

Member	In attendance:
Lynn Vanasse (Chair)	X
Kyle Creelman (Vice-Chair)	X
Ahmad Teymouri (Volunteer Coordinator)	
Atif Rashid (Treasurer)	X
Genevieve Harte and Shayla Triemstra (shared vote, OCASC Rep)	X (Shayla)
Genevieve Gauthier-King (Principal)	X
Heather Thom (Fundraising Coordinator)	X
Joanne Mahoney (Webmaster)	X
Laurie Rogers (Parent-at-large)	X
Wendy Liu (Events)	
Meagan Campbell (Parent-at-large)	
Natasha Poushinsky (Secretary)	X
Sarah Blackadder (Pizza Coordinator)	X
Brenda Trohon (incoming member)	X
Gaurav Suman (incoming member)	X
Teacher rep – vacant, Staff rep – vacant, Community rep – vacant,	
Also in attendance: Ben Ovington (VP), AR Marchuk, Brammiya Sivakumar, Courtney Mulligan, James Shouldice, Jennifer Jennekens (school trustee), Shikha McGowan	

**Recording Secretary:** Natasha Poushinsky

Meeting called to order: **6:40 pm**

**1. Call to Order, Introductions, Approval of March Minutes, Elections** [\[Lynn Vanasse\]](#)

- Lynn called the meeting to order at 6:40PM
- March minutes approved by consensus
- Elections:

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Shayla Triemstra	OCASC Rep
Heather Thom	Fundraising Coordinator
Joanne Mahoney	Webmaster
Natasha Poushinsky	Secretary
Sarah Blackadder	Pizza Coordinator
Laurie Rogers	Parent-at-Large
Brenda Trohon	Parent-at-Large
Gaurav Suman	Parent-at-Large

**Council membership was approved as presented.**

**2. Principal / Vice Principal Updates**

[Genevieve Gauthier-King, Ben Ovington]

Genevieve Gauthier-King introduced Ben Ovington the VP at the school. She reflected on how re-entry to school has gone, and the focus on supporting students, families and staff. There are roughly 650 students in attendance in-person. Parents will be receiving progress reports, shared digitally through the compass portal. Staff are keenly aware of the challenges for parents who have never seen the school, and/or haven't had the chance to meet the teachers. They anticipate sending out some options for ways to make connections with staff next week. They will be doing parent-teacher interviews on November 26<sup>th</sup> (after progress reports go home) – more info to follow. A special Remembrance Day ceremony is going to be held with other schools in the district – we will be looking at how to do some collective work together.

Former VP Brad Sokalski has moved to Broadview and thanks are extended to him.

Ben Ovington presented a slide show of the various practices in place that have been communicated to students and parents (colour pods, line-up areas etc). They have received some questions about what the school looks like on the inside and he shared various images of classrooms, and a video showing an example of school entry for the orange pod. Recess looks very different compared to previous years – in addition to staggered timing, there are four areas (each class is assigned to a play area during recess). Many processes and procedures have changed to enhance safety, and at the same time students and staff are showing lots of creative ways to build community spirit and have fun.

**3. Treasurer Report**

[Atif Rashid]

See attached budget report.

**4. Chair / Vice-Chair Report**

[Lynn Vanasse & Kyle Creelman]

**4.1 Year-end report**

The 2019-2020 Steve Maclean Public School Council had an active (though shortened) year with many ongoing initiatives. A warm thank you to all our council members, volunteers, and school staff for their dedication, motivation, enthusiasm, and support. Also thank you to our school's Principal, Genevieve Gauthier-King, and Vice-Principals, Brad Sokalski and Ben Ovington, for their participation, guidance, and collaboration on our common goals. The following list highlights some of our many projects and initiatives:

- Our pizza program remained our largest fundraiser requiring significant coordination and planning to execute.
- We organized another hugely successful (fourth) annual used book sale! The many volunteer hours that go into the advance planning, and the duration of the sale can be credited for the success. The volunteers ran this event over three days that invited students, teachers, and the public to participate.
- The Halloween dance enjoyed a strong attendance and the photo booth was a big hit.
- We funded: the annual budget for the school gardens; learning enhancements (outside presenters, etc.) for students in the first semester; and the purchase of winter recess equipment.
- In February, we hosted a Mindfulness Rocks pop-up session with guest Rebecca Lira. More than 60 people attended the session, including many SMPS families and a few neighbourhood friends as well.
- We had planned a Family Science Night that was to be held in February; unfortunately, it had to be rescheduled due to weather and then permanently cancelled following school closures (COVID-19).

- Planning was started for our annual end of year Carnival, but it was also cancelled due to school closures (COVID-19).
- We updated our bylaws to correct small inconsistencies with board guidelines.
- This report is separate from the financial review, submitted by our treasurer Atif Rashid.

#### 4.2 Survey Results

Attached to minutes

#### 4.3 Motions (Discussion & Voting)

**MOTION #1: (Recurring) To provide funds for educator staff allowances (teachers, ECEs & EAs) to buy school supplies as required (discretionary uses) for the 2020-2021 school year, for a total of \$1625 (13\* x \$125)**

*\*There are 40 teachers, 8 ECEs, and 6 EAs on staff this year; due to a carryover from last year this fund only needs topping up to cover 13 staff.*

Discussion:

- Clarifying expenses incurred by different staff (EAs, ECEs, Teachers) – items to improve classroom environment, motivational tools (e.g. stickers), special crafts, organizers. With the allowance, staff make a request, it's reviewed by the Principal and Office staff, and the purchase is generally made through the school. ECEs often program tabletop activities
- Given that this is an unusual year, members discussed whether this amount should be increased: once the school budget has been reviewed, and staff have had an opportunity to identify gaps, we can bring this back to Council for further discussion

**Approved by Consensus**

**MOTION #2 (Recurring) To provide funds for gardening supplies for the SMPS gardens in the amount of up to \$500. These funds would be used for mulch, fertilizer, flowers, plants, soil, sod or any other gardening supplies needed. The work would be managed by Lynn Vanasse.**

**Approved by Consensus**

#### 5. Webmaster: Setting up new council member emails

[Joanne Mahoney]

**Action: Joanne will set up emails for Gaurav and Brenda**

#### 6. OCASC: News and Updates

[Shayla Triemstra]

Shayla explained that OCASC is the Council of Parents' Councils – rep from every Parent Council in the School Board. OCASC is on Facebook and Twitter – currently engaging with Ottawa Public Health on how to streamline information to parents. They also work with PIC – Parent Involvement Committee – and they have exchanged an online platform – there are some spaces open on PIC if anyone is interested in joining. Deadline is October 30<sup>th</sup>.

Next OCASC meeting is focused on brainstorming fundraising ideas, and how parents can support with virtual clubs – any member of a parent council is able to participate (takes place the Wednesday prior to our Council meetings).

**7. Parent-at-large: Riverside High School**

[Laurie Rogers]

Laurie noted that the community is very pleased that this project has been approved – many parents and community members, together with our trustee. We are eager to see some timelines attached to next steps. Trustee Jennifer Jennekens hopes to bring something more specific to the next meeting.

**8. Chair / Vice-Chair: Planning for the Year**

[Lynn Vanasse & Kyle Creelman]

**8.1 # of meetings needed this year and dates**

Lynn suggested tentatively scheduling the fourth Wednesday of every month. Agreed by consensus (noting that we likely won't have a December meeting and may choose to cancel some of the meetings).

**8.2 Council goals for this year – Discussion**

- Would be worthwhile exploring some ways to connect parents with each other and the school
- E.g. Talent show at year end last year
- Some sort of contest across the school could be fun
- Could be nice to have a pic, or quick video in e-news from admin to the parents would be great if possible
- Mme GK noted that we generally do a food drive during the holidays, but to make this happen this year will require a lot of support – could be a great place for parents and council to be engaged. We should be able to share some more ideas at the next meeting once they have been able to review budget.
- Also, good to think about how we might do some 'virtual' fundraisers / community building eg. virtual pizza night (may be able to negotiate a percentage donation from local pizzeria)

**5 Items for next meeting • Open to floor**

Meeting adjourned at 8:10PM.

**Next meeting: Nov. 25, 2020: 6:30 – 8:30 pm on Google Meet**



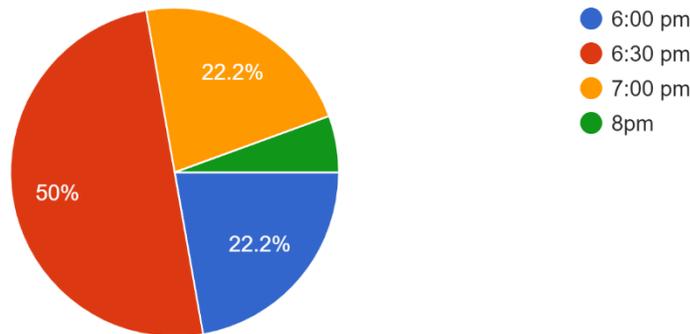


**Survey Results**

What meeting start time would work best for your participation in our online meetings this year?

Please choose one.

18 responses



Is there an issue or initiative you would like SMPS School Council to include as an agenda item at one of their upcoming meetings?

I'm not sure its appropriate or possible, but if there's a forum to provide feedback on supply teachers, I think that would be helpful. Somedays I wonder why I've sent my kids to school after hearing about their horrendous supply teachers (and there has been 1 almost every day so far for at least one of my kids!)

A new large scale project like outdoor classrooms

Parents not wearing masks at drop-off and pick up. They need too.

Best practices and resources for remote learning, parent-teacher partnership, cybersecurity and parental controls.

Do you have any suggestions on ways to build a home/school connection and creating a sense of school community this year while parents/guardians/volunteers must keep their distance from the "physical" school?

Spirit days continue weekly school emails.

Regular facebook / twitter posts from School Admin / Teachers / Council members to provide parents with updates / did you know? / pose questions, etc. (like Ottawa Public Health!)

Its an opportunity to celebrate any small wins we can get to reinforce that not everything is a write off.

Tricky but looking at more options virtually for parents and students, social distancing appropriate outdoor meets

How about a video walk through of the classrooms from school yard to desks? You do not have to have students in it if there are privacy concerns. It would be nice to know what my son's specific classroom looks like.

I don't have an answer but I think that this is an excellent objective for the year.

Official online communities with teacher and parents with frequent office hours, drop-ins, forums. Communities for parents of students from each grade. Virtual social events.