

**Marion Carson School
School Council Meeting
Tuesday, Sep 15, 2026 - 6:30pm**

Attendance:

Shannon C., Jenny H., Laura C., Jenn A., H. Ly, O. Ledene, Vanesse L., Nadine P., Holly M., Estee L., Sukriti M.

1. Call to Order at 6:30pm and Land Acknowledgement

2. Approval of the Minutes

- a. **Motion:** Does the School Council approve the presented minutes from the May 19, 2026 meeting?
 - i. Moves: Jenny H.
 - ii. Second: Laura C.

3. Approval of the Agenda

- a. No changes were made to the agenda.

4. Election of Executives

- a. **Motion:** Jenny H. moves to elect Shannon C. as Chair. Seconded by Vanesse L. All voted in favour.
- b. **Motion:** Jenny H. moves to elect Laura C. as co-Vice Chair. Seconded by Vanesse L. All voted in favour.
- c. **Motion:** Jenny H. moves to elect Anna C. as co-Vice Chair. Seconded by Vanesse L. All voted in favour.

5. Executive Update

- a. Introduction of council members
- b. 2026/27 Priorities and Approach
 - i. Our goal is to make Parent Council feel approachable, welcoming, and easy to participate in. Will not be using Robert's Rules of Order.
 - ii. Now that the playground is complete, focus is shifting away from fundraising and toward community building.
 - iii. Will start using some technology and new tools to make communication, volunteering, and participation easier.
 - iv. Prioritize keeping meetings on time.
 - v. **Action Item:** Shannon C. will explore options for more virtual meetings.
- c. 2026/27 Meeting Schedule from 6:30 - 8:00pm
 - i. September 15, 2026
 - ii. October 20, 2026
 - iii. November 17, 2026
 - iv. January 19, 2027 (virtual)
 - v. February 16, 2027

- vi. March 16, 2027
- vii. April 20, 2027
- viii. May 18, 2027 AGM

6. Principal's Report

- a. Staffing, Enrolment, and Updates
 - i. This fall, the CBE has hired hundreds of teachers, education assistants and other school staff to support student learning. These positions have been funded by the Government of Alberta with the intention of addressing classroom complexity and class sizes.
 - ii. Classroom Complexity Team
 - 1. Ms. Amanda Collins: shifted her position into the role of Classroom Complexity Team Lead Teacher
 - 2. Ms. Erin McIlveen: hired as a Classroom Complexity Team Education Assistant
 - 3. We are in the process of hiring a 2nd Classroom Complexity Team Education Assistant
 - iii. Reducing Class Size Initiatives
 - 1. Ms. Laura Dumas (grade 4CE)
 - 2. Ms. Melody Fong (grade 5)
 - 3. Ms. Emily Davis (grade 6)
 - iv. Other Staffing
 - 1. Ms. Jenna Holm in Grade 1/2CE (filling Ms. Hoglund's position)
 - 2. Ms. Dina Lee in Grade 2MB (until Ms. Li's return)
 - 3. Ms. Eunbee Oh in Grade 1/2CE (until Ms. Keller's return)
 - 4. Ms. Huiyi Ma in grade 3CE (until Ms. Wilcock's return)
- b. School Hours
 - i. Soft entry begins at 8:55am
 - ii. Instruction starts at 9:04am
 - iii. Ends at 3:35pm (Mon-Thurs) and 1:20pm (Fri)
 - iv. Lunch hour from 12:30pm - 1:11pm (Mon-Thurs), Nutrition Break on Fridays 30 minutes staggered (11:00am - 11:30am and 11:30am - 12:00pm)
 - v. Reminder to families to pick a meeting spot for their child after school, preferably away from the doors, especially for older students.
 - vi. Support student safety by using the sidewalks and crosswalks, avoiding jaywalking and walking through the school parking lot.
 - vii. Families continue to do well with the Hug and Go this year (signs are now up on fence and on boulevard) - less congested during the morning drop-off - reminder no pickup or drop off of students in the parking lot.
- c. Enrolment was projected at 498, currently at 520 as of Sep 8th
- d. Well-being Connect Fridays and Outdoor Education Connect Fridays
 - i. Whole School Statements: "We Connect"

- ii. Well-being Connect Friday (Carson's College): 1 Friday per month, students in K-6 animal groupings grouped by interest with a teacher different than their homeroom teacher from 10:15am - 11:00am to foster belonging through connections
- iii. Outdoor Education Connect Fridays: Cross-graded outdoor education activities focussing on making connections through physical activity and land-based learning
- iv. Led by teachers throughout the year, and an outdoor education committee, with consistent activities across the whole school
- e. Summary of upcoming events
- f. Ms. Andrea Wilcock will be joining Marion Carson as acting Assistant Principal
- g. Question: Why are the grade 1/2 classes split?
 - i. Answer: Teacher preference because last year there was only one grade 1/2 split class and the teachers felt it was isolating for that class/teacher.
- h. Question: How does it work having two classes in one large classroom?
 - i. Answer: One teacher instructs while the other teacher works the room. Flexible re-grouping. It is a very large classroom. Teachers feel it actually works quite well.
- i. Question: Will class pictures be inside this year?
 - i. Answer: Yes.
- j. Question: Will Connect Friday groups put siblings in the same group, as in past years?
 - i. Answer: No. Grouping siblings together had mixed feedback.

7. Teacher's Education Report

- a. Key themes were building routines, settling into the expectations of a new school year, and playing/safety on the new playground (rule of 3).
- b. Parents noted the "banana" on the new playground is making a broken sound and observations of children falling backward and hitting their head while swinging on the swing under the tall slide platform. **Action Item:** Playground committee to follow up with Play Envy.
- c. Question: Will there be an opportunity for students to participate in clubs this year?
 - i. Answer: This will be discussed amongst teachers in the spring. Last year, the strike impacted teacher willingness to run student clubs.

8. Meeting Adjourned at 7:15pm

Marion Carson School
Parent Association Meeting
Tuesday, Sep 15, 2026 - 7:10pm

Attendance:

Shannon C., Jenny H., Laura C., Jenn A., H. Ly, O. Ledene, Vanesse L., Nadine P., Holly M.,
Estee L., Sukriti M.

1. Call to Order at 7:15pm and Approval of the Minutes

- a. **Motion:** Shannon C. moves to approve the presented minutes from the May 19, 2026 meeting with the following amendment:

6) Requests, New Business, Proposals, Additions from 1c

a) Proposals

ii. Reading Eggs (K-6) with some extras

to reflect "IXL" instead of "Reading Eggs".

i. Second: Jenny H.

2. Approval of the Agenda

- a. No changes were made to the agenda.

3. Election of Executives

- a. **Motion:** Does the Parent Association approve to elect the same individuals as were elected to the School Council Executive to serve in the corresponding roles for the Parent Association?

i. Moves: Jenny H.

ii. Second: Vanesse L.

iii. All voted in favour.

4. Executive Update

- a. Access to the mcschoolcouncil@gmail.com email will be limited to the Executive Committee to ensure nothing gets missed. Volunteers and committee leads can use mcschoolfundraising@gmail.com email or Executive Committee can forward emails to their personal accounts, whichever is preferred. **Action Item:** Parent Association to review how this is working in two months time.
- b. Chair or designate will collect items for addition to weekly Principal's Email by noon Monday using a Google form. Chair will submit all items received to Ms. Ly Tuesday evening. Link to Google form will be shared on Parent Council/Association What's App chat.
- c. A Google form will also be used to collect agenda items in advance of Parent Council/Association meetings.

5. Committee Updates

- a. Special Events
 - i. Deborah S. will be taking on role of Special Events Lead.
 - ii. Events Plan for 2026/27
 - 1. Focus on fun, achievable events that bring people together.

2. We don't need every event to be a fundraiser.
3. Focus on what kids will actually remember and enjoy, while being realistic about volunteer capacity and cost.
4. Group brainstormed special event ideas using [Menti.com](https://www.menti.com). Most popular responses were: dance, carnival, and movie night.
5. **Action Item:** Ms. Ly will pass on link to teachers to gather responses from students on preferred special events.
6. **Action Item:** Special Events committee will review responses.
7. Mixed feedback was received regarding a Halloween costume swap, with parents suggesting the swap be combined with a Halloween craft and food items for purchase. Parents strongly recommended costumes be received ahead of the event and sorted by volunteers into size groupings.

b. Fundraising

i. Fundraising Plan for 2026/27

1. Sep - Apples and Fall Spirit Wear
2. Oct/Nov - Purdy's and Winter Growing Smiles
3. Spring - Possibly Growing Smiles, Pedalheads, and Fitset Ninja
4. Ongoing fundraisers: Mabel's Labels and Marion Carson has a Skip the Depot account (<https://app.skipthedepot.com/mcpa>) for parents to sign up so the proceeds of their bottle recycling will be donated to Marion Carson Parent Association
5. Fun Run will be a special event to build community this year and not a fundraiser.

- ii. Davison Orchard apple fundraiser is underway with Sep 30th deadline for orders and Oct 20th pickup in school parking lot. Sales as of this morning were a total of 95 boxes. Last year we sold a total of 169 boxes. Sign up for volunteers to fulfill orders coming soon.
- iii. Purdy's sales and promotions will begin in October with orders due Nov 7th and pick up during Teacher Conferences on Nov 26th.
- iv. Fitset Ninja raised \$175 this past spring/summer with 7 families participating.
- v. Awaiting response from Pedalheads on amount raised and when we will be paid. Last year it took several emails and phone calls to get paid.
- vi. Mabel's Labels is ongoing. Order those labels for your children's clothes, water bottles, lunch kits, hats, and boots to keep your items out of the lost and found.

c. We gained a lot of followers this summer on our social media. Please keep adding links to our pages to the monthly newsletter and weekly emails.

d. Accessible Creative Playground project completed. Both Kal Tire and Alberta Recycling Management Authority have been notified of project completion and request for funds completed, just waiting for those funds to come through. Will need to send those funds to Variety - they have mailed a cheque for the remaining balance minus \$4000 that MCPA has sent a cheque to Play Envy. We will receive the \$4000 back in July 2027 when Rick Hansen grant is complete. Playground opening ceremony on Sep 18th with BBQ at 2pm. **Action Item:** Ms. Ly to ask CBE to remove orange fence before opening ceremony, as metal fence has been installed.

i. Question: Where did all the trees come from?

1. Answer: Mr. Turner applied to a City of Calgary tree program and received 65 trees.

e. Apparel

- i. Fresh Brand Gear is our new apparel provider.
- ii. Online store is open year round.
- iii. Bulk orders (e.g. September campaign) receive free shipping.
- iv. Fall Spirit Wear campaign is being advertised on social media and in weekly Principal's Email.
- v. Have ~\$1k in old stock which will be sold on Zeffy starting in October and at school events.
- vi. Suggestion to discount old stock below cost in order to recover some of the cost since most people will want to buy new stock.

6. Treasurer Update

- a. General Account
 - i. ~\$18k balance
 - ii. Playground fundraiser was major income item
 - iii. Playground and boulder circle were major expense items
 - iv. Question: Are donors being recognized?
 - 1. Answer: There will be a sign on the playground to recognize donors, but it is coming from the U.S. and the cost has been impacted by tariffs. It will go on the playground.
- b. Casino Account
 - i. ~\$29k balance
 - ii. Income of \$92k
 - iii. Playground (\$50k) and Reading Eggs (\$10k) were major expense items
 - iv. Expense items for this year will include bussing (\$7700), reading program (\$6000), and \$5000 is budgeted for a lunar new year residency that may not be used since the school has decided to do this every other year going forward, offsetting with south school's Mandarin Bilingual program.
- c. Question: Why is residency always lunar new year themed?
 - i. Answer: Lunar new year celebration is a requirement of Mandarin Bilingual program, but the school has tried to incorporate both programs with other cultures represented in the residency performance.
- d. Question: Why is lunar new residency alternating south/north?
 - i. Answer: Incorporating a lunar new year residency every year takes up too much teaching time.

7. Proposals

- a. **Motion:** Jenny H. moves to spend \$980 for tree planting and sod from the \$20,000 set aside in the Casino account, if confirmed as an approved use of casino funds. Laura C. seconds. All voted in favour. **Action Item:** Jenny H. to confirm if tree planting and sod are approved uses of casino funds.
- b. **Motion:** Laura C. moves to increase funding for bussing by \$1050 to a total of \$8750 to account for additional home room classes created by Reducing Class Size Initiative (25 buses at \$350 per bus). Jenny H. seconds. All voted in favour.
- c. **Motion:** Laura C. moves to spend up to \$500 for supplies associated with Carson's College (extension of Well-Being Connect Fridays) from the General account. Jenny H. seconds. All voted in favour.
- d. Question: Will there be more opportunities for parents to volunteer in the school?
 - i. Answer: Having parents in the school early in the year can increase separation anxiety for younger students and some new teachers feel like

they are being observed. Volunteers for reading programs are always welcomed.

- e. License for Criterion (\$500) will be revisited at a future meeting.
- f. New Curtain/Chain system is needed for stage. Quote came in at \$16k. Asking Parent Association for \$5k towards this cost. **Action Item:** Jenny H. and Vanesse L. to investigate whether this would be an approved expense for casino funds.
- g. **Motion:** Vanesse L. moves to spend up to \$350 on juice boxes to award for the cleanest classroom in the week/month (one class in Div 1 and one in Div 2) for Oscar Awards program. Laura C. seconds. All voted in favour.

8. Meeting adjourned at 8:32pm