

# Neepawa Middle School Parent Advisory Council - Meeting Minutes

November 22/2021

Tara McCarty called the meeting to order at 1930 hours.

*In attendance - Jenn Byram, Tara McCarty, Heather Saquet, Leisel Milligan, Sherri Hollier, Val Pareyeski*

The meeting minutes from October 6/2022 were read aloud and a motion to approve was made by Tara McCarty and seconded by Heather Saquet.

## President's Report/Old Business

1. Discussion regarding the lack of interest to fill the PAC Board. On review - we only had two positions filled: Tara McCarty in the President position and Heather Saquet in the Treasurer position. We continue to look to fill Secretary, Fundraiser and Vice President. We did discuss the possibility of disassembling the PAC for the 2021/22 year - but the current board members and attendees were reluctant to do so. With that said - Leisel Milligan has agreed to join the PAC as secretary! Thank you, Leisel. Plan: to continue to spread the vacant positions via word of mouth in hopes to attract more interest.

## Treasurer's Report

1. Heather Saquet unable to gain signing authority over NMS PAC at this time. Angela Hutton continues to help Heather until we are able to do so.

***A motion was made by president, Tara McCarty to remove Angela Hutton's signing authority from the NMS PAC add Heather Saquet in addition to Tara McCarty. Angela has stepped down from her position with the PAC following the 2020/21 school and Heather Saquet resuming her duties for the 2021/2022 school year.***

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2. NMS PAC currently has \$1500.00 in our account.

## Fundraising

1. FundScript. Heather Saquet successfully launched our FundScript fundraiser in early November with a deadline of November 24th. We are unsure at the time of the meeting how much money was raised from this particular fundraiser - but will debrief at the next scheduled PAC meeting.

2. Heather has laid out her plans moving forward to help facilitate the **future build of a play structure for NMS:**

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- Sherrie Hollier surveyed the kids and families of NMS last month in hopes to determine the most favoured options or wish lists, so to speak. Sherrie shared that information with the group and Heather plans to review it to get an idea of what we are 'planning for'.
  - Heather to meet with Brenda from Beautiful Plains Community Foundation to assist with how we approach this project, speaking specifically to writing grants to support the financial demand of this project.
  - Heather requesting the policy/procedure from the Beautiful Plains School Division regarding possible restrictions and/or limitations to developing and building our proposed play structure. She is requesting this by Thursday, November 24. **Plan - Sherrie H or Val P to get.**
  - Heather will then follow up with Nicole Cooper - recreation director of the Town of Neepawa. Heather reports Nicole was a pillar in the planning and building of the new play structure for HMK and we are hoping to use her as a resource. Heather is going to discuss with Nicole the 'proper' way to ask for monetary donations from our community to support our project.
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3. Heather brought forward another fantastic idea in collaboration with Neepawa Co-op. Is there opportunity to NMS to set up as a non-profit organization? All purchases that are made through Co-op that aren't link to a personal equity number be assigned to the NMS #? **Plan: Val P to speak to Brian Hedley, Coop.**

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## New Business/Round Table

1. It was brought forward once again - the disconnect that Covid-19 has caused between NMS, the staff at NMS and families. We discussed at length ways we can think 'outside the box' so to speak to ensure that this is kept on the forefront. Communication seemed to be something was lacking at the start of the year. Parents not knowing what the teachers looked like - what the classrooms looked like - etc. Unfortunately, "meet the teacher night" was has historically preceded the start of a school year is no longer an option, so what can we do in lieu of this? Brainstorming included:

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- parent/teacher interviews at the start of the year.
  - using social media to have a "feature the teacher" which would showcase the teacher to get to know them a little more.
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2. Sherrie Hollier to start Neepawa Middle School Facebook Page and Tara to regain control over the PAC Facebook Page to ensure all communication is being delivered through our social media outlets. Tara to utilize the facebook page to introduce the PAC so the community has alternative connection to the school for putting forward ideas/concerns.

3. Is there opportunity to submit our Yearly PAC meeting minutes to the School Board - possible \$300.00/year. Sherrie Hollier and Val Pareyeski to look into.

4. Val Caldwell Presentation December 1/2021. This is a HUGE opportunity for the community and we need to ensure we are communicating this. Will add to our facebook page and share to spread the word.

### Questions From Families:

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1. Why are you not using the lockers for the kids?

It is a sanitizing issue. The housekeeping team isn't able to sanitize properly. Dismissal time is a contributing factor as well as the inability to socially distance.

## 2. Zoom in classrooms Vs. Teaching Person

Heather brought forward a concern with Zoom in the classroom. This was a decision made at a teacher level for the "team teaching approach". Good points were brought forward on both ends. Recommendation to bring forward to the teacher at Parent/Teacher interview.

## 3. Lunches available for Students

Funding through BPF "Food For Thought" The concept is EA's is to circulate at lunch and if they notice that any children are lacking food and/or snacks they do supply lunches to the children.

Meeting called to end at 2045 hours by Tara McCarty

**Next Meeting January 24th/2021 - Zoom @ 1930 hours**