# M.M.Robinson High School

School Council Meeting Minutes
Date: Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2026
Time: 6pm
Location: Student Learning Commons (Library)

## Attendees

Staff: Nick Varricchio (P), Stephanie Clapham (teacher), Annette Markle (VP)
Parents: Rachel Dam, Roisin Pozzobon, Jackie Stone, Jessica Coombes, Kim Houghton & Andrew Wallner

## Regrets

None

## 9. Welcome & Call to Order

Meeting called to order at: 6:05pm

Notes:
National Dog Services (NDS) presentation / Lions Foundation Guide Dogs Canada
-both credited dog service areas
*Yoshie service dog - student is the handler

-dog not allowed in certain classes (ie. science, phys ed, kitchen where food is prepped for health and safety reasons)

*EA present to handle the dog (Beaumont) is level 3 support
-train EAs to handle dog but focus in on coaching student to gain as much independence as possible
-etiquette pieces are stated for staff NOT acting as the handler

*same rules for both foundations
-don't touch dog, don't feed, don't stare
-student might 'snuggle'- light pressure, head on lap; 'hug' deeper pressure, on student's lap … student might need to leave with dog to go for a walk
-ignoring the dog does NOT mean ignoring the kid at the end of the leash

*on 11th birthday guide dog needs to retire (often done working by 10)
-provided good health
-in talk with clients for the whole life
-credited dog agencies are the 'owners' of the dog
-dogs get adopted out to family (or a relative?)
-adoption waitlist, and interviews are done
-families are not at the bottom of the list for another dog
*child and dog should be very well bonded before they come to school together

*getting a service dog is very difficult
-9 credited agencies across the country
-people are kinder to student as a result

## 10. Approval of Previous Minutes

Review of Committee:

Chair - *Rachel Dam & Roisin Pozzobon*
… has to be a parent; name listed on report card; bring up concerns, if other parents have them; review minutes;
Secretary - *Stephanie Clapham* (teacher rep)
PIC - conference, proposals can be done for ProGrant - *Jackie Stone*
Well Being Reps - Jessica Coombes & Kim Houghton

## 11. Teacher's Report

Student Voice - None this time. Student Rep to be arranged for the next meeting.
(often a student from United Student Body)

Start up:
*positive school vibe

*Welcome back assembly - Spencer Miller
-former student/graduate of MMR with Cerebral Palsy now sports journalist/motivational speaker.

*USB / Student Council
-Terry Fox on Monday next week

* Common Ground Collective
-Grade 9s should have mentors to help them feel welcome and comfortable in our school community.
-events throughout the school year
-welcome new students to the school throughout the year as well

*Athletics:

*Rams football is playing at Hayden this year (11 students)
*cross country team
*golf team - tournament at Tyendaga this week (Hidden Lake next week)

*girls basketball (2 teams - Jr and Sr)
*boys volleyball (2 teams - Jr and Sr)

*field hockey for girls has started

The Athletic Council meets on Tuesdays at the start of lunch in the Health Room.

Arts:

Tech Crew - can join at any time to set up AV equipment for presentations or shows

NTS auditions - strong drama program, and students write and perform in plays at high levels

Continuing: Eco Club, Math Club, Reach, Cosmo Club, Auto Club, Yearbook, Muslim Student Association, Christian team, Model UN team, Equity Team

*Best Buddies
-support on various lunch hours in CPP classes
-fun activity once a month in library

*HOSA Club - The mission of HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) Canada chapter is to enable secondary and postsecondary students to become leaders in the healthcare industry by enabling future health professionals to acquire knowledge, skills training and leadership development through competition. Each year, they hold Canada's largest health science competition for secondary and postsecondary students.

- 2 MMR teachers are hosting a HOSA Chapter for the second year in a row. The students are really excited about it and registration is still open for those who are still interested. There is a registration fee to join so any dedicated students are welcome.
- HOSA is a great program and we should be really proud. Osama Sabouni finished in the Top 10 Nationally for Medical Spelling last year.

Horticulture / Eco club
-Ms. Howell runs the club and has led the school to Platinum level the last couple of years
-she has students working at Ireland house, growing and harvesting Heritage vegetables.

## 12. Principal's Report

*MMR - has variety of programs and pathways
-approximately 1150 students
-school's enrollment is stable
-slightly above student projection
-given 3 sections to split classes (grade 12 English, grade 10 science, grade 11 biology)
*budget
-balanced board budget in June
... approximately 4% reduction in school budget is $11000
... final money will be given some point in Dec
- budget determined by enrollment (decentralized budget)

-online learning
... board puts a cap on how many online classes students and teachers can have
... summer school had larger enrollment of online learning, and decrease of in-person learning

*Communication
-school announcements are on website
-read the Friday update sent to students/parents
-school calendar has come out
-Oct. 22nd is first Parent/Teacher conference night (maybe Parent Council would like to set up a table)

*Vimy Ridge School Trip
-planning is taking place right now; low numbers; might not run based on student interest

*Attendance / Participation Policy
-was a factor in the past in Ontario for grading
-factors such as post covid have led to poor in-person attendance
-parents/students appear to be taking the policy seriously
-skipping = attendance mark deduction
-lates do not affect attendance but it will affect participation
-time spent on phone can also impact participation
-parents can 'excuse' students up to 3 days after the absence
- schools will excuse kids for in school trips / events
-parents can view their student's attendance on the Parent Portal
-note: kids can participate in different ways (not just putting hand in air to answer questions)

*code of conduct / dress code exists on school website and shared with all staff, parents, students
-cell phone protocol posted on school website
-anti-racism policies and anti-bullying reviewed in classes
-no vaping / smoking (vape detectors are a new potential installation in our bathrooms)
-public health information is sent out all the time
-mental health and addiction nurse here once a week

*capital renewal
-new signs will be installed - date tbd

*parent volunteer process posted on school website
-parents can get involved to coach; must be screened - vulnerable sector check (revised every 5 years)
-AODA video training required

*school improvement plan continues to be focused on multi-year plan.
-closing the gap between those with IEP vs those that do not (we have narrowed the gap more than any other high school in the board)

... credit accumulation, success with OSSLT
-working on increasing engagement
-Wilson Reading program for support
-Knowledge Hook (short learning cycled data) to determine math concept student is struggling with
-know what accommodation really means in each classroom

*OSSLT / EQAO
-after school literacy sessions being offered
-6 weeks for any student who wants support
-sessions will be each semester
-need enrollment of 15 kids

## 13. Committee Updates

a. Fundraising
b. Events
c. Other Updates

## 14. Old Business

## 15. New Business

*meeting 4 times - Wednesdays
Nov. 18, 2026 - in person (library)
Feb. 17, 2027 - virtual
May 19, 2027 - in person

## 16. Questions/Discussion

*IEP
-do teachers have access to it prior to school starting?
-gets reviewed / updated in the first few weeks of high school
-student would go to the SERT for help with advocacy

*GLS / GLE
-great to learn there are both

*Parent Facebook Group - independent of school
-put link for announcements into the group
-start up forms (blast message was sent to all, even if form was sent in)

*parking lot
-very busy in morning
-parents stop in fire route

*wifi
-chromebook from home won't work with school wifi; there are instructions to fix wifi connectivity for personal devices.

*courses change
-grade 10 female gym is combined grade 10/11/12 co-ed fitness
-course your student is in will be what is on report card (course code even though courses are combined)

*cafeteria
-compass contractor
-pricing has nothing to do with the school

*Fortinos plaza
-kids can't sit to eat there
-Dollarama is limiting to 5 kids

*Bullying in class
-teacher must report to office.

## 17. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at: 7:30pm