

## **Marion Carson School – School Council Meeting**

**Tuesday Sep 16, 2025 6:30pm**

Attendance:

Kim H., Jenny H., Laura C., Rachel G., Deb S., Tracy O., Devon K., Jenn A., Andrew C., Amangi J., Alina K., Dustin T., Huang L., Cory D., Megan D., Emily B., Christina N., Marcus B., Donald H., Ali M., Mona A.

### **1. Introduction and Call to Order at 6:31pm (Kim H.)**

- a. Land Acknowledgement by Devon K. followed by introductions by all in attendance
- b. **Motion:** Does your School Council approve the presented minutes from the May 27, 2025 meeting?
  - i. Moves: Jenny H.
  - ii. Second: Kim H.
- c. **Motion:** Does your School Council adopt the Sep 16, 2025 agenda as presented?
  - i. Moves: Jenny H.
  - ii. Second: Devon K.

### **2. Executive Update (Kim H.)**

- a. Introduction of School Council Executive (summarized below from introductions in 1.a.) and meeting overview
  - i. Chair: Kim H.
  - ii. Vice Chair: Laura C.
  - iii. Treasurer: Jenny H.
  - iv. Secretary: Jenn A.
- b. Additions to Agenda
  - i. No additions

### **3. Principal's Report (Dustin T.)**

- a. Staffing Update for 2025-26
  - i. Three teachers are temporarily filling in for teachers on leave
  - ii. Enrollment at 499 students
  - iii. Class groupings are intentional to optimize funding and accommodate complexity and student numbers
- b. Summary of new school hours and break times
- c. One Friday per month will be a connect Friday focussed on well being and connection

- d. One Friday per month will be a connect Friday focussed on outdoor education and connection
- e. Summary of upcoming events
- f. Jenny H. asked Dustin T. to explain the significance of Orange Shirt Day
  - i. Dustin T. gave a brief explanation about Indigenous Education and noted that parents can sign up for school messenger to learn more about all activities going on at the school
  - ii. Kim H. added that parents can follow the MCPA on social media to get reminders about events at the school (@mcs\_parentassociation on Instagram or Marion Carson Parent Association on Facebook)

#### **4. Teacher's Educational Report (Huong L.)**

#### **5. Committee Reports**

- a. Fundraising (Deb S.)
  - i. Matador pizza fundraiser on Sep 30th will raise \$5 per pizza purchased that day
  - ii. Davison Orchards apple fundraiser is under way with orders due by Oct 1 and delivery on Oct 21. There will be a prize for the class that sells the most apples and a sign up is in the works for volunteers to assist with apple pickup. (Jenn A.)
  - iii. Deb S. informed that the MCPA is making a big fundraising push to build a new accessible playground because the existing playground has reached expiry.
  - iv. A parent asked if the playground is funded solely from fundraising, to which Deb S. answered yes, with assistance from Variety Children's Charity and grants that the MCPA has applied for.
  - v. A bottle drive will be held on Oct 17 with drop off from 8:30-9:30am (Andrew C.)
    - 1. Laura C. noted MCPA has accounts at Bowness Bottle Depot and Skip the Depot if you drop off yourself or use the pickup service.
- b. Fun Lunch (Kim H.)
  - i. Program is through Healthy Hunger this year
  - ii. First lunch is Oct 3 and will be Papa Johns
  - iii. Cutoff to purchase a lunch is 5 days before delivery
  - iv. Occasional Fridays have been selected to include kindergarten families

- c. Casino (Kim H. for Vanesse L.)
  - i. Casino dates are Oct 26th and 27th and volunteers are still needed
  - ii. Laura C. noted volunteers are trained, the school is offered a casino date approximately every 18 months, our last casino raised around \$73k, and the money goes towards whole school activities/purchases.
  - iii. Dustin T. added that one volunteer shift raises around \$1500 for the school, a meal is provided, and that casino revenue is averaged over a quarter so weekend dates are not more profitable than weekdays.
  - iv. Kim H. emphasized the opportunity to work alongside other Marion Carson families.
  - v. Rachel G. noted that if you don't fill shifts, your organization will not be considered for future casino dates.
- d. Special Events (Amangi J.)
  - i. Back to school Mix and Mingle with snacks and beverages scheduled for Sep 19 before school to precede Terry Fox run.
  - ii. Halloween dance scheduled for Oct 30th with tickets available on Zeffy and a cash concession.
- e. Accessible Creative Playground (Tracy O.)
  - i. MCPA has partnered with Variety Children's Charity and they are contributing significantly toward the accessible playground.
  - ii. Vendor (Play Envy) has been selected after survey of students and teachers around desired equipment.
  - iii. Meetings were held over the summer to adjust design in consideration of utilities running under the proposed playground area.
  - iv. Build is scheduled for Summer 2026.
  - v. Jenny H. explained the need for a new playground by noting that the playground cannot be fixed, so anything that breaks will be removed.
  - vi. Devon K. added that the current playground is not accessible.
- f. Book Fair (Rachel G.)
  - i. Fall book fair is scheduled for Nov 27th and 28th and will require volunteers.
  - ii. There will be no purchases during the school day.
  - iii. Volunteers get access to the Scholastic warehouse sale.
  - iv. Proceeds go to educational materials or cash for the school.
  - v. There will be a teacher wish list if you want to purchase a book for a classroom.

- vi. A parent asked if the book fair relates to a flyer recently sent home, to which Rachel G. answered no, the flyer sent home is separate from the book fair and that there will be another flyer related to the fair.
  - vii. A parent asked if the books from the flyer are delivered to your house or the school, to which Dustin T. answered they are usually delivered to the school.
- g. Naturalization and Play Area Project (Devon K.)
  - i. New boulder circle with row seating has been completed and teachers report classes are using it.
  - ii. Deb S. added that Alberta Nursery is donating some trees to the space and will give us a discount if we purchase more.
- h. Marion's Meadow Cleanup (Deb S.)
  - i. Meadow is maintained by parents with cleanups scheduled throughout the year.
  - ii. Kim H. suggested a fall cleanup to be scheduled for end of Sep or early Oct.
- i. Parent Education (Deb S.)
  - i. Devon K., owner/operator of Nature Learners, will be presenting on "Why play is important for kids" on Oct 16. Presentation will be outdoors at the new boulder circle so dress warmly.
  - ii. On Nov 20th a financial advisor is scheduled to present in the learning commons (and online) regarding RESPs, RDSPs, child benefits, and teaching children to manage money. There will be a Q&A.
  - iii. Upcoming topics may include a presentation by the Calgary Police about keeping kids safe online and a presentation by a family counsellor about raising resilient kids.
  - iv. Please provide feedback on topics you would like to see.
- j. Apparel (Alina K.)
  - i. School apparel in the school colours of royal blue and gold are sold through Zeffy.
  - ii. Vendors for upcoming apparel are being finalized.

## 6. **New Business** – N/A

## 7. **Meeting Adjournment at 7:36pm** (Kim H.)

- a. Moves: Laura C.
- b. Second: Jenny H.

## **Marion Carson School - Parent Association Meeting**

**Tuesday Sep 16, 2025 8:00pm**

Attendance:

Kim H., Jenny H., Laura C., Rachel G., Deb S., Tracy O., Devon K., Jenn A., Andrew C., Amangi J., Alina K., Dustin T., Huang L., Cory D., Megan D., Emily B., Christina N., Marcus B., Donald H., Ali M., Mona A.

### **1. Introduction and Call to Order at 7:40pm (Kim H.)**

- a. **Motion:** Does your Parent Association approve the presented minutes from the May 27, 2025 meeting?
  - i. Moves: Laura C.
  - ii. Second: Kim H.
- b. **Motion:** Does your Parent Association adopt the Sep 16, 2025 agenda as presented?
  - i. Moves: Jenny H.
  - ii. Second: Rachel G.
- c. Additions to Agenda – N/A

### **2. Committee Reports**

- a. Fundraising (Deb S.)
  - i. Last year Matador night raised ~\$2k so hoping to top that this year.
  - ii. Purdy's fundraiser scheduled for November
  - iii. Primary fundraiser this year will be the spring Fun Run 5km. We are applying for grants for porta potties and police officers along the route. Run is scheduled for May 2, 2026, and planning will be in December, with a meeting in the next couple weeks.
  - iv. Kim H. added that Jessica Janzen has agreed to do a pre-run hype/warm up.
  - v. Deb S. noted that the goal is to make the Fun Run a community event, focus will be on medals over swag bags, and a sign up for volunteers is coming soon.
  - vi. There will be a plant sale fundraiser in the spring.
  - vii. We received a \$10k grant from Cadillac Fairview for play panels for the playground.
  - viii. Pedalheads fundraiser, which also offered a discount to parents, raised \$750 last year and we hope to partner with Pedalheads again this year.
  - ix. Mabel's Labels fundraiser is ongoing. Select Marion Carson School when you purchase your labels.

- x. An online auction is being considered for this year.
- b. Fun Lunch - N/A
- c. Casino - N/A
- d. Special Events – N/A
- e. Accessible Creative Playground (Tracy O.)
  - i. Will hear back in Nov-Feb if we received the CFEP grant for up to \$125k.
  - ii. Grant application submitted to Blue Cross today for \$50k and will hear back in early Dec.
  - iii. Also looking to apply for Enabling Accessibility Youth grant from government for up to \$12k and into grants from Rotary Club and Costco.
  - iv. \$18,148.64 raised through online donations, a portion of casino funds, and ~\$90k raised from Variety golf tournament (Ledcor fundraiser for inclusive playgrounds) will go toward CFEP matching grant.
- f. Book Fair - N/A
- g. Naturalization and Play Area Project (Devon K.)
  - i. Waiting to hear if we were awarded TD grant, which we reapplied for towards the boulder project.
  - ii. Parks Foundation has agreed to a plaque on the boulder circle instead of a bench in recognition of their contribution.
  - iii. Devon K. will ask Parks Foundation for list of major donors to determine if anyone else should be listed on plaque.
  - iv. Devon K. suggested we recognize Parks Foundation with temporary signs, in school newsletters and on social media until plaque is up.
  - v. Deb S. will confirm with Alberta Nursery if they want recognition for their donation of trees.
- h. Marion's Meadow Cleanup – N/A
- i. Parent Education Coordinator – N/A
- j. Apparel Coordinator – N/A

### 3. **Treasurer Report** (Jenny H.)

- a. The loss showing on apparel from last year is remaining inventory
- b. Jenny H. asked about the community fund, to which Laura C. responded it pays for help for families at the school around Christmas time.
- c. Jenn A. asked if we are showing a net loss because casino funds are not included in the calculation, to which Laura C. responded yes.

- d. Some fundraisers are missing from budget because they weren't finalized or amount to be raised is unknown and budget is conservative.

#### 4. **Requests, New Business, Proposals, Additions from 1c**

- a. Update on past proposal (Dustin T.)
  - i. For the first time, we were awarded the AFA grant which covers half the cost of the Trickster lunar new year residency. Accordingly, ask from MCPA has been reduced from \$7k to \$5k.
- b. If parent feedback/discussion supports this programming, propose that council pays for Mathletics for each student in the school from grade 1-6 (not kindergarten) for ~\$5k. (Dustin T.)
  - i. Group discussed priorities for spending, increased cost of bussing, and teacher input on Mathletics programming.
  - ii. **Motion:** Laura C. moves that we reallocate \$2k from Trickster residency to Mathletics and for \$3k to be allocated to Mathletics from casino or general funds as needed to cover remaining amount with Dustin T. to negotiate cost of Mathletics.
  - iii. 16 voted in favour and 0 voted against
  - iv. Motion passed

#### 5. **Meeting Adjournment at 8:40 pm** (Kim H.)

- a. Moves: Laura C.
- b. Second: Rachel G.