**McKenzie Towne School Parent Council Meeting**
September 8, 2026 | 6:32 PM – 7:27 PM
Location: McKenzie Towne School

**Call Meeting to Order – Thomas F.**
Meeting called to order at 6:32 PM

**Welcome and Introductions**
**Roll Call**

**In Attendance:**
- Lorraine Slater, Principal
- Karen Woodrow, Vice Principal
- Thomas Fuller, Chair
- Tiana Winter, Vice Chair
- Christine Carlson, Key Communicator/Fun Lunch
- Chriss Thorn, Yearbook
- Rebecca Hamende, Secretary
- Sarah Gyger, Fundraising
- Courtney Hall
- Kathryn Wanvig, Casino
- Kelsey Mahaffy
- Darks Sether
- Alison LaFrance

Motion to approve and accept minutes. Approved by Sarah and Tiana.

**Administration Update (6:30)**
- Dr. Slater explained why she missed last year due to knee surgery. She said she missed a lot at Council's last meeting in Spring 2026 and is still coming to terms with decisions Council made.
- Enrollment is currently 557 students, close to September 2025's 547 students. There were expected to be 598 students enrolled, but the number dropped due to call-backs.
- There are 4 Kindergarten classes (16–19 children), 5 Grade 1 classes (20–24 students), 5 Grade 2 classes (22–23 students), 6 Grade 3 classes (21–23 students), and 3 Grade 4 classes (30 students each).
- MTS is classified as closed enrollment. Only students designated to the school from the communities of McKenzie Towne, Hotchkiss and Sora are able to enroll.

**Staffing Updates**
Teachers who left at the end of last year:
- Miller
- Siarkiewicz
- Olsen (temporary contract)
- McFayden
- Coch
- Grant

New Teachers this year:
- Hossani – Grade 2
- Preuss – Grade 1
- Campbell – Grade 2, temporary for Holt while on maternity leave

- Fiddler – Grade 3
- Abid – Grade 3
- Mr. Gurevitch – Grade 3
- Mrs. Knox – Music, Bachelor of Music from U of L; temporary for one year while on maternity leave
- Kerry Pynn – Classroom Complexity Teacher position with the Classroom Complexity Team, with two EAs. Select schools in Alberta received this support; MTS received the position.
- EES – temporary teacher Renee Mah Poy, replacing Swapna, who is on temporary leave.

**Residencies**

- Dr. Slater advised that the Trickster residency is not proceeding and said she is very sad about this. She felt it would have been a good fit and understands that staff were surveyed. She noted that last year was not a good year to ask staff about anything and that, had she been present, she would have built a strong case regarding the residency. The focus would have been on science and mathematics. She described the matter as "water under the bridge" but said she was passionate about it.
- Karen Woodrow shared that new residencies being considered include: Shirley Hall – hoop dancer and artist in residence in April; Wellness organization – October/February, yoga and movement into PE; Alien Inline; Wheelchair Basketball – great for EES students and an opportunity for all students; and Swimming – Grade 3/4.

**Questions / Administration**

- Courtney Hall asked whether enrollment is expected to increase with Hotchkiss, Sora and Seton, with overflow from Cranston. If students arrive after September 30, the school does not receive funding for them. Additional funding may be available due to complexity factors, but it would not be enough for a new teacher and may be enough for a new EA.
- Courtney noted that she filled in student forms today and noticed that the volunteer form process is different. This is a CBE choice rather than a school choice. If someone is struggling, they can come into the office. If they are not a direct parent, they can come to the office to fill in the form. Mrs. Fiddler's mother has volunteered to help at the school.
- The sexual education form requires parents/guardians to opt in. This has been the process since last year and can be completed through PowerSchool rather than by paper copy.
- Thomas suggested putting instructions and information about where to get help on display at the Open House.
- Karen advised that McKenzie Towne School's Elder Hal Eagletail is ending his relationship with CBE. A request will be made for another Elder and Knowledge Keeper.
- Food trucks will be at the Open House on September 24 from 5:00–6:30 PM. Thomas will reach out to more food trucks. Sarah will be there with her candy truck. The food truck is not a fundraiser; it is intended as a draw to bring people in.

**Parent Council Business (7:10)**

- Room parents: many teachers do not want room parents. There is no specific option on the form; families can write it in the notes. It depends on the teacher.
- Outdoor learning space: Courtney is researching plants, including City of Calgary grants for free plants, with planting planned for spring. CBE will not maintain trees over the summer, and trees can take approximately five years to establish. An Earth Day planting event was suggested. Courtney will find an option. CBE approval is required; Thomas will reach out to administration.
- Fundraising: no update from Sarah.

- Volunteer/Open House: the group liked eliminating paper. Sarah and Thomas will be at the Open House. A QR sign-up will be available for the casino. Pamphlets for the Open House will include a notes page. Thomas will order more pamphlets and Tiana is working on them.
- Police clearance is required for people who want to volunteer on field trips.
- Fun Lunch: Christine is setting up SignUpGenius. Cheese Chalet wants to participate.
- Terry Fox Run: Janine will send an email.
- Community Walks: waiting on future dates.
- Halloween Dance: the group needs to confirm the community centre's date with leadership and complete permits 30 days in advance. MTH is October 30; the group agreed to ask for October 29. The event will have less food and be free. Thomas will ask for approval. Costs will include the school, food and décor. New decor is needed as existing decor is falling apart. Games may be placed at the front entrance; Courtney will bring cornhole. Games will be self-led. Laura will do a balloon arch. A "guess the candy corn" activity was suggested. $200 was approved for decor and games. Christine will look at decor and connect with Laura Erlandson.

**Adjourn Parent Council Meeting**
Motion to adjourn at 7:27 PM approved by Kathryn and Sarah.

Next meeting: October 5, 2026.

**McKenzie Towne School Parent Association Meeting**
September 8, 2026 | 7:28 PM – 8:29 PM
Location: McKenzie Towne School

**Call to Order**
Meeting called to order at 7:28 PM.

**Roll Call**
**In Attendance:**
- Thomas Fuller, Chair
- Tiana Winter, Vice Chair
- Christine Carlson, Key Communicator/Fun Lunch
- Chriss Thorn, Yearbook
- Rebecca Hamende, Secretary
- Sarah Gyger, Fundraising
- Courtney Hall
- Kathryn Wanvig, Casino
- Kelsey Mahaffy
- Alison LaFrance

**Approval of Agenda and Previous Minutes**
- Motion to adjourn at 7:27 PM approved by Kathryn and Sarah.
- Motion to approve minutes from the last meeting approved by Kathryn and Courtney.

**Financial / Budget and Funding**
- Teacher funding: discussion about increasing the amount to $150. Brad is needed for the discussion/approval and was absent due to illness. This will be revisited at the next meeting.
- Kindergarten wish list: $3,500 cap approved. Thomas will reach out to Karen Woodrow; the school will send a total and the Association will pay.

**Meetings for 2026–2027**
- Meeting dates: the group voted to move meetings to Tuesdays, but the Board of Trustees meets on Tuesdays, so meetings were moved back to Mondays. Dates will be as follows:
    October 5
    November 9
    December 7
    January 11
    February 8
    March 8
    April 12
    May 10
    June 7 – last meeting

**Upcoming Events / Communications**
- Official votes: all approved.
- Upcoming events: Open House – Thomas, Tiana and Courtney.
- Thomas will ask Dr. Slater about having someone from the Parent Council available to help. Courtney will have a guide and be ready on a computer.
- Pin the casino information on the Facebook page.

- Advertise that new members are needed. The group noted that funding could be lost if positions are not filled.
- Discussion about whether Brad will be here next year; it was noted that his children are in Grade 4.
- Courtney Hall will replace Rebecca Hamende as secretary. Thomas approved and everyone in attendance voted yes. Rebecca will handover to Courtney for next meeting.

**Read-a-thon**

- Parent Council should show up at all events.
- Read-a-thon: the program is taking off well and the spreadsheet is available in the chat. There are many donations, including LEGO and climbing opportunities. Janine will sort LEGO donations. Cheese Chalet, Home Depot and Indigo will provide support/books. Boston Pizza will provide free kids' meals and one classroom lunch per month; 250 free kids' meals were mentioned.
- A logo for MTSPA was discussed so the group can have a letterhead/header.
- Prize/donation ideas discussed: Two Flying Squirrel; 10 Boulder Climbing; martial arts month of lessons; Code Ninjas – 2 PD days; 3D-printed fidgets; Southtrail Barber – basket and free product with haircut.
- EES-focused prizes are needed.
- Read-a-thon dates: September 28–October 18, with prizes on October 30.
- Students may report reading hours on computer or paper. Casino volunteers will count read-a-thon hours. Courtney and Kathryn will message Janine.
- Pledge sheets were discussed.

**Teacher Wish List**

- Teacher wish list: during Open House, teachers can indicate what they want. Forms will be printed and given to teachers; Rebecca and Christine will take care of this.

**Scooter Rack / Technology / Financial Updates**

- Scooter rack: installed and in use. The padlock works, but it is not a bike lock. A certificate should be sent to Nigell and presented at the next assembly. Need to confirm that it was Nigell and prepare a certificate for them.
- Microsoft licenses are pending. Once set up, the Association can use Teams, calendars and an internal database, as well as templates.
- No treasurer report. Christine and Rebecca are still owed money.

**Casino Report (8:02)**

- Casino report: volunteers are still needed, including chip runners, backups, nights and counters. Everyone is encouraged to sign up. A free meal is provided. Christine will talk to Highlands PTA about posting on its page. Kathryn submitted the license. No police check is required. Courtney will talk to the Towne Hall social media person. Volunteers can be anyone over the age of 18.

**Round Table (8:12)**

- Casino dates: October 20–21 at Deerfoot Inn and Casino.

**Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn at 8:29 PM approved by Christine and Rebecca.

Next meeting, October 5, 2026.