

PAC MINUTES FEBRUARY 13, 2024

Meeting called to order 7:00 pm

Attendance:

Sherry Desy (President), Tina Etchart (Secretary), Quinn Rooke (Treasurer), Candice Rizzardo

Adrienne Mouland (Principal) Gordon Swan (School Trustee)

Teachers: Josee Warren, Shelly Moorhead, Jennifer Denton

Josee Warren, Coach of the MSS Curling Club, came in to thank the PAC for the equipment donation of new brooms for the students. \$2000 was unanimously approved by the PAC executive via email submission funding request in January. We were able to see the older brooms that they were previously using, belonging to the Merritt Curling Club. Now the MSS students have their own brooms with which to practice, travel and compete in tournaments. Students also sent a thank you video to the PAC exec.

Shelly Moorhead came to thank and show the PAC the new student designed jerseys for the Volleyball team. PAC had approved the \$1600 in November 2023, writing a cheque for \$1000 with \$653.54 balance to be used from the MSS PAC holding account.

Jennifer Denton came to give us an update on the Flash Fiction Creative Writing Competition. The participation in this competition was very impressive, as were the writing submissions. PAC issued \$650 for prizes and luncheon. Since the quantity of participating students was more than anticipated, the majority of the funds were used to award prizes. They are requesting an additional \$300 to cover the increased cost of hosting the luncheon celebration for the participants. Sherry made a motion to support increase, unanimously approved and will be drawn from the MSS holding account \$628.38

Sherry made a motion to approve January minutes. Motion carried, minutes approved.

Treasurer's report: Quinn Rooke

No changes in account balances

Gaming account balance **\$5,526.03** General chequing account balance **\$215.52**

MSS holding account (PAC issued unspent dollars) **\$628.38 <300> pending withdrawal**

School Trustee report: Gordon Swan

Next Wednesday's SD58 Board meeting will be reviewing increased operational costs. Bussing has had a large increase and is now back to pre-pandemic activity. The number of trips and activities have not increased but the inflated cost associated with maintaining these activities has risen significantly. For some time, during (2020-2022) trips and activities were reduced and now they are back to normal. The Secretary Treasurer will be releasing a report at the public meeting to look at these increases.

Related to the bussing costs, our School Trustees would like to hear from parents regarding their experiences or examples of increased extracurricular costs. Parents of MSS senior students may have experienced a significant Athletic fee increase over the past 5 years. Despite these fee increases the school is not breaking even with costs and the situation is becoming inequitable. Not to mention, the extra hidden costs of tournament fees, hotels and other travel costs associated with team sports that are not part of school athletic fees.

Gordon Swan gswan@365.sd58.bc.ca

2023 BC Adolescent Health SurveyThe BC Adolescent Health Survey (BC AHS) is a province-wide survey administered to youth in Grade 7 to 12 since 1992. The survey gives an evidence base of youth health trends, emerging issues, and risk and protective factors for healthy development.

https://www.mcs.bc.ca/about_bcahs

Coming soon: 2023 BC Adolescent Health survey results will be released on February 21st, 2024. Find the invite for the 2023 BC AHS provincial report launch [here](#).

http://www.mcs.bc.ca/pdf/savethedate_2023BCAHSreportlaunch.pdf

More information, such as webinar dates, is available [here](#)

https://mcs.bc.ca/2023_bcahs_report_launch

To RSVP for the launch event, or to request copies of the report, please email mccreary@mcs.bc.ca.

Thank you to all the nurses, teachers, principals, superintendents, and students across BC who made the 2023 BC AHS survey administration so successful.

[Information for parents and guardians - McCreary Centre Society](#)

http://www.mcs.bc.ca/pdf/2023_bcahs_info_for_parents.pdf

MSS Principal's report: Adrienne Mouland

The Flash Fiction contest is in full swing with 23 entries.

MSS played host to 6 basketball tournaments hosting 65 teams. The season is wrapping up in the next few weeks.

With the help of Ms. Larson and her team, we have completed the first round of Grade 10 Literacy Assessments.

Semester 1 report cards were sent home on February 2nd, while Semester 2 started January 29th.

The MSS Band concert was a huge success. It included performances from the Grade 7, Grade 8, Senior and Jazz Band classes as well as the Vocal Jazz group. It was very well attended.

Parents had questions and open discussion regarding safety and security on and around school grounds.

Details were clarified regarding the January 31st police presence at MSS regarding a no trespass order. The person of concern was flagged immediately by staff and dealt with by the RCMP. Though the individual attempted to flee from police, no harm or threat to student safety occurred. The individual was not connected to the nearby shelter.

Discussion was had regarding the Extreme Weather Shelter in close proximity to the highschool. The teams running the shelter communicated very well with the nearby residents and school to proactively address any and all concerns. Our principal was invited to attend meetings and voice any concerns. There have been no incidents or safety concerns to date.

BC Housing, in association with the [ASK Wellness Society](#) and the [Nicola Valley Shelter and Support Society](#), released a letter to neighbours about a new Extreme Weather Response Shelter located at [1755 Coldwater Ave.](#)

According to the 2023 Point-in-Time Homeless Count, 67 people are experiencing homelessness in Merritt, compared to 43 in 2020. Winter weather can create a life-or-death situation for people experiencing homelessness. This is why it is vital to have sufficient shelter spaces for people to come inside, get warm and access basic services.

<https://www.merritt.ca/shelter/>

Next MSS PAC meetings will be: 6pm Wednesday March 6th and Wednesday April 10th 2024.

Minutes recorded by TE