Kirsten put up a poll for us.
 - Option 1 - do you support fundraisers like Cobs bread, Thrifty’s Smile card, etc.
23% (5 people)
 - Option 2 - do you support a one time donation of \$20 through Munch-a-Lunch
77% (17 people)
 - Option 3 - do you support neither 0%

- Munch a Lunch Coordinator
 - Lisa said that she, Sheryl, Dena will look after setting up Munch-a-Lunch and get the messaging out for the fundraising donation. (They are not, however, volunteering to run the Hot Lunch!)
- Parent Education
 - Kirsten put up a poll for us.
 - Option 1 - would you like Parent Education speakers to be a part of a PAC Meeting (to fit within the 90 minute meeting schedule) - 17% (4 people)
 - Option 2 - would you like Parent Education speakers to be a part of a PAC Meeting (but extending the length of the meeting to 2 hours) - 26% (6 people)
 - Option 3 - would you like Parent Education speakers to be offered on a completely separate evening to the regular PAC meetings (they would run 1 1/2 - 2 hours) - 57% (13 people)
 - Lio asked if those presentations could be recorded for parents who cannot attend live. Diane said that it would depend on the speakers and if they allow recording.
 - Some of the topics that come to mind: Anxiety, Vaping, Drug Use.
 - If anyone has a passion in this area, please let Diane know.
- Teacher Appreciation
 - We have some people who are interested in helping but we need someone who will take the lead.
 - Katie, Annie, Marcela, Sharon and Lio will help.
 - Darshana volunteered to take the lead. Thank you, Darshana!
- Grade 8 Leaving
 - Last year, there was a “drive-by ceremony”. It was spread out over 7 hours and it was one student at a time. There were balloons, photos, a certificate. But it was very individual.
 - The PAC contributed a gift for each student, because there was no luncheon.
 - We don’t know what it will look like in the spring this year. Perhaps we will be able to do something in cohorts.
 - Annie, Rochelle, Sheryl, Mary Anne will form a committee.
- Lunch Program (on hold)
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9. Anmore Green Estates septic update

- At last month’s meeting, we were waiting to hear the results of discussions at the AGE strata meeting.
- On October 13th the AGE strata met and approved the decision to accept the principles as outlined by the facilitator. The clear message is that construction will proceed.
- The facilitator has passed the information on to the lawyers to write up the necessary agreements.

10. Other Business

- Sheryl would like to offer her time and effort to refill the garden boxes in the courtyard. She would like to replace the existing contents with plants that will stay green and beautiful year round.
- Mike would like to offer his abilities with the outdoor space, specifically with the aspect of making it accessible. He urges the PAC to reach inward to EMM parents before reaching out to other people or businesses.

11. Next Meeting November 17, 2020 @7pm Zoom

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12. Adjournment

- Diane motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:32pm. Annie seconded the motion. All were in favour. The motion carried.