MONTGOMERY STREET ELEMENTARY

Parent School Support Committee
October 21, 2026 - 6:00pm

- **Call to Order and Welcome** – Introductions were made around the room.

Present	Regrets
Aman Chawla April Dodman (Secretary) Arpit Jha (Chair) Carrie Yeamans Jennifer O'Rourke-Miller (Vice-Principal) Joshua Goguen Margaret Robertson Marwa Fagir Ram Bajgai Rebecca Piercy (Principal) Shannon Stuart Swati Sarin (Vice-Chair)	Abduallah Aljankawey Mary Diduch Omotola Dej-Olaopa Vidhu Jain

- **Approval of Agenda** – Moved by Ram and seconded by Joshua

- **Approval of September Minutes** – Moved by Shannon and seconded by Swati

- **Principal Report**

  - The Terry Fox Walk was held on October 8, 2026. The total amount raised is still being finalized.
  - The school achieved its first PBIS goal and the school celebrated by giving a few teachers a pie to the face. The second goal has been increased from 100 to 150 *Caught You Cards*. The initiative is being expanded to include safe playground behavior, with continued reinforcement of school-wide expectations
  - Picture Day was September 25, 2026. Retake Day is scheduled for November 3, 2026.
  - School Safety Week is taking place this week October 19-23, 2026. Students have already participated in two fire drills and one lockdown drill. Bus evacuation training will take place on October 22, 2026. All students will participate, regardless of whether they ride the bus. The purpose and expectations of these drills have been discussed regularly with students.
  - Student enrollment has increased to 255 students.
  - A Diwali assembly is scheduled for next Wednesday October 28, 2026.
  - November 2, 2026, is a Professional Learning Day for staff. There will be no school for students.
  - A Remembrance Day assembly will be held on November 4, 2026.
  - November 11, 2026, is Remembrance Day. There will be no school for students or staff.
  - November 20, 2026, is a report card writing day. There will be no school for students.

- Family Game Night is tentatively scheduled for November 19, 2026.
- The Home and School Committee is partnering with Total Contact to offer a school branded clothing sale. Orders and payments will be completed online starting November 2, 2026.
- The Winter Concert is tentatively planned for December in the school gymnasium. The date is to be confirmed.

➢ **New Business**

❖ **School Improvement Plan & Reading Goals**

- The current school goals were reviewed, with a particular focus on strategies to improve student literacy, reading achievement, and overall academic growth.
- An overview of progress to date and actions taken to support these goals was provided.
- The four pillars of PBIS are progressing well. Key initiatives include the development of a recognition system, ongoing data collection, and the establishment of a PBIS team. The implementation is being rolled out gradually to ensure sustainability and success. This year will primarily focus on collecting baseline data to help inform future goals and decision-making.
- Literacy data is being collected through teacher assessments and formal testing. Students in Grades 2 to 5 are participating in the DIBELS assessment program to establish baseline literacy data. This information will help identify learning gaps and guide targeted intervention plans. Reading comprehension has been identified as an initial area of focus. The importance of parent communication and support in student literacy development was also discussed.
- During the November 2, 2026, Professional Learning Day, staff will participate in professional development focused on literacy assessment practices. Literacy targets will remain flexible and may be adjusted as additional data becomes available.
- The School Improvement Plan will be posted on the school website. The most current version of the plan will be shared and reviewed at each meeting moving forward.

❖ **PSSC Budget ($1,000 Communication Funds) & Sound System Upgrade**

- A proposal was discussed to allocate the $1,000 PSSC communications budget toward upgrading the school's gymnasium sound system. An improved sound system would enhance school-wide communication and support events such as assemblies, winter concerts, cultural presentations, and other school functions.
- Signature Sound has completed an assessment and provided a comprehensive quote. The estimated cost of necessary upgrades ranges from approximately $8,200 to $19,000, depending on the scope of the work required.
- An additional consultation will be conducted to determine the minimum upgrades needed to meet the school's immediate needs. A phased or staggered replacement approach may also be considered to spread costs over time.

❖ **Diwali Cultural Celebration Proposal**

- A simple and engaging plan to celebrate Diwali was presented to promote cultural awareness and student participation.
- The celebration will include:

- **Storytelling**: An age-appropriate presentation explaining the significance of Diwali
- **Educational Video**: A short, approximately 7-minute video introducing Diwali in a fun and engaging way. The video link will be shared with committee members for review.
- **Craft Activity**: Students will create paper diyas with messages focused on kindness, hope, and light as part of an in-class activity.
- **Treats**: Packaged, nut-free treats will be distributed to students. Gluten-free options will be available and provided by the school.

- Feedback from staff consultations was reviewed, and next steps for implementation were discussed.
- A 30-minute Diwali Assembly is scheduled for October 28, 2026.

❖ **Homework Assignments**

- The frequency and amount of homework assigned are determined by individual classroom teachers.
- Committee members discussed the value of homework as a way for families to gain greater visibility into what students are learning and working on throughout the week.
- The PSSC expressed interest in exploring whether teachers could provide optional enrichment or extension activities for students who are interested in additional learning opportunities outside of regular classroom assignments.
- The suggestion will be shared for consideration as staff continue discussions around homework practices and home-school communication.

❖ **Cultural Night**

- It was confirmed that a Cultural Night will not be held this school year.
- The school remains committed to recognizing and celebrating the diversity of its community through existing school events and assemblies.
- Cultural celebrations and learning opportunities are encouraged and may be incorporated into scheduled assemblies and other school-wide activities throughout the year.

➢ **District Education Council (DEC) News/Report**

- The school currently does not have a representative attending District Education Council (DEC) meetings.
- DEC members meet on Thursdays and hold both a public meeting and a private meeting.
- The role of the DEC is to provide governance and oversight for the education system and to support and oversee the work of School Parent School Support Committees (PSSCs).
- An update was provided regarding the ongoing search for a school counsellor. A counsellor has not yet been secured, but it is hoped that a counsellor will be able to attend a future meeting to provide updates and answer questions.
- All DEC meetings are open to the public, and meeting minutes are available on the DEC website for anyone interested in learning more about council discussions and decisions.

- **Old Business**

  - **Parking Lot Safety**

    - Concerns regarding traffic flow and vehicle speeds in the school parking lot and surrounding areas were discussed.
    - The possibility of installing a large flashing speed sign was reviewed. Principal Piercy will follow up to determine whether this option is feasible and available.
    - To help improve safety and consistency during student arrival and dismissal times, the PSSC will draft a communication for families outlining the school's drop-off procedures and expectations. The communication will be shared with the parent community to support awareness and promote safe practices during pick-up and drop-off times.
    - Parking lot safety will continue to be monitored, with an emphasis on ensuring a safe environment for students, staff, and families.

  - **Hot Lunch Program**

    - No update was available regarding the number of students currently utilizing the hot lunch program.
    - The option to order milk only has been added back to the Chartwells online ordering system.
    - A proofing chamber has been ordered to help keep meals warm prior to distribution. This addition is expected to improve food temperature and quality for students receiving hot lunches.

- **Next meeting: Wednesday, November 18th, 2026**

- **Adjournment** – moved by Swati and seconded by Marwa