



École Élémentaire Michaëlle Jean School Council

Meeting Minutes - October 16, 2025

In attendance:

Mark Hopkins - Principal	Wendy Tanner - Voting Member
Amanda Bennie – Teacher Representative	Rajdeep Bahra- Voting Member
Suzanne Hall - Co-Chair	Laura Lamarre- Voting Member
Wendy Mahabir - Co-Chair	Shiny Thomas- Voting Member
Brittany Hunter - Secretary	Nigar Shailch- Voting Member
Floriane Schroers - Treasurer	Laden Milsome - Voting Member
Trish Rayner - Voting Member	Danielle Pacey
Joanna Seymour - Voting Member	Julie Sandoja
Sarah Ewing - Voting Member	

Meeting Started at 6:31 PM

- Welcome
- Land Acknowledgement (Suzanne Hall)
 - **Motion:** Motion to approve the meeting minutes from the September 2025 School Council Meeting (Suzanne Hall)
 - Second: Wendy
 - For: 11
 - Against: 0
 - Abstentions: 1
 - Motion Carried: YES
- Teacher Update
 - Band will be starting next week (week of October 20)
 - Take your Kid to Work Day is next month which is the same day the grade 7's are going on a trip to Sherwood
 - Teacher wish list towards fundraising
 - DPA
 - Tech
 - Gym (post protector volleyball)
 - Arts and drama club
 - Supporting commencement
 - **Action Item** - Inquire about a Scholastic Code for online purchasing during the book fair; Mme Strong may be able to help (Mme Bennie)



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- **Principal Updates (Mark Hopkins)**

- Round Table
 - Are there any plans for grade 8 commencement?
 - 4 or 5 students that are starting the leadership committee to start talking commencement and what role the leadership takes in the school and different areas, in the beginning stages
 - Looking to include a parent committee as well into the Grade 8 commencement plan. This will be based on what the Grade 8's want for their commencement
 - Teaching children about online presence and internet safety?
 - **Action Item:** Inquire about the interest and plans for Grade 8 Commencement (Mark Hopkins)
 - Part of the Health Curriculum, starts in grade two or three and builds in different grades later on
 - Had a speaker prior to bring in and chat about these things
 - Any plans for upcoming trips and what we can help to make them easier?
 - Take it back to staff and let them know there is a lot of interest in excursions
 - Personal decision, and the risks that are involved in that
 - We understand it is extra and a lot of planning to the trips
 - Where some fundraising goes towards bussing
 - **Action Item:** Inquire with the staff on interest on excursions (Mark Hopkins)
- Review of Mission (Every student experiences a sense of belonging and engages in dynamic learning to reach their potential and build their own future) and Board Values (Compassion, Dignity, Trust & Joy)
- MJ School Improvement Plan Focus models the Board Improvement Plan. We are focusing on improving literacy, numeracy (assessment and problem solving, wanting to be able to solve the problem where it is challenging, gaining the enthusiasm to solve) and well being (utilizing data from a survey, and dig into the results so everyone feels heard and that they matter) outcomes for every student. As we learn and continue to grow we will also be improving on our collective knowledge and application Indigenous Education and Reconciliation. This will not be an add on—it will be part of what we do. Mme Melanson will be taking the lead as the “runner” to learn more and bring it back



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- **Principal Updates (Mark Hopkins) Continued**

- We will continue to use assessment in literacy and numeracy to guide our instruction using Tier 1 and 2 approaches
- We will be using a co-leadership model to engage in the learning (plan, acting, reflecting, next steps) Literacy: Mme Strong, M. Letchford and Mme Bouquin, Numeracy: Mme Shezad, Well Being: Mme Mizzi and Indigenous Lead (Runner Model): Mme Melanson
- Bus Updates with respect to GPS—Called HWSTS, Sharp is in the process of getting GPS for easier tracking. Our transportation officer has been amazing in problem solving challenges of timing with respect to two of our routes, looked at yellow bus and blue bus routes for some concerns
- Rural Bussing for MJ was raised
 - Perception has been that FI is equivalent to specialty programs (similar to extra circulars) not officially an educational school; this was at a previous board meeting
 - Action Item: Review the requirements for bussing in particular rural areas (Mark Hopkins)
- Safe Schools Drills (Shelter in Place, Hold and Secure, Bomb Threat/Evacuation Drill) are complete. We will be doing a lockdown in November and the other in February.
- School Generated funds, support SIP, Tech, School Enhancement (Arts, P.E., DPA, Communication), Subsidize excursions
- **Action Item:** Take a look at Mad Science opportunities (Mark Hopkins)
- Requests for SC to Support: (Can take away with us)
 - Parent Interview Service - this service assists in booking the parent/teacher interviews on November 20/21st; cost is \$260 plus HST
 - Hamilton Foundation for Student Success - organization for the community, prom projects, winter clothing drive, food cards, grants, all fundraising to set a percentage towards whoever for (approx 10-15%)

- **Treasurers Update (Floriane Schroers)**

- Remaining funds from 2024/2025 school year - \$547.88



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- **Fundraising (Wendy Mahabir)**

- Current planned events for the year (Terry Fox, Jump Rope, Open House French Cafe, Year End Picnic/Book Sale)
- Fundraising for: Idea for Grade 8 Commencement (a standing order for it), School trips and Bussing
- Empowerment Squared fundraising will be anchored to the Open House held in May
- **Motion** for MJ School Council will be fundraising for SIP, TECH, SCHOOL ENHANCEMENT and SUBSIDIZE EXCURSIONS/EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING (Suzanne Hall)
 - Second: Jen Valente
 - For: 14
 - Against: 0
 - Abstentions: 0
 - Motion Carried: YES
- Take Field and Flour Therapy and Hamilton Foundation for Student Success for a partnership, vote on them once we find out more about the parameters of what we can raise for
- Fundraising Ideas: Krispy Kreme was big and big box of cards, Gift wrap, Poinsettias, Indigo sponsorship and kick back, FlipGive, Mabels Labels, Little Caesars Take Home Dinners, Kernels, Crock-a-Doodle
- **Action Item:** Review the board rules around "raffle" idea for baskets (Mark Hopkins)
- Vote To Pick Fundraising Ideas
 - Krispy kreme- 14
 - Big Box of Cards- 2
 - Pointsettias- 9
 - Indigo- take a look at the parameters
 - FlipGive- 8- More details
 - Mabels labels- More Details
 - Little Caesars Take Home- 8
 - Gift Wrap- 11
 - Kernels- 11
 - Raffle/ Silent Auction- 8
- Sub Committees
 - Krispy Kreme - Brittany, Floriane, Sarah, Wendy T
 - Poinsettias - Trish



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Month	Event/Activity 2024-2025	Event/Activity 2025-2026
September	Terry Fox	Terry Fox
October	Card Box	
November	Card Box/Poinsettia	Gift Wrap (Floriane)
December	Poinsettia	Poinsettia (Trish)
January		
February		
March	Krispy Kreme	Krispy Kreme (Floriane, Wendy T, Brittany)
April		
May	Jump Rope for Heart/Open House French Cafe	Jump Rope for Heart/Open House French Cafe
June	Year End Picnic/Book Sale	Year End Picnic/Book Sale?

- **Fundraising (Wendy Mahabir)**

- **Motion:** That school council will approve the 2025/2026 fundraising plan as discussed (Suzanne Hall)
 - Second: Wendy Mahabir
 - For : 13
 - Against: 0
 - Abstentions: 0
 - Motion Carried: YES

- **New Business (Suzanne Hall)**

- Everyone has been added to the SLACK channel; instructions on how to test the notification functionality was sent via email; make sure you tag @everyone when creating a post; if any issues, reach out to Wendy Mahabir
- Binbrook Santa Claus Parade- has started a little bit earlier with preparing and practicing with the kids, put in the songs, or chants engage the older students as leaders to run the practice sessions
- Pro Grant- due before our next meeting, any ideas – look into cyber security with everything going on
 - Cat and Nat - on Instagram - document on how to protect your children online (Wendy M)
 - Math STEM night - families come out and build games (Something more interactive)
 - Fundraising for: Idea for Grade 8 Commencement (a standing order for it), School trips and Bussing



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- **Next Meeting (Suzanne Hall)**
 - November 27, 2025. @ 6:30pm in the Learning Commons
- **Motion** to adjourn the October 2025 School Council Meeting (Suzanne Hall)
 - Second: Wendy Mahabir
 - For: 12
 - Against: 0
 - Abstentions:
 - Motion Carried: YES
- **Meeting Adjourned at 8:23pm**