



## MONTGOMERY STREET ELEMENTARY

### Parent School Support Committee

Tuesday, April 26- 6:00pm – 7:00

1. Welcome 5 minutes
2. Approval of Minutes from March meeting

Elizabeth- motioned to approve

Jennifer- seconded

3. Principal Report - Kurt Stiles 10 minutes
  - Provincial assessments happening
  - Grade 5 end of year ceremony- looking at a hybrid of what was done pre-pandemic and during the pandemic. Some of the ideas that were adopted during the pandemic worked well.
  - MSS Picnic Day- students will bring their lunches and a blanket. Lunch time will be extended. Staff will have cold treats, such as ice cream or bars, for students. Parents can come to the school for this and enjoy lunch with their child(ren).
  - The Home and School Committee is looking into doing something special. They are thinking of bringing a couple of grades together at a time in the gym for a glowstick party with music. They also would like to have a snack for students, such as pizza.
  - Laptops- looking at our carry-over budget to purchase more. We have 10 or so, but it would be nice to have a class set of 20. We are hoping to make this happen for next year.
  - We're raising our school fees next year by approximately \$8 per person. MSS has purchased the Seesaw app. There were privacy issues with the free version, so we have bought the paid version. Some teachers are starting to learn to use it. There is a lot that can be done with it. Even with the increase in budget, our school fees remain comparable to other schools. Many parents appreciate not having to buy school supplies in the fall, as well.

- Various communication streams were discussed (email, school messenger, Seesaw, paper newsletters, etc.) and how best to inform families about school news.
- Staff read and discussed an interesting and practical article about student engagement. This was shared with PSSC members.
- The first assembly on Friday, April 22, was a success. The red carpet was used. Mr. Stiles made a point of praising students for their efforts and there was a lot of excitement. It was organized so that there were two groups: k-2 and 3-5. This worked well.
- The lunch and recess routine has changed a bit lately. Teachers used to pick students up in the line during recess and lunch. Students are now coming in on their own. They're doing well with this.

#### Current business

- Looking into new signage for student drop offs and parking for the fall. This falls within communication. There was discussion around finding inclusive language signs- English, French, Arabic, Maliseet.
- Discussed "Our School" survey results. MSS had focused on improving student relatedness and resilience. Staff is feeling encouraged by the relationship students report with their teachers and their reported sense of belonging. There was discussion surrounding the use of the word "bullying" in the survey, as this term is sometimes misunderstood or mistaken with "conflict." The importance of students and families understanding the difference between these terms was discussed, as well as the importance of teaching students conflict resolution skills.
- DEC survey- this was sent out to PSSC members to give input concerning governance.

#### Home and School

- Planning one more fundraising campaign this year- the "Opt Out" fundraiser.
- Carrie applied for a \$2000 grant to go toward the hot lunch program.

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 31 at 4:45