

# MT SLESSE MIDDLE SCHOOL PAC MEETING MINUTES

LOCATION: MS MIDDLE SCHOOL

DATE: NOVEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2023

TIME: 9:30AM

## MEETING AGENDA

**Attendees:** Lynn Loewen (President), Angelee Jack (Treasuer), Geri Marshall (Secretary), Paula Gosal (Principal), Erin Enns (BCCPAC Representative), Teri Westerby (School Board Trustee), Sher Grater (DPAC Representative)

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- I. CALL TO ORDER L. Loewen called to order the regular meeting of the Mt. Slesse Middle School PAC at 9:36am on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023.
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- II. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS L. Loewen conducted introductions.  
The following persons were present: **Lynn Loewen, Angelee Jack, Geri Marshall, Paula Gosal, Erin Enns, Teri Westerby and Sher Grater.**
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- III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA & APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCT MEETING L. Loewen introduced the agenda for the November meeting and copies were viewed. **Moved** to accept the agenda by A. Jack. **Second** to accept by K. Enns. **CARRIED**  
The agenda was approved.  
L. Loewen introduced the minutes from the October PAC meeting and copies were viewed.  
**Moved** to accept the minutes by A. Jack **Second** to accept by G. Marshall. **CARRIED**  
The minutes were approved.
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## IV. REPORTS

### a) Principals Report

- Halloween events came and past successful and were truly enjoyed by all.
- Remembrance Day ceremonies occurred and were successful. Parents were able to attend as well.
- Administration Staff Meeting occurred last week – Themes which are being worked on are the First Peoples Principles of Learning (which guide the work that teachers are doing). This has been a good refresher for staff. There are lots of opportunities for reflection and the work is appreciated by staff.
- This Friday (November 24<sup>th</sup>) is a Non-Instructional Day. Teachers will be working on student assessments and evaluations as well as class profiles. Teachers will be considering the needs of individual students in an effort to better serve them.
- December events coming up are spirit week, Christmas, a potential sock hop and report cards being issued on December 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Immunizations for students are next week on November 28<sup>th</sup>.
- The MSMS Breakfast Club was noted for their recent successes. The Breakfast Club is supported by the “Breakfast Club of Canada” organization and by student volunteers. The Breakfast Club also receives generous donations from Anitas Bread & Coffee and Rogers Foods. Parents and students are reminded that the food offerings are open to everyone regardless of need. Special recognition to the Foods Studies Teacher, Mrs. Martens for her contributions and efforts to have this club run.
- Vandalism and vaping in the washrooms has increased. Staff are often continuously managing students using the facilities to make sure the amenities are not being damaged or vandalized. Staff are trying to think of some reasonable “out of the box” solutions to manage this.
- Administration is focused on addressing new challenges in general and accommodating all students needs together in the classroom while balancing the needs of the learning environment.

### b) Guest – School Board Trustee Teri Westerby

- Teri Westerby helped to explain how trustees can be a communication point between the views of the parents, the PAC and with the school. Trustees are open to and want to hear about the challenges being presented and are looking to hear opinions and offer support.
- Teri spoke of recognizing a potential gap in parent education so that parents can understand exactly how things are being run in schools as schools deal with new challenges. Perhaps the district can assist with that.
- Teri is happy to take correspondence from parents and administrators of the school ([teri@teriwesterby.com](mailto:teri@teriwesterby.com)).

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- Teri noted a free dance for youth planned for December 15<sup>th</sup> at Evergreen Hall. Teri will assist PAC in distributing digital posters to notify of the dance.

c) Presidents Report

See New / Old Business

d) Treasurers Report

- Funds have been received through Neufeld Farm orders. The PAC grant has also been added to general funds as well.
- Biggest task currently is reviewing the gaming account funds.

e) DPAC Report

- Welcome to the new MSMS DPAC Representative, Sher Grater.
- Sher is focused on learning about what is important to the school and how she can help represent needs to the DPAC. DPAC meetings are at the end of the month.
- DPAC is trying to grasp which schools have a breakfast program and which do not as there is no district wide program. They want to ensure equal opportunity where possible.
- The DPAC is looking into the learning studios (formerly “portable” learning units) in place at many schools. Some have been updated for temperature regulation. The DPAC is aware temperature regulation is still needed in some learning studios and are working on assisting with updates which need to be requested by the principals.
- DPAC is aware of vaping issues in many schools and are discussing how better manage vaping by students. The washrooms are sometimes a noted gathering point for this activity in some schools. The DPAC has met with Fraser Health to discuss creating education pieces about vaping and vape safety. The education points are challenging as the science behind vaping has been a “moving target”. Most feel that education needs to start early (in middle school) for the students to deter the use in school. Reduction strategies for MSMS including managing bathroom access, education and contact with parents.
- DPAC is addressing issues regarding safety of attendees in board meetings and other district events. The School Board is trying to remain aware of the risks and are coming up with solutions (such as bringing meetings online).
- DPAC is aware of the bussing issues the schools are having and is working on solutions. There are no shadow (on call) bus drivers which is presenting difficulties. Staff shortages have been identified as well as direct attrition after bus driver training. Chilliwack has also grown quickly in student size and needs over the last several years. Bussing is trying to grow with those needs and are also waiting on infrastructure (like new buses) which have been ordered.

f) Fundraising Report

See New / Old Business

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- V. OLD BUSINESS a) Neufeld Farms Fundraiser – Pickup will be on December 5<sup>th</sup>. We are just under the minimum amount ordered qualify for an order (\$2000 mark). More marketing will be done by the PAC to meet the minimum.

There is potential for the PAC to make another group order for end of year activities, but PAC will need to look at the budget again.

- b) DPAC Representative Position – Sher Grater showed her interest in taking on the DPAC Representative position.

L. Loewen initiated a motion to accept. All in Favor – Yay. **CARRIED**

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- VI. NEW BUSINESS a) Babysitting Course – There were some difficulties with the company providing the course in November (such as staffing issues, trouble providing online links in a timely manner, duplicate students noted and password issues as well as general disorganization during set up). A different provider will be sought by the PAC with the potential to run another course April 26<sup>th</sup> as there were more students interested than could be accommodated for the November course.
- b) Staff Appreciation – The budget for this activity is lower this year due to more funds held for Christmas hampers so a snack bar (sweet and savory) will be planned for December 15<sup>th</sup>. There is the potential for another staff appreciation event to occur at the end of the year.
- c) Christmas Hampers – A need was identified for 10 hampers this year. \$2000 will be allocated (\$1000 donated from the school) which equates to \$200 spent per family. There are some Gift Cards remaining from the school that can be included as well. PAC executive and the Principal will canvas the needs and determine where families need further gift cards from.
- d) Gaming Funds – The 2023/2024 Gaming Fund Applications from Administration and Staff were discussed and items requested were voted on.

The PAC determined if various requested qualified for funds under the gaming criteria as some were extra-curricular or one time use.

The PAC was happy to approve \$15,509.86 in gaming funds to pay for initiatives and supplies such as... Grade 8 Hoodies, Board Games, Student Comic Book Publishing, D&D Club Supplies, Soccer Uniforms, Scooters & Helmets, Cable Track Protector for Stage Shows, School of Rock Music Equipment, Create and Design Club Items, Puzzles, Library Events, Graphic and Fiction Novels, WEB Social Events, Supporting a Camp Squeah Day, Author Visits, School Wide Read Aloud Events and Chess Sets.

L. Loewen initiated a motion to accept. All in Favor – Yay. **CARRIED**

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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 January 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 9:30am at Mount Slesse Middle School.

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IX. ADJOURNMENT L. Loewen adjourned the meeting at 12:30pm.  
**Minutes submitted by:** Geri Marshall