

Mary Johnston Public School - School Council - Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Start time: 6:30 pm

Location: MJPS Sensory Room

In attendance:

Erika Bryant	Paul Reinheimer
Adrienne Brown	Dianne Lapierre
Sarah Bester	Kara Botelho
Sameera Banduk	Samantha Hirsch
Nada Basir	MJ Davidson
Yasmin Shamji	Tara Natter

Principal: Marcus Hoare

Staff representative: Janice Taylor

Welcome

Principal's Welcome and Update

- Yesterday, Marcus went to a PD session with Mrs Shaver and Mrs Kieswetter. They learned about smudge kits. Every school is getting fitted with a smudge kit.

Financial asks for Literacy and Art Night

- Ask #1: from ERRT (Early Reading Resource Teacher) working with kindies, grades one and two. She'd like some more materials for MJ; specifically magnetic tools for tactile letters (magnetic whiteboards or could also use cookie sheets). Best case scenario, one per kid. But hoping for 75-80. Ask: up to \$250 maximum.
- Ask #2 - Art Night. Thurs, March 5th, 2026. \$1500 for materials for art projects. About \$100 per class.
- Ask #3 - Mme Daley's Empower Lacrosse program run by Mike Poulin. He could come in June. Would be for all classes grades 1-6. ~45 mins per class. \$450 per day, 2 days. \$900 total.

Motion: Approve up to \$250 for early literacy materials.

Moved by: Dianne

Seconded by: Paul

Motion passed.

Motion: Approve \$1500 for art night project supplies.

Moved by: Adrienne

Seconded by: Paul
Motion passed.

Motion: Approve \$900 to cover Empower Lacrosse program.

Moved by: Sameera
Seconded by Sarah
Motion passed.

Updates, continued:

- Art Night: March 5, 6:00-7:30 pm. Will include a choir performance, art displays, splatter painting Mr. H., origami, music, fashion design and more. Raffle tickets at “donate what you can” to win class art projects.
- Let Grow Initiative - We’re hoping to start the program at MJ. Focuses on independence. Janice has put in an application for the school program, as well as the Play Club program. She’s looking for a parent volunteer to help with Play Club, which provides more opportunities for kids to have open, free play on school property before or after school. Unstructured play. The two programs tie together in terms of independence, etc. – similar messages. Janice would need help making a committee.

Council Matters

Newsletter

- Was received very well by parents. Sameera aims to centralize communication.

Spirit Wear

- Open March 2-13 for ordering. There will be sizes and samples available at Art Night.

STEM Fair

- Nada has compiled a steering committee.
- She will share a draft of communications.
- Previously, there was a registration for participants. This would help us know what materials are needed.
- Date: April 15.
- Communication - wait until after Arts night to send out first communication to avoid confusion.
- Next meeting: Nada will share some more specifics about what the night will look like.

Year-End Event

- Foam party and food trucks are booked.

OLAF

- No update.

Library re-opening

- No date set yet. Waiting for cabinets, shelving to be rebuilt.
- Mrs Shaver has created a moving library and is bringing books to kids, reading in classrooms.

Further Discussions

Spirit Day Communications

- Can a list go home at the start of the school year?
- Kids also need to remember the information from the announcements and take responsibility for their participation.

Committee Updates

- Safety committee: 4 people have joined Sameera's committee. First discussion focused on addressing parking on Amberwood for bus navigation and safety.

Active Transportation Committee

- Paul received one email about someone joining his committee.
- City Councilor not very responsive.
- Nothing will happen until the spring at the earliest anyway.

Arts Committee

- Paul will be exploring another school that has lots of murals and will be asking about their process, who did the art, etc.

MJ one-pager

- Paul created a document, Erika and Marcus reviewed and edited. It will be polished and it can be distributed with the new kindergarten packages

Toboggans for DPA use

- Paul: Can we buy sleds to keep at MJ for use in DPA, etc?
- Marcus: right now, no. There are too many guidelines for tobogganning.
- Classroom educators can choose to take their class tobogganing during DPA. That is a class by class / teacher by teacher decision, where students bring their own sleds and helmets from home.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 11, 2026