

# MT SLESSE MIDDLE SCHOOL PAC MEETING MINUTES

LOCATION: MS MIDDLE SCHOOL

DATE: SEPTEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

TIME: 9:30AM

## MEETING AGENDA

**Attendees:** Lynn Loewen (President), Angelee Jack (Treasuer), Geri Marshall (Secretary), Heather Bodden, Kyla Schell, Alex Wetmore, Kelly Jamieson, Paula Gosal (Principal), Michelle Davis (Vice-Principal)

I. CALL TO ORDER L. Loewen called to order the regular meeting of the Mt. Slesse Middle School PAC at 9:36am on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

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II. ROLL CALL & WELCOME L. Loewen conducted a roll call.  
The following persons were present: **Lynn Loewen, Angelee Jack, Geri Marshall, Heather Boden, Kyla Schell, Alex Wetmore, Kelly Jamieson, Paula Gosal and Michelle Davis.**

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III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA & APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY MEETING L. Loewen introduced the minutes from the May meeting and copies were viewed. **Moved** to accept the minutes by K. Jamieson. **Second** by A. Jack. **CARRIED**  
The minutes were approved.

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## IV. REPORTS

### a) Treasurer Report

A. Jack submitted copies of the MSMS PAC General Bank Account which was viewed by attendees.

A. Jack reported that the PAC Bank Account balance is in a healthy place with some funds remaining (\$1927.09 in the general account and \$571.16 in the gaming account) to be carried over from the 2022 / 2023 year.

Noted deposits (\$1,135.00 in total) were as a result of May fundraisers (Kona Ice and Neufeld Farms) which yielded funds to contribute to the purchase of a new score board. The score board was purchased by the school. Installation and costs associated are to be determined and will be paid by the school.

A. Jack reported that some PAC funds (\$1950.00 in total) had been spent on last year's Grade 8 celebration and staff appreciation events. Both were a great success.

A gaming grant has been submitted for the 2023 / 2024 school year which will make up the bulk of the PAC funds for the year. The gaming grant allotted is based on the school population for the previous year which puts Mt.Slesse in a good position to receive similar to last year (~\$22,000).

A letter is expected at the beginning of October clarifying the amount allocated from the gaming grant. The PAC will seek requests from teachers and parents for how the grant shall be used. There are stipulations that the grant must be used for extra-curricular student activities such as sports clubs or field trips. Requests will be voted on at the November meeting.

The October PAC meeting is slated to be a budgeting meeting in general (with discussion of upcoming fundraisers).

### b) DPAC Report – None

### c) Principals Report

P. Gosal reported a fast and furious start to September but great success overall. The vibe at the school is in a great place for the start of the year.

The administration is focused on bringing the Grade 6's and 7's into a comfortable space and ensuring they are familiar with school routines and rules.

P. Gosal noted that the goal is for students to have two teachers to go between. This gives the students more options and flexibility to move back and forth and have healthy interactions with different teachers of their choosing.

Staff did decrease from last year but a new English as a Second Language teacher has been hired.

Students on social media has been a hot topic and is discussed around the school often. Cell phone usage by students is monitored by staff. A reminder to parents to speak with students about safe technology use.

P. Gosal gave a reminder that students should not have their phones available and in their possession while in class. Students are encouraged to leave their devices in their lockers, unless asked specifically to transport an electronic device to class. Teachers will decide if students can use devices during class for educational

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purposes. The PAC can look into if a presentation by the group The White Hatter (regarding internet safety and digital literacy education) would be appropriate for the school. **ACTION**

Mt. Slesse does employ general themes for each month (September's theme was Kindness to inspire students to have better interactions and to practice empathy). The upcoming theme for October is gratitude.

P. Gosal noted quite a few non-instructional days upcoming in October (due to other events and holidays).

A Truth and Reconciliation conference is upcoming (Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>) and should be a great event. The event is taking place at the Chilliwack Coliseum. Thousands of people are expected to attend and major inspirational speakers will be featured. It is expected to be an amazing event.

Parents are reminded to please communicate with the Mt. Slesse administration for any issue they feel would help the school construct a better school year for the students. A reminder that the first point of contact are the teachers if applicable. It is essential that schools have the opportunity to resolve potential issues (interpersonal, online or otherwise) before they inflate. Administration cannot act on an issue unless they are fully informed so please do not hesitate to reach out and ask for input.

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V. OLD BUSINESS a) None

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VI. NEW BUSINESS a) Fundraisers

- i. Babysitting & Stay Safe Courses – These combined courses are done most years. L. Loewen is in contact with First Aid Hero to determine a date in which the courses can be offered to students. PAC is waiting to hear back about if they have instructors available. PAC does receive a small amount of proceeds for hosting the event and volunteers are present to sign students in before the instructors take over.
- ii. Neufeld Farms – This fundraiser was a success last year and did raise funds for the new score board. PAC is considering running this fundraiser again to contribute to general funds for the PAC. A decision will be made at the November general meeting.
- iii. Coupon Book – Last year was not profitable and the window to engage in this fundraiser has passed. There was a great deal of paperwork and logistics therefore the coupon book will not be pursued.
- iv. Administration and PAC agree that fundraisers which are treated based on or involve students making purchases at school will be avoided. It was noted that at times students feel left out of not being able to afford these types of fundraisers while their cohorts may engage. In-house fundraisers also compete with school clubs and sports groups which are also raising funds for their own purposes.

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- v. New ideas for fundraisers are welcome! Please email the PAC (mtslessepac@outlook.com).
  - vi. Facebook and The Howler Newsletter will be the advertising platforms for the upcoming fundraisers.

b) BCCPAC Membership

For the past several years the PAC has had the option of paying \$75.00 to become a BCCPAC member and retaining a vote at the provincial meetings. Last year the PAC opted not to pay the fee and to use the money on student expenses instead.

Although the BCCPAC can be a great resource, the Mt. Slesse PAC has no history of using the resources or attending any meetings. Conferences are also expensive and would entail future funding investment.

Also, the option to join the BCCPAC in the future is available all year.

The PAC voted not to join the BCCPAC for now and can review the options in the future if needed. Voted to not join for now.

c) DPAC Rep position

L. Loewen reported that she is in contact with a qualified person interested in becoming DPAC representative. The person does need the ability to attend PAC meetings digitally and an option is being worked on.

- d) P. Gosal noted that the administration is working on having fees (such as field trip fees) submitted to the students accounts so the amounts owing are in one place. This will eliminate the need for cash or cheques from parents on the premises and will streamline payments to prevent payment errors. More information to come.

- e) P. Gosal is looking at the ability to have a Zoom option for the PAC meetings so parents can join in during the day. More information to come.

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VII. OPEN ISSUES    a) None

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VIII. NEXT MEETING    The next meeting is due to be held on October 17<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30am at Mount Slesse Middle School.

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IX. ADJOURNMENT    L. Loewen adjourned the meeting at 11:02am.

**Minutes submitted by:** Geri Marshall

**Minutes approved by:** FIRST LAST