

Mitchell Middle School Parent Advisory Council

Meeting Agenda – October 19, 2021, 10:30am

Welcome, attendance

- Present: AJ Neufeld, Jerrah-Lee Broesky, Charmaine Toews, Roxane Archer, Lindsay Lepp, Anita Terrick
- Regrets: Mandy Buhler

Approval of previous meeting minutes

- Previous minutes approved

Adoption of agenda – questions/amendments

- No questions or amendments

Principals' Report

Fundraiser

- \$580 has been raised so far
- In regards to possible incentives, AJ took this to his Student Voice classes. The students indicated the following motivators:
 - Food (pizza)
 - Activity/Events (extra Makerspace, movie afternoon)

Extracurricular Sports

- Currently up and running
- Cross Country run took place 2.5 weeks ago for grade 7 and 8 students
 - MMS took home a few banners
- Volleyball has started for grade 7 and 8 (boys and girls)
 - Spectators not permitted in the gym
 - A livestream is provided for each game, link can be found on MMS website
 - Parents can watch previous games as well
 - The division is using the app *Boxcast*
 - The season continues until November 10
 - This is an exhibition season only (no play offs)
 - There will possibly be a wrap up tournament to add a competitive element for the 8s (nothing confirmed at this point)
 - PAC Question: Are the away games being streamed?
 - Yes, they are being streamed.

- MMS asks for the links from the host schools. As links are received, AJ posts them on the website.
- PAC Question: For away games, where should kids go when they have a 4:30 game?
 - When possible, kids are encouraged to go home then come back at the start of the game.
 - Alternative: A coach can supervise in the Learning Commons with their team while waiting for a game.
 - The condition for this is that students can conduct themselves appropriately while waiting for their game.

Dot Day

- MMS celebrated Dot Day a few weeks ago
- Students participated in a variety of activities to discuss how they would positively make their mark at MMS this year.
- The intent of this day is to focus on community building (whole school) and character development (personal growth)

Warrior Wear

- Entripy Shops providing MMS clothing year round.
- Link can be found on MMS website
- Order from the website and ship to home
- PAC Question: Can we slightly mark up clothing for fundraising? Example, add \$2 to the cost and it goes to the school.
 - AJ will look into this.
- PAC Question: Are there size charts?
 - Size guides are brand specific. Some of the brands on the site offer size guides, some do not.

COVID-19 updates

- Public Health requirements have changed - some general across the province, some specific to Southern Health.
- In regards to masking, the province changed their expectation to read *"masks may be removed indoors where there is a physical distance of 2 metres (6 feet) for the purpose of eating, drinking, and for short, infrequent mask breaks."*
 - Implication: a new lunch plan was created to meet Public Health protocol.
 - Each classroom is split in half during lunch. Half of the students go out first, the other half eat in their homerooms first. Mid-way through the lunch break the groups switch.
 - This plan works well when everyone can go outside. There is a contingency plan for indoor recess - additional spaces for groups to go to so 2M distancing can be ensured so masks can come off and students can eat.
 - We are encouraging kids to come dressed for the weather. We want kids to be outside and mask-free as often as possible.
- We are required to send all siblings home if one sibling is sick at school.
- When in doubt MMS encourages families to contact Public Health for direction.

- COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic at MMS
 - The clinic takes place *October 20, 2021* and requires parental consent
 - Communication was sent to families last week.
- Immunization Clinic at MMS
 - Set to happen *November 25, 2021* at MMS in the morning
 - PAC Question: Does the school choose the date or does MMS choose the date of the immunization clinic?
 - Answer: Southern Health gave us the date.
 - Reason for question: Wanting to know if the COVID clinic on October 20 and the Immunization clinic on November 25 offer enough time between vaccines?
 - In AJ's conversation with Southern Health they were aware of this scheduling and time consideration.
 - Recommendation: discuss with a family physician or contact Health Links if there is concern.
 - The intention of Southern Health is to make vaccinations available to any student in grades 6-8 who may have not received it in the last 18 months.

Bill 64

- - Bill 64 is not going to be passed at this point.
- - We do not know what the next steps forward might be in terms of MB Education *Better Education Starts Today*.
- - We suspect that more information will be released when a new premier is chosen.

Treasurer's Update - Lindsay

- Our current balance is \$672.74

Fundraiser

- Discussion: choose preferred picnic table from options
 - Steel tables are cost prohibitive (PAC will not move forward with steel)
 - Barkman Concrete and the LumberZone offer concrete tables at the same price point
 - Charmaine will look into a possible discount with the LumberZone.
- Discussion: table placement
 - School preference: heavier tables that are not moveable
 - AJ, Susanne and Phys Ed team have done a walk around to determine permanent location for heavy tables.
- Idea: make the tables an art project or design a game for the tabletop.
- Incentive: continue to discuss at school and communicate with PAC. The intent is to provide a school-wide reward, not classroom based.

Board/PAC Liaison Meeting on October 26 – 7pm on Zoom

- Who is attending?
 - Charmaine, Roxane
- Any questions we should submit for their agenda?
 - Can we move towards Parent Portal donations or a “click to donate” button for fundraisers?

New business

PAC Question: How many parents are reading the Warrior Weekly?

- Reason: which platforms are best to reach as many families as possible?
- AJ will look into Warrior Weekly statistics

Manitoba Excellence in Education Awards

- Nominate school staff to recognize excellence in education
- This is a great opportunity for parent engagement and to recognize our school staff.
- There are posters that can be distributed to families.
 - Put it in the Warrior Weekly>
- PAC will work on school nominations in conjunction with AJ.

PAC Question: Why are ROEs not going forward? What about Discovery Time?

- ROES
 - MMS did not collect enough signatures to be considered by the board.
 - The board has indicated that if sufficient signatures are collected the request will be considered.
 - Information about gathering signatures for ROEs cannot come from the school. It is required to be community driven.
- Discovery Time
 - MES received permission to delay the start of Discovery Time to limit the number of people coming into the building as they navigate COVID-19 in the building. In an effort to be on the same page, MMS is doing the same.
 - At this point MMS has not heard from a Discovery Time coordinator.

Suggestions/Concerns

- No suggestions or concerns noted.

Closing – schedule meeting for November

- Next meeting: Tuesday, November 23 at 9:30.