

**Mary Johnston Public School - School Council - Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, November 12, 2025**

**Start time:** 6:45pm

**Location:** MJPS Library

Erika Bryant  
Adrienne Brown  
Sarah Bester  
Sameera Banduk  
Nada Basir  
Kristen House

Paul Reinheimer  
Dianne Lapierre  
Kara Botelho  
Brescia Barker  
Leah Thomas  
Andrea Labyt

Gillian Delanghe  
Nick Stamadianos  
Beatrice Peralta

Principal: Marcus Hoare

Staff representative: Janice Taylor

**Welcome**

Principal's Welcome and Update

- Mme Daley applied and was approved for a \$1200 grant to help cover Duffelbag Theatre, which was a hit when they came to the school last year. We need to put down a 50% deposit, due this Friday, to secure a visit for this school year – so Marcus is asking for Council to cover the deposit for now until the grant comes through in spring.
- \$384.26 would be the actual balance council will cover, after being reimbursed.

**Motion:** Approve request to cover Duffelbag Theatre deposit.

Moved by: Kara

Seconded Sarah

Motion carries

- More good news: MJ has obtained 25 more EA hours. New staff member will start at 5 hours each day Monday-Friday as soon as hiring process is complete.

**Council Matters**

**Finances** - Sarah Bester

- No real updates; balance is sitting at about the same as last month except for influx from pizza. Those numbers will change as expenses are paid and entered.

#### Move-a-thon - Kara

- Communication will be distributed to students this week.
- Encouraging kids to participate in the beach theme.
- Can Kara bring in a bubble machine and inflatable palm trees?
- A little more structured this year: specific songs, activities.
- Parent volunteers will be needed throughout the day, starting at about 8:30am. Also need white Christmas lights for decoration.
- Will also be a spirit day - beach theme day.

#### Poinsettia

- Orders have been collected; totals will be tallied and submitted to greenhouse this week.
- Adrienne will report funds raised at next meeting.

#### Other Events

- Year-end event confirmed for June 11th.
- Grade 5-6 overnight trip tentative June 8-10.

#### Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant

- Application due November 28th.
- Could be used to support the STEM fair in the new year.
- Sameera will apply for the grant with Nada supporting.

### Further Discussions

#### 50/50 Fundraiser

- Marcus followed up on some research submitted by Nick; he called some schools who have run 50/50 fundraisers already to ask about their experiences.
- Ministry of Education and WRDSB both have regulations on winning prize money. "Cannot obtain gift or money prize." There seem to be a lot of hurdles.
- He is waiting to hear more from the superintendent.
- There seem to be a lot of hurdles and restrictions.

**Vote:** are we interested in pursuing the 50/50 fundraiser, IE: should Marcus continue to research and explore how it would work?

Result: Not enough support to pursue the 50/50 right now.

#### General transportation and safety

- Sameera has asked for a 3-way stop and crosswalk on Brynhurst – the city of Waterloo has offered more signage only.
- What else can we do for safety on the street around the school?
- Dianne coordinated the walking school bus a few years ago, including painting paw prints on the sidewalk to show kids where to cross, etc. Would transportation services fund that again? She would be willing to take that on again if funding is available.

- Marcus will reach out for support/funding.
- This ties in with promoting and amplifying encouraging walking/biking/etc to school.
- Non-attending residents in the area often reach out with concerns about parking/traffic.
- By-law comes sometimes, which is overall ineffective.
- Nada: the Edna Staebler model for safety. They formed a committee to address similar issues.
- What about a crossing guard?
- Marcus: lean into influence. We need some influencers/advocates for the ground rules. Parents need to set the example. Then look at next steps like painting. Confusion occurs when the staff in the building say one thing but parents do another.
- Bike club / trailblazers / ride to five – all worth exploring too.
- Maybe Council can put together a committee or safety team.
- Paul suggests initiatives to encourage more active transportation. Covered bike rack?
- Bike maintenance: could we do a program to teach kids bike maintenance.

#### Art around the school

- Could we hire someone to do nice art around the school? Outdoors. Murals, “interactive” type art for kids to engage with (ie: measuring against something painted on wall, etc.)
- Maybe City of Waterloo grant could cover costs or we could invite high school artists.
- Paul will research funding opportunities.
- Marcus: there is research that outdoor art helps deter graffiti, too.

#### Dogs on the school grounds

- We have students entering our school who have phobias / anxiety, and there are a growing number of dogs on property and particularly near entry doors.
- Marcus: dogs on property can be a grey area because we share property with the city. Some paths belong to city where anyone could be walking their dog. However, we want all students to be comfortable and safe.
- Perhaps this requires more guidelines / influencing / communication as well, similar to parking and transportation safety issues.

#### Spirit Wear

- Leah will organize setting up another window to order spirit wear.
- Marcus: let's aim to sprinkle fundraisers/asks through the year, so perhaps in new year.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, December 10, 2025