

**Marion Carson School Council
General Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2022, 7:00pm**

Tatiana D, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Enough members were present in person and via TEAMS to constitute a quorum.

Present: Dustin Turner, Huong Ly, Michael Nelson, Joanne Eastly, Tatiana D., Katherine P., Laura C., Laura S., Nadine P., Devon K., Jörn D., Melissa L., Onome O., Scarlett W., Mojdeh S., Bahareh F., Yan, Linda, Tosan A., Zhuang C., and Bandana

Students have asked for a land acknowledgement be done at the beginning of the meetings. Katherine P. did a land acknowledgement.

Agenda: Motion to approve the November 16th, 2022 agenda as presented.

Moved: Melissa L.

Second: Katherine P.

Voted and Carried

Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes from the October 19th General Meeting as presented.

Moved: Katherine P.

Second: Laura C.

Voted and Carried

Round of introduction of people at meeting

Executive Update:

Introduction of the School Council Executive and people at the meeting.

Chair: Tatiana Dunfield

Vice Chair: Katherine Peterson

Treasurer: Laura Cooper

Secretary: Laura Schorn - via TEAMS

- Tatiana attended a meeting to learn how to increase parental engagement and has some new ideas that will be implemented.
- The Halloween dance was a success.
- Casino is done. Huge thank you to everyone and especially those who filled in due to lots of illnesses. One parent volunteer wanted to point out that it was easier than she thought it would be - there is a paid advisor the whole time who directs you what to do.
- There will be no meeting in December but the School Council will organize a sledding event for everyone to attend.

Principal's report – Mr. Turner:

Staffing

- Notes have gone home in school messenger about changes due to increased enrollment and staffing changes.

- Ms. Edge (grade 4) decided to pursue other opportunities as of Oct. 31st and Ms. Schofield was welcomed into the grade 4 community program on Nov. 1st.
- Ms. Liu's last day was on Nov.3rd and we are happy to welcome back Mrs. M. Zhang into her grade 3 position.
- Mrs. Summer was welcomed into a newly created role because of increased enrollment. She is teaching K-6 Physical Education for 0.5FTE and 0.4FTE K-6 Community English Classroom Literacy/Numeracy Teacher.
- Ms. Cole was welcomed into her new 0.5FTE Grade 4 Mandarin English Teacher, sharing a homeroom with Mrs. Shu who will be redeployed 0.5FTE to support k-4 Mandarin Bilingual Program's classroom Literacy/Numeracy.
- Mrs. McDougal was welcomed into the role as Lead Lunch Supervisor on Nov. 15th

Outbreak status for respiratory illness (currently goes until Nov. 29th, 2022)

- Outbreaks are declared when more than 10% of school population is absent due to illness
- Today was 17.4% and by the end of day it was 19%. However, 22.3% were marked "Absent"

School illness will be posted daily online at: <https://www.cbe.ab.ca/about-us/school-culture-and-environment/health-and-wellness-in-school/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

- Increase in cleaning, handwashing and sanitizing at the school level
- Please keep your child home if they are ill.

Question: Can you resend the link with the outbreak notice? Link did not work for everyone.

Answer: Mr. Turner will update the link and resend.

Question: Has there been a lot of teacher illnesses?

Answer: It varies from day to day. One day there were five away but today there were only two teachers away. The school has managed with either substitute teachers or with teachers who are in the building already. The school has a plan for when there are one or two or three teachers away. School uses all the resources available, including music and administrators.

School Development Plan

- Reviewed last month
- One change has been made based on feedback
 - Instead of January to June report cards data for Literacy and Math measures will now compare June 2022 report card data to June 2023 report card data
- Will be posted on the website by the end of the month with Annual Results Report and Report to Parents on Fees 2021-2022

Events

- Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences
 - Online
 - November 24th from 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm
 - November 25th from 8:00 am to 1:30 pm
 - Parents may request in-person via email to the teacher for the time slot they booked through conference manager
 - System opens for bookings on Saturday November 19th at 10am and closes on November 24th at 3pm
- Halloween Dance

- Thank you to the School Council for supporting this event for the DJ, glow sticks, decorations and lights. Parent volunteers organized by Kim H. put up lots of decoration and lights. Lots of positive feedback from the students and teachers. Lots of students had not ever had a school dance so it was great to give them that experience.
- Cheque writing campaign is underway
 - Letter has gone home via paper and commercial messenger
 - Accepting donations in multiple ways:
 - Online via Education Matters (www.educationmatters.ca)
 - By Text - EdMatters MARION to 30333 to donate \$5 or \$10 to the school
 - By cheque dropped off at the school
 - Write cheque to Education Matters
 - Cheque must include name, address and email
 - Funding was posted on letter - computer, water fountain, literacy, math resources and touchless taps

Question: What is the CBE responsible for paying for?

Answer: Some things the school pays for and others the CBE will pay for. EG: CBE fixed broken tap outside but we would need to pay for hose. CBE pays for water fountains but not fancy water bottle filling fountains.

Question: Who pays for new boot racks?

Answer: Some boot racks are paid for. When a new school is built, the funds the government provides is for the building (infrastructure) but the CBE needs to pay to outfit the school with computers, books, etc. A new school will cost the CBE \$10million. Director Nelson said the government pays for infrastructure and CBE uses its reserve funds to outfit the school. For example, this library probably has over \$150K worth of books. A new school only gets \$30-40K and parents will have to help with fundraising over time to increase the library.

- Winter concert will be two performances on Dec. 8th.
 - 5:30 pm and 7:15 pm (currently scheduled to be in-person but may change depending on outbreak status)
 - We are on outbreak status until Nov. 29th

Question: What are the rules around the outbreak? Two weeks is the official status but what does it actually mean?

Answer: There are no current regulations. However, since we have sent the letter and parents are informed and parents have the choice to decide what they do. Parent conferences are online but parents have the choice to request in-person. There are no restrictions even though we are on outbreak status. Advice given on assemblies was it would be good to push back. No advice for concert as it will re-evaluated on Nov. 29th

Question: Is it the school's choice to make classes online or the CBE?

Answer: Decisions are made case by case

Question: Where is the winter concert happening? In the past it has been at FEO.

Answer: Here. Lunar New Year Celebration is at FEO and here for celebration of learning for the community program. Teachers and administration are coming up with some alternative plans - in-person, online or push back to make it a spring celebration

Clarification: Winter celebration is an assembly where parents come watch kids perform in front of parents.

Question: Is each concert the same or different?

Answer: The same program/concert but it will be performed by different classes/groups to limit the number of people in the gym. More information to come

- Lunar New Year Celebration @ FEO
 - January 18th at 6:30pm with students watching dress rehearsal in the afternoon
 - K-4 mandarin program will perform

Question: Why is only the Mandarin program performing but the whole school performs at the Winter Celebration?

Answer: We need to limit the size. We are trying to honour the two programs but working towards making one school. Students will view the performance.

Question: There is no celebration that excludes the Mandarin program, yet the community program is excluded from the Lunar New Year celebration. Why?

Answer: This will be brought back to teachers and will be discussed. We are trying to integrate both programs together. The Mid-Autumn festival was celebrated by the whole school with leaders from the Mandarin program. Announcements are a mix in both languages.

Question: How can we build community in our school with everyone included? Are there other schools in the system that have a community program and language program that we could learn from?

Answer: Midnapore is bilingual Mandarin and Community - it is in area 5 but not sure how they handle this piece. Highwood is all Mandarin. Colonel Irvine is split. Director Nelson suggested maybe connecting with other schools to see how they are doing it. Many French Immersion schools are solo. You can continue on as you have planned this year but perhaps get parent feedback through the school survey.

Class Size

- Class Size was requested last meeting. Mandarin Bilingual is the top table and Community is the bottom table

Mandarin Bilingual Program	Class #1	Class #2	Class#3	Total # of Classes	Total # of Students
K	26	24		2	50
1	26	26		2	52
2	26	25		2	51
3/4	26	28	27	3	81
Total				9	234
Community English Program	Class #1	Class #2	Class #3		
K	26			1	26
1	20	20		2	40
2/3	20	20	20	3	60
4	28	29		2	57
5	24	25		2	49
6	24	24		2	48
Total				12	280

- 514 students as of today

Question: Did the PAT scores come out?

Answer: Two weeks ago. Some data will be shared on SDP

Question: When do we get our student's results?

Answer: Grade 7 school should send them out but preliminary results were shared in June. Will look into how those results can be accessed.

School Report – Ms. Ly

Community Kindergarten

- We read "The Family Book" by Todd Parr and discussed different types of families.
- The kindergarten students made a paper house and drew their family members inside.

Mandarin Bilingual Kindergarten

- Working on building "I Belong" classroom community through teamwork.
- Worked with Grade 4 buddies at Halloween to make paper bats
- Discussed the importance of Remembrance Day and made watercolour poppies

Community Grade 1

- Hosted Remembrance Day assembly with Grade 5 buddies
- Learned a new Sacred Teaching of the Bear and importance of Courage
- Made Bear Art with images of nature where we feel peaceful
- Worked with grade 5 buddies and read "The Peace Book" - artwork and personal statement about what peace means to us
- Learned a song about peace
- First time we had a group of grade ones help host an assembly

Mandarin Bilingual Grade 1

- Explore colour in science - mixed up different amounts of red and blue to make different purples
- Then created Art inspired by traditional Chinese paintings of grapes

Community Grade 2/3

- Learning about Courage and Bravery through the Sacred Teachings represented by the Bear
- Created teamwork poppy art to make a giant poppy field
- In Math they are using different materials and manipulatives to show understanding of Place Value
- Grade 2s are spending the week at Jubilee school
- Grad 3s are engaged in a movie study and theatre week at school

Mandarin Bilingual Grade 2

- Learned about the bear that represents courage
- Drew painted poppies for Remembrance Day
- Learned about how ancient Chinese people wore masks to scare away bad luck

Community & Mandarin Bilingual Grade 3 and 4

- Working on showing their thinking in various ways
- In math representing and extending number patterns and finding patterns in number charts
- In science learning about waste in our world
- Remembrance day gave a chance to reflect on history, bravery of others and significance of poppy and connected to the Sacred Teaching of courage represented by the Bear

Community Grade 5

- Would like to thank parent council for putting on the fun Halloween Dance
- Students were able to see Pumpkinella
- Big part of grade 5 learning was hosting Remembrance Day assembly with grade one buddies

Community Grade 6

- Working on “I belong” school wide theme and building community
- Working with 2/3 buddies
- Working on reading, writing and creating Halloween interactive stations before the school dance

Music

- Working hard signing and playing orf instructions to prepare of the Remembrance Day assembly
- Students sang well even as they stood in their costumes

Physical Education

- Volleyball unit - focus on athletic stance, throwing ,catching, forearm passing and setting

Committee Reports

On the agenda there is a list of committees. If you are interested - you can join any committee and there are many opportunities to help out across all committees, and other things.

We will begin to discuss the Spring Fling at the January meeting, so if you are interested, please attend this meeting as we need a lot of parent volunteers for it, as well as for the Book Fair in the spring. Lots of chances to help out.

Naturalization - Devon Karchut

- Devon volunteered to take over the committee lead; Katherine will hand over keys for the shed

Casino – Vanesse Loke

- THANK YOU TO ALL WHO VOLUNTEERED!
- It was a successful event, with fun and a few panic moments. We managed to add just under \$80,000 to the charity share pool. Thank you! Stay tuned for our next one!

Fundraising – Rachel Gulam

- Current school fundraisers are posted on the school’s website:
 - <https://school.cbe.ab.ca/school/marioncarson/get-involved/fundraisers-donation/pages/default.aspx>
- Purdy’s Chocolate Fundraising order closes on Saturday November 19th
 - Pick ups on Dec.4 & Dec. 7th
 - Last year we raised \$2500 but currently only raised around \$660
 - Can we have it posted in google classrooms and in students’ agendas tomorrow and/or Friday? Recommended by chair to share link.
- Papa Johns – next one is November 24th
 - Order online and use special code **MCES15** to get 15%off and 15% back to the school
- Rachel is “retiring” from the Fundraising coordinator position and we would like to find someone to fill this role. While it is great to have a lead in this role, even just organizing one event in the year is helpful. Please email mcschoolccouncil@gmail.com
- Anyone want to find their own fundraising idea and lead? We need more parental involvement
- The struggle is that there is only a handful of parents that are involved and those parents are getting burnt out.

Special Lunches – Janie Lamb

- Please visit www.HealthyHunger.ca to order meals for your child (cost \$7-\$10) and school makes money from each order
- Made about \$500 from Subway order
- Volunteers needed for November and December to distribute meals purchased through Healthy Hunger
- This Friday November 18th - Mary Brown's Fried Chicken
- The deadline is usually the week before, you can still order for the December Papa Johns
- Kids love fun lunch.

Question: Other schools have a fund that they set aside (e.g., \$1000) to order for students who can't afford it or who do not come to school with lunch. Is this something Marion Carson can do?

Answer: Healthy Hunger has an option for "Donate a Lunch". We have a brown bag lunch program this year. Students have been identified

Special Events Coordinator: Co-Chairs – Kim Harding, Angela Lee, Melissa Lucas, Halloween Dance was a success!

Play Area Project – Loreley Zavattiero & Katherine Peterson

- No update
- Parents would like an update for the next meeting

Key Communicator – Vanesse Loke

- New Curriculum
 - Some schools implementing ELAL and/or math parts of the new curriculum in grades 4-6
 - Implementing Kindergarten to Grade 3 2023 ELAL, Math and Physical Education and Wellness in all schools
 - Science and French Immersion - being piloted in some schools
 - Parent resources and feedback for the new curriculum on the CBE website and Curriculum.learnAlberta.ca
- Capitol planning - Prioritized 4 schools for modernization
 - Teachers are being asked for feedback
- Assessment/reporting structure has changed - new reporting structure to account for shifts in curriculum
- \$500 grant from AB Ed - contact the board of trustees by email to access. Needs to be applied for by the chair
- In February there will be more workshops from ASCA

Volunteer Coordinator – Melissa Lucas

- No Report

Parent Education Coordinator – Laura Schorn

- No Report

New Business:

- None

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:08pm

Moved: Laura C.
Second: Katherine P.
Voted and Carried

Questions asked to Director Nelson:

Question: Is there funding from the CBE to pay for the sound system?

Answer: Facilities said that we need to pay for it ourselves. Mr. Turner has been told to set aside money to pay the infrastructure costs and has been given the names of companies to request quotes from. Perhaps he can ask facilities to see if there is any money available to help pay for the cost of the system.

Question: Could the education director come back in Feb?

Answer: Yes! Parents can submit questions before the meeting

Director Michael Nelson spoke about

- Level up Calgary - Students develop a Minecraft design for downtown Calgary. Their designs could be used. One for this year is a C-Train station. One student won an award. A couple of classes at MC did the Minecraft challenge. A few kids' designs went quite far. Microsoft did some professional learning classes online for dozens of classes.
- Infrastructure deficit is over \$500 million
- He enjoys coming to visit schools, 5 to 6 times per year per school.
- Schools have been funded 3:1 for technology - the vast majority of schools have that. Parents can fundraise and have more. Schools would get less money from the system if they have more than 3 students per piece of tech. Parents need to decide what they want to fund. Some schools prioritize naturalization areas.

Committees for reference:

Special Events Coordinator: Co-chairs – Kim Harding (Lead), Melissa Lucas

Volunteer Coordinator: Melissa Lucas

Play area project committee: Loreley Zavattiero, Katherine Peterson

Parent Education Coordinator: Laura Schorn

Fundraising Chair: Rachel Gulam

Casino Coordinator: Vanesse Loke

Naturalization Coordinator: Devon Karchut

Book fair: Angela Lee, Kim Harding

Special Lunches: Janie Lam

Key Communicator/CAPSC coordinator: Vanesse Loke

**Marion Carson Parent Association
General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 16th, 2022**

Tatiana D, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:23 pm. Enough members were present to constitute a quorum.

Present: Dustin Turner, Huong Ly, Michael Nelson, Joanne Eastly, Tatiana D., Katherine P., Laura C., Laura S., Nadine P., Devon K., Jörn D., Melissa L., Onome O., Scarlett W., Mojdeh S., Bahareh F., Yan, Linda, Tosan A., Zhuang C., and Bandana

Agenda: Motion to approve the November 16th, 2022 agenda as presented

Moved: Katherine P.

Second: Laura C.

Voted and Carried

Minutes: Motion to approve the October 19th, 2022 annual meeting minutes as presented

Moved: Tatiana D.

Second: Melissa L.

Voted and Carried

Fundraising Update

- Fundraisers will be listed on website (Marion Carson Home Page -> Get Involved -> Fundraisers & Donations
<https://school.cbe.ab.ca/school/marioncarson/get-involved/fundraisers-donation/pages/default.aspx>
- Purdy's Chocolates for Christmas!
 - Largest fundraiser, last year it made about \$2500 currently we have only raised \$660
 - A link with the Purdy's Catalogue has been sent out, your family and friends can order as well.
 - Our goal to purchase over \$4000 (currently we have purchased \$2540)
 - More volunteers needed to help
- Mabels Labels: https://mabelslabels.ca/en_CA/fundraising/support/
 - 15% off until Oct. 24th
 - Runs all year long
- Papa John Pizza Night
 - 15% off and 15% goes back to the school
 - Need to order online
 - Next one is on Thursday November 24th
 - Please share code with family, friends and neighbours
 - Next pizza nights are on Dec 22, Jan 25 and Feb 16 then we will see how it goes
- Book Fair booked for March 9th and 10th
- Anyone want to find their own fundraising idea and lead? We need more parental involvement
 - email mcschoolccouncil@gmail.com

Treasures' Report

- **General Account:**
 - We raised over \$1000 from the bottle drive
 - We spent \$550 on the Halloween dance. Spent more than budgeted

- Community Fund - we budgeted \$800. In the past we have moved the money from young writers to the community fund. We will discuss the young writers program again when information comes out, which is usually in December or January.

Question: What are young writers?

Answer: Event on the weekend, writers workshop, instruction and guest authors for Grade 4 and up to attend. Limited number of students that can attend. Courses and workshops for the kids and supervising teachers. Usually 2 students but up to 4. Students come back and teach their peers. Open to students who deeply love writing. Has been in person in the past. Not until April but get a notice in January. We have not put money in for the last three years. It's always been a bit controversial. A lot of money but only a small number get to go. Let's leave it in the budget until there are more asks on the table.

- Community Fund: \$100 gift cards to superstore. Last year there were 13 families and maybe we could increase the fund to \$1000.
- Request for an additional \$200.
- Approve the fund to \$1000

Question: Why is so much budgeted for the Chinese New Year and Winter Concert?

Answer: Pre-covid there was a videographer for Chinese New Year but with FOIP not sure if this can be done. If we did video it, what can we do with it? The video was to show the kids in the school. It was to show the kids their own performances. Chinese Lion Dance cost has gone up. School is in the planning phase of winter concert and Chinese Lunar New Year

- **Casino**
 - Last four years (two casinos) of how we have been spending money

Category	Sum of Amount	% of Total
Art	\$227.86	0.2%
Field Trip	\$27,865.08	21.5%
Insurance	\$3,136.50	2.4%
Library Books	\$3,948.73	3.0%
Math	\$615.65	0.5%
Music	\$2,879.86	2.2%
Other	\$1,248.09	1.0%
PE	\$4,559.39	3.5%
PLAY PROJECT	\$2,500.00	1.9%
Presentation for school	\$3,249.38	2.5%
REJECTED-Climbing Wall	\$9,520.79	7.3%
Science	\$7,752.49	6.0%

Subscription	\$23,734.90	18.3%
Tech	\$38,508.18	29.7%
Grand Total	\$129,746.90	100.0%

Requests

- The AV System is a big ask and will be 60-70% of the funds
- The technology freeze is over
- If we purchase more than 3:1, then the CBE contributes less (this ratio is only related to things like iPads and computers)
- Request of almost \$44000 for audio and visual. This will be about 60%-70% of the casino fund.
- Infrastructure cannot be approved from casino funds but AV is approved (Will not cover the actual hardwiring of the system.)

Question: Can some of this be covered by CBE infrastructure?

Answer: Request is for \$43K because in addition there is \$8-9k on top to cover infrastructure, but this will be covered by CBE. Dustin will ask if CBE will cover some of the \$43K. The audio system is unstable. Borrowed a piano and two speakers from a parent for the Remembrance Day assembly. We connected the mic system to the parent's speakers. Sound for a video was being played by two computer speakers. It was stressful but it worked out. This impacts the learning of students.

Question: We requested a quote without video. Is it a possibility?

Answer: Sound system - \$20,285.95 and visual system - \$23,284.27. Break down of costs but lots of intertwined pieces. It would cost less to do it all at once then to do in two sets.

We would like to think there are more than 10 people in the school who are fundraising. We can still fundraise for other things that parents want. For example, we can fundraise for field trips if that's what we want to cover with other funds. In the past, parents have paid the full price of field trips, but it was a bonus that field trips were covered by funds last year.

Question: Is the play project off the table?

Answer: We can share an update next meeting, but in order to move forward we the play project needs a parent body behind it. It can't be two parents raising \$450K. The casino funds wouldn't be enough. If we don't have parents, we don't have funds.

Question: Do we need to use 25% from the cheque writing?

Answer: Yes and the school is going to cover the 8-9K for infrastructure.

Question: Sound only?

Answer: The sound is the largest issue but most assemblies and events have a visual component.

Question: If AGLC has already approved, and we know they will cover it, then shouldn't we maximize spending casino money?

Answer: The way it was worded is so that there is room for more diversity of spending funds.

Comment from Ms. Eastly: as a teacher who puts on assemblies, it's a piece meal and very difficult to use. It has only gotten worse in the last five years.

Question: Can school pay first then casino?

Answer: School doesn't have that much but will speak to the chosen vendor to see if it can be installed before casino money arrives.

Motion: Once funds are received by AGLC from the Nov 2022 casino, motion to approve the amount of up to \$43,570 to be used to fund the school AV system with the agreement that the school will augment up to 25% of the funds that are received from the 2022 Cheque-writing campaign, and following the direct request to CBE to ask if there are any funds available to put towards the equipment and installation costs.

Moved: Katherine P.

Second: Laura C.

In favour: Tatiana D., Katherine P., Laura C., Laura S., Nadine P., Devon K.,
Tosan A., Melissa L.

Abstained: Jörn D.

Voted and Carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Question: Parent Teacher Conferences are coming up. Is there time to have a potluck hosted by parents? Or is it too late? We can order. Most staff aren't picky.

Answer: Probably too short notice. We have money approved to purchase. We can potentially organize that for the March conferences, but we will need a parent to take the lead on doing that.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm

Moved: Tatiana D.

Second: Laura C.