

Mary Johnston Public School - School Council - Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Start time: 6:30pm

Location: MJPS Library

In Attendance:

Erika Bryant	Andrea Labyt	Reza Ramezan
Sameera Banduk	MJ Davidson	Gillian Delanghe
Sarah Bester	Kara Botelho	Samie Hirsch
Adrienne Brown	Paul Reinheimer	Janpreet Bedi
Taylor Robinson	Amy Neilsen	Vikramjit Kaur Lail
Matt Clarke	Sukhmani Sethi	Ellen Dobson
Yasmin Jindani	Miriam Bennaroch-Altman	Sarah Lim
Tara Natter	Dianne Lapierre	

Principal: T. Scott

Staff representative: Janice Taylor

Welcome

Principal's Welcome and Update

- Thanks for the warm welcome to MJ. T is excited to be here and looking forward to a great school year ahead.

Council Matters

Election of 2026/2027 Council Executive

- Chairperson / Co-Chairs
 - Sameera and Erika re-elected
- Secretary
 - Adrienne re-elected
- Treasurer
 - Sarah re-elected

This year's voting members:

Samie Hirsch

Reza Ramezan
Gillian Delanghe
Kara Botelho
Dianne Lapierre
Yasmin Jindani
Paul Reinheimer
Janpreet Bedi
Miriam Altman

Event planning

Scholastic Book Fair

- December 2026 dates are available; we have temporarily reserved them, pending vote.
- Week of Dec. 7th
- How much do similar schools make? T: her school last year, as an example, made \$4000 profit from their book sale.
- Sameera: another school she knows made \$2000 last year.
- Classes can make wishlists that teachers can spend the Scholastic Dollars on for class resources after the sale.
- If we do cashless, Scholastic will send multiple checkout points.

Motion: Go ahead with the Scholastic Book Fair for December, organized by Erika and Adrienne.

Moved by: Samie

Seconded: Gillian

Motion passed.

What other events do we want to organize this year and who will spearhead each?

Move-a-thon: Kara

- Glow / beach theme in the past. No selling last year.
- Last year we had discussed a read-a-thon as well.
- If someone wants to join Kara to help focus on the fundraising part, that would be great. But it can also be a fun event on its own, too.
- One year, a grade 6 class taught other classes a dance ahead of time that kids could join in during the move-a-thon.
- Amy N. will help Kara.
- Treat it more like a spirit day than a fundraiser.
- In that case, Kara would probably need some money from Council to run it. Up to \$150.
- Booked for Wednesday, November 4th.

Motion: Spend up to \$150 for move-a-thon for this school year.

Moved by: Sarah

Seconded: Miriam

Motion passed.

Read-a-thon

- Incentivized reading; fundraiser; classes would compete against each other.
- Fundraising would come from sponsorships direct to kids (from family and friends).
- We could do the read-a-thon after the book fair.
- Sarah and Miriam will co-chair. They will bring more ideas and info to the October meeting.
- Tara Natter: how is it measured? By time spent reading?
- Janice: Could we have volunteers available at the school to help kids who might not have the opportunity to read/record outside of school? Like a reading club?

STEM fair (or alternative)

- Last year there were about 90 projects at the spring STEM fair. It was well received and popular.
- We would need someone to take it on this year. A committee, ideally.
- Resources from last year can be shared.
- Tables were a big issue. T. will organize and order tables immediately.
- Some teachers would appreciate a longer lead time so they can incorporate projects into classroom time.
- Maybe a week or two after March Break could work.
- There was a kick off assembly last year with ideas and inspiration.
- For funding, last year we had the PRO grant, some Council funding, some donations from families.
- Yasmin, Dianne, Masha, Nada, Alison, Samie will all participate in the committee.
- Booked for Thursday, April 15th.

Year end event

- Leads: Erika and Adrienne.
- To be discussed next meeting.

Fundraising

Herrles Fall Fundraising

- The food box fundraiser we discussed and approved last year can still be booked if we can find a lead tonight. Boxes are \$35/each and MJ would get \$7 back from each box sale.
- Gillian will lead the fundraiser.
- Reza, Paul, and others will help with pick up and delivery on October 7th.

Pizza

- Alanna is willing to run pizza again, Gillian is willing to co-lead.
- Pizza cannot start until we know if MJ will be re-orged. T. will know next week.
- We will do paper forms and cash again, where parents can round up for Pizza For All as well (donations to cover extra pizza so everyone can be included).
- Is it possible to have a dairy free option? A question to take to Alanna / Gino's perhaps.

OLAF Update

- Two years ago, we created the fund with specific intentions to build an outdoor classroom space at the front of the MJ property.
- This past June, we got answers from facilities. Plans did not look as expected.
- Executive and admin were not comfortable proceeding with the project as it was.
- Options: we either need to fundraise more to achieve our original goal or pivot to a new plan.
- Our budget was \$30,000. For what we were hoping for, it looks like we actually need a budget closer to \$100,000.
- We also need to consider that the Junior playground may be closed sometime soon (at the discretion of facilities)
- T. estimates \$100,000-\$150,000 for a new playground.
- Samie is willing to spend time for next meeting investigating what our options may be moving forward. She can present them at the October meeting. Sarah will also be presenting the formal budget.
- We may need to target our fundraising for the playground if we go that route.

Other ideas

- Taylor suggested a card box fundraiser; something to be discussed at a future meeting. Positive feedback to start from people who had purchased these through other fundraisers in the past.

Other topics

School photos and composites: Sameera

- Last year's composites didn't go out and likely will not.
- T. has booked a new vendor for this year (Pegasus) and hopefully things will be much smoother.
- October 23 is photo day.
- Pegasus - Mark Drummond - rep. He's a former principal and understands the attachment to photos.
- The media release form is all encompassing, and contentious.

What is on your mind?

- Track and field - request for consideration of a school event this year. T. will bring it to the staff and see what they say, we will go from there.

- What can we do to make it easier for staff to run any clubs or groups they want to start? How can we support?
- Nutrition for Learning / alternative nutrition support program: Right now we have surplus from the after school program, so currently we are able to meet the needs of students who need food during the school day as well. T. will evaluate the program and recommend next steps if assistance is needed from Council.
- Let Grow: The program that started last year will continue on Fridays after school. It encourages free play. Janice will share more at the October meeting, but anyone can feel free to send out word or share invitations to play at the school property on Friday afternoons after school.

Next meeting: October 14, 2026