# Maple Ridge Elementary School Parents Council 1000 Valin St, Orleans, ON K4A 4B5 

November 12 ${ }^{\text {th }}, 2019$

Attendees: Cynthia Allen, Pamela Dossett, Jennifer Tracey, Crystall Matheson, Rhiana Lorimer, Marianne Harvey, Marc Laliberté, Amanda Hope, Rosita McLaughlin, Sebastien Jean-François, Wendy Lim, Brenda Beaudoin, Jessica Meating, Elitza Palazov, Lisa Briscoe, Barbara MacIntyre

Regrets: Heather Peppy, Michelle Snook
Guest Speaker: Keith Penny - School Council Trustee for Zone 8
Meeting called to Order - 6:34pm
Minutes Record by: Pamela Dossett
Introduction of guest speaker: Keith Penny, School Trustee for this school (former Maple Ridge Council Chair.)

October meeting minutes approved with minor amendment to list of attendees. Corrections to reflect Rhiana Lorimer, Crystall Matheson, Amanda Hope, Rosita McLaughlin were not present for October's meeting.

## Guest Speaker: Keith Penny

Ottawa-Carleton District School Board / Board of Trustees / Zone 8
Former Parent Council Chair of Maple Ridge Parent Council.

## New Strategic Plan 2019-2023

Recently Approved Strategic Plan has three distinct pillar themes. Below are the themes listed along with some Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) used to measure the change. See Appendix A for reference to the Strategic Plan 2019-2023

## 1. Culture of Innovation

- Graduation rate
- Annual certification rate
- Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) results
- Achievement gaps
- Parent, student, staff experience


## 2. Culture of Caring

- School climate
- Employee engagement
- Student engagement
- Parent engagement


## 3. Culture of Social Responsibility

- Social emotional skills
- Leadership diversity
- Disproportionality indices
- Environmental stewardship
- Challenges to this plan will be to measure the success of the Plan. Measuring the success of the Plan though evidence-based data is expected to be a challenge as certain groups of students have unique trends,
- Methods of how to gauge the student's wellbeing will be collected through the 2019 Student Survey which will take place between November 23, 2019 to December 13, 2019. (See Appendix B for a copy of the email that was circulated to parents). Kindergarten to grade 6 students will have the survey sent to their homes, and grade $7 \& 8$ students will have time to complete the survey during regular school hours.


## Business Arising: Policy Changes

The School Board is currently working on amendments towards 30+ Policies. Traditionally the schools set their own standards, however, schoolboards around the Province have decided to streamline Policies to avoid discriminatory differences. Some of the major Policies amended are concerning matters related to code of conduct, cell phone use, highlights cell phones, safe school, dress code. Etc. In October 2019, the Code of Conduct Policy was amended.

The Board would like to consult with parents on these subjects. There will be a consultation plan going out to school council in May 2020, looking forward to receiving feedback and soliciting comments.

## Business Arising: Low Enrollment of the English Program

The School Board is in the preliminary discussion stages to come up with strategies on how to deal with the risks and discrepancies associated with low-enrollment of students in the English programs at OCDSB. Trends indicate that $70 \%$ of parents choose for their children to be placed into the Early French Immersion (EFI) programs, which creates a very low ration for the English program enrollments. Educators are excellent at proving the same quality of program; however, there are challenges with different enrollments.

Although all schools in Ottawa have these similar challenges, Orleans and zone 8 have extremely high enrollments for EFI and the English program has been most affected in this zone. Although no decision has been made, the Board is currently considering all option:

- Limit French Immersion program, congregate English programs
- Limit the classes / programs being offered
- Reduce Early French Immersion program funding
- Application process for enrollment

Parents responded very passionately about this subject and expressed discontent with the idea. Strong points were made to reflect why Orleans (zone 8) having such high enrollment as we are a very bilingual community. Furthermore, bilingualism is of greater importance than perhaps some of the other cities in Ontario and/or throughout the country, especially since we are so close to Quebec. We live in Ottawa, French is required to be successful and it provides brighter futures for our children.

The English program has an underlying culture associated with it. Children and some parents perceive that the English program is for the students who "failed" being able to learn in the French program. Perhaps there is missing another key point, what supports could be put in place for those who struggle with their second language? There should be extra support for those kids who require additional support. Why should parents hire tutors?

Keith reassured everyone that this is in the preliminary discussion stages and encouraged ideas to be brought forward. The Council suggested that we need to inform parents that these changes are arising and discussed perhaps other methods of Parent Council communicating with the school community (eg. teleconference, Skype, webinar etc.). Sebastien JeanFrancois is savvy with technology and volunteered to bring some ideas to next meeting, January 2020.

Keith Penny reminded everyone that these discussions are in the very preliminary stages and reassured the Council that he will be working collaboratively with our group with regards to this subject.

## Cuts to Funding for School Councils (October 2019)

Until recently, the provincial government offered a maximum $\$ 1000$ Parent Reaching Out (PRO) annual grant to School Councils based on an application process. This money was intended to help with parent engagement. School boards will now decide how the money is spent, instead of councils applying to the ministry for funding. The ministry will also cap the amount that can be spent on refreshments, advertising, and administration at $10 \%$.

They've also changed how the administration process works. Council's used to apply to the province then they looked at the application and either approved it or not. What they have done is reduced the amount of money available and said that the school board is responsible for distributing the funds. Currently OCDSB does not have a process, they have been given appx $\$ 40,000$ to distribute to schools. Keith committed to keep Council updated on what the process will be for distribution to all 150 schools. Council asked how the government decided on $\$ 40 \mathrm{~K}$ for the OCDSB but that was not known. The Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) is going to work with the OCDSB to develop strategies to allocate the funds.

This Parent Council is very active when compared to other schools. For those other schools who have low ration of Parent Council members and volunteers and limited fundraising capacity, they may be affected. Keith agreed and added that some Councils wouldn't even use the $\$ 1000$ provided and encouraged all who are interested to get involved with the PIC.

## Principal's Report: Marianne Harvey

## Exercise Bike in Classrooms - Teacher Rep: Jessica Meating

About a year ago Jessica met Jean François Proulx who is part of La Fondation Momentum Jeunesse (FDJ), whose mission is to get kids physically active. The foundation partnered with donors to purchase a bike for Maple Ridge. As a pilot project, the exercise bike has been in 5 different classrooms. So far, the teachers who have experienced the bike in their class have had great responses, although some have also found it to be somewhat distractive. The bike is also quite cumbersome and heavy to move.

The bike is used to help kids self-regulate, to get the energy out, and this in turn improves their concentration. How it works is when kids find themselves to be restless in class, they jump on the bike, pedal for a few minutes, then go back to their seat. This is a great alternative rather than leaving the classroom to release their energy.

Other schools in the area (Jean Sauve, French public for example) have a bike in each classroom. The bike cost anywhere between $\$ 700-\$ 800$. Jessica will provide ongoing updates if this is something Parent Council would like to possibly fund in the future.

## Recent School Events

- Anniversary week celebration was fantastic! Confirmation of financial expenses that School Council had committed to paying for: pancake breakfast, mascot, and legacy project. The evening VIP celebration was not paid for with Council funds. A decision has not been made on the legacy project yet.
- Parent interviews this Thursday evening, Nov. 14 and Friday Nov. 15 morning, Friday is a PD Day
- Remembrance Day ceremony, Monday, November 11 was moving lovely tribute


## New Student Council

Marc Laliberté is spear-heading a Students' Council with 2-3 students from each of grades 4-8 classes. There are currently about 30 students participating. Students have taken it over under Marc's leadership. Each class from grade 4-8 has taken on a younger class. They collaborate by asking them what's important to them. ie. What are some of the things that you would like to see at the school? (sewing club, overwhelming response to a games club.) Marc meets with the Student Council every Wednesday. Recently because students wanted a games club, they went to do an inventory of the board games at the school and found about 40 board games. They are currently looking at dividing the games into primary, junior, intermediate levels.

These students are looking to develop leadership in the school and increase involvement of the younger kids to join. This initiative is tied to SIPSA (School Improvement Plan for Student Achievement), student well-being, encouraging the quieter students to speak up, and looking at ways to empower them to use their voice.

Upcoming events that Student Council have requested are Spirit Day (Nov 22), PJ day
(school appropriate PJs), Hawaiian day (February) etc. Marc would like to invite the Student Council to come speak with Parent Council to provide feedback from the kids. School Council welcomes Student Council to attend anytime.

## Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) Study

The OECD is a highly regarded organization that has elected Maple Ridge to participate in a study on investigating the development of social and emotional skills of 10- and 15-year olds. The study will take place at the school on Wednesday November 20, 2019. There will be 60 students randomly chosen in grade $4,5,6$, to take part in the survey. The research group will have two representatives conducting and implementing this study. Please see link on the Maple Ridge Elementary School website for more information. The OCDSB will receive the data and outcomes from the study.

## Balancing Financials

Office Administrator, Tanya Dumas, has been working hard on reconciling the financial records between School Council and the School. All receipts have been collated and recorded. There were some discrepancies in the past about different things that School Council had approved and/or the School itself had approved and had not paid for. A spreadsheet had been created to show these discrepancies (see Appendix C), below are the totals that were either approved by Council last year or require approval from School Council now:

-     + \$92.44 cost for basket ball hoop, approved
-     + \$52.82 cost for Razkids licences, approved
-     - (\$414.00) Kindertoys was not spent
- $+\$ 25.88$ cost for grade metals and plaques, approved
-     - (\$79.00) Science equipment was not spent
-     - (\$34.00) Intermediate compact scales was not spent
-     + \$161.22 cost for forest of reading, approved
- = \$734 Legacy breakfast not spent, on HOLD
- $\$ 294.97$ cost for kinders pennies, approved

Total spent that School Council over-paid: $\quad \$ 622.35$
Total amount that was not spent under-paid: \$672.11
Difference:
\$55.67

Miss Marianne asked us to approve difference of $\$ \mathbf{5 5 . 6 7}$, motion approved.

- Canopy was purchased Summer of 2018 from bannerbuzz at a great deal. Wendy paid for the canopy, School Council paid Wendy back for the expense, the School was supposed to pay for the canopy. School Council offered to cover those costs, motion as put forward and approved.
- Commitment to improving financial process between School Council and the School were explored.


## School Repair Updates

Miss Marianne is having difficulties getting the Board to install the sound system in the gym, the wall in the gym, and the projector in the portable classroom. The first priority is the projector in the portable and she is waiting for an electrician to come and install it. Miss Marianne continues to follow up with the Board and recently received a response that there is a 3-month backorder on electricians. We cannot use volunteer electricians for liability purposes.

## Chair Report: Cynthia Allen

Parent Conference : https://ocdsb.ca/parent_services/parent_conference
Parent Conference was held on November 9, 2019, Cynthia attended. There was also a School Council training component to the conference, it was well received. A highlight included that they no longer want the School Council to have a personal website, they prefer School Council having a link / tab on the main school website. Here School Council will have full control over the page to upload depository documents. The Board has committed to providing support to learn how to navigate through the webpage and for its maintenance.
Other interesting highlights were:

- Information on how to leverage smart social media
- Parenting with happy siblings
- Emotional resilience (see link, presentations available)
- Promoted fundraiser called Twoonie Tuesday, being launched in February,
- They will come and speak to the council to talk about all the fundraising good subject for January meeting, to explain more about what this money goes to


## Fundraising: Wendy Lim

- Bowl-a-Thon, went well about 55 people who came, everyone had fun, Orleans Bowling were great. Wendy wondered do we want to do it again? Consensus was yes, kids had fun, maybe more notice next year and advertisement
- Purdy's ongoing, delivery should be about December 5, 2019. Cynthia advised that perhaps we can get together in December and School Council could help sort the orders. Perhaps have a shorter meeting in December.
- Family fun day looking at changing it from a pizza to a BBQ. Wendy has started contacting various places for process of meat and began general research. Keith shared some of his previous experiences and that they ended up needing more volunteers than they had, it didn't go very smoothly. Keep Fun Day talk until later.


## Treasure's Report: Jennifer Tracey

Update will be provided once receipts are provided and reviewed for reconciling the financial records between School Council and the School. (see Principal's Report notes and Appendix C for more information).

## Post Meeting Comment/Update

At November 12/2019 Council multiple financial decisions were voted on and approved. Council approved spending $\$ 55.67$. The following is a summary of what Council agreed to and how the total of $\$ 55.67$ was derived.

The canopy that was paid to Wendy Lim in error (it was originally to be paid for by the school), Council agreed to cover the cost in full for a total of $\$ 556.89$.

The $\$ 1,500$ raised at last year's movie night that was owed to Council but was deposited directly in the school's account, Council agreed to remove this item as the money was spent on the graduation events/school leaving ceremony which was the intent of the fundraiser. Note that none of the graduation expenses had come through Council either so it balances out.

The following items that were committed to previously had been UNDER spent by a total of \$672.11 therefore this money got placed back into the available funds.

- Forest of Reading 2018-\$120.84
- Jan Wish List - Kinder Toys - $\$ 414.76$
- Feb Wish List - Science Equipment - \$79.09
- May Wish List - Scales - $\$ 56.12$
- Mascot - $\$ 1.32$

The following items that were committed to previously had been OVER spent by a total of $\mathbf{\$ 6 2 2 . 3 5}$ therefore council agreed to cover these extra expenses.

- Basketball Hoops - $\$ 88.12$
- Kinder Shirts/Pinnies - \$294.27
- Raz Kids - \$52.86
- Plaques \& Medals - $\$ 25.88$
- Forest of Reading 2019-\$161.22


## Wish List

## Approved

- Family Science Evening facilitated through Scientists in School at a cost of $\$ 1250$. Feedback last year, was all very positive - run a marketplace style event again this year. Council received $\$ 500$ from the ministry through the Parent Involvement Funds (PINV) extra $\$ 750$ required to cover cost, next Spring 2020. \$750 approved
- Carole Diamond, music teacher requested items for the music program including Level 1 books that cost $\$ 11.66$ each for $\$ 45=\$ 524.70$. She will need the Level 2 for grade 8 's appx another $\$ 500$. Instruments - drum pads/ equipment, xylophone stands, triangles $\$ 50$, drum kit between $\$ 400-\$ 700$ - piano needs tuning. Miss Marianne has money in the school budget allocated for music, therefore she needs to check how much we still have. As a start, it would be helpful if school council could commit to
$\$ 500$ for music. We last bought music books 6-8 years ago. The books are in terrible condition. Around that time the board begin introducing a budget for the music class. Given $\$ 1500$ now. $\$ 1200$ - books, $\$ 800$ - drum kit

Miss Marianne will spend the funding in the School's budget. Motion put forward by Jennifer Tracey, seconded by Rosita McLaughlin $\mathbf{\$ 5 0 0}$ approved.

- Kindergarten team looking to enhance the math for kids $\$ 914$ for what they are looking for. List of math related items for Kinders to support their math program related to data management and probability, to support the learning plan. Lisa Briscoe motioned, Elitza Palazov seconded. \$914 approved.


## Discussion

- Arts Express - Sketching on Tuesdays cap at 25, Broadway lights 11 registered in the program that we can put out there without burden, only a couple messages to parents. Start another session in January. Miss Marianne advised that feedback was received that some kids did not show up for the classes because they were forgetting. Now Tanya is announcing names, things are going well. Miss Marianne is OK with continuing with Arts Express and the Lego Guy in the new year.
- Mad Science, Professor Glen, afterschool program 5-10 week, take attendance email parents, experiments tailored to different age groups. Age range grade 1-8. It is worth looking into.
- Mrs. Dunn was speaking with a member of School Council and it came up that she had found a great deal on books. Mrs. Dunn had purchased about 100 books at $\$ 0.50-$ $\$ 2.00$ / book. Perhaps School Council can consider supporting her in reimbursement for the books. Mrs. Dunn had proposed donating towards the school as library books. It was decided that Miss Marianne would speak with Mrs. Dunn to find out more information.
- Miss Marianne would like to see Leaps and Bounds Towards Math Understanding, developed by Dr. Marian Small. Program to provide bridging based on universal design for something every school is using. Teachers are looking into it for each grade for math at every level. Cynthia spoke about math kits in the library, Miss Marianne can find out from Michelle what's happening with them.


## Round Table

Kinder yard in need of repair (See Appendix D) safety issue.

- Hexagonal seating around 2-4 trees, Wendy had retrieved a quote for these at appx $\$ 300 /$ tree
- Miss Marianne suggested building a stronger pressure treated sandbox, so sand does not leak out and clog drains. Will need to purchase more sand in the Spring.
- Lumpy pavement and uneven ground can cause slips, trips, and falls
- Muddy playground causes children to get muddy and wet, extreme conditions
- Suggestion to unclog drain to get the water out; however, water is pooling in large potholes - perhaps fill potholes or regrading
- Discussed purchasing re-useable wet-suits for children
- Now snow is on the ground, winter is here cannot repair anything now ground if frozen
- Although the Board takes a long time before approving any large contracts for renovations / repairs, Miss Marianne committed to submitting the request as it is a safety concern.


## Meeting adjourned: 9:00pm

November 12/2019

Executive Signature
Date



## The 2019 Student Survey

## PARENT INFORMATION LETTER

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) has a strong commitment to improving equity of access and opportunity for all students. We recognize the need for data to better understand our students and how they are being served.

The OCDSB will be conducting a student survey between November 26th and December 13th, 2019. The survey will collect data for all students from Kindergarten to Grade 12. The survey includes 2 types of questions:

- Demographic questions about things such as race, gender identity, ethnicity, language, and sexual orientation; and
- Perceptual questions about student's sense of safety, belonging, engagement, and wellbeing.

The survey is voluntary and confidential. The survey will be completed by parents of students in Kindergarten through Grade 6 (one survey per child). Students in grades $7-12$ will complete the survey during class time. The survey will take about 20 minutes to complete. Participants will be sent an email with a direct link to the survey and will complete it electronically. A paper copy is available upon request.

Participation is voluntary. Parents of students in grades 7 to 12 who do NOT want their child to participate must complete and submit this form by November 15, 2019. Parents of students in K-6 who do NOT want to participate may just refrain from completing the survey.

The survey data will be used to identify trends which could help to answer questions about:

- Achievement Gaps - whether certain groups of students achieve at the same rate;
- Suspension and Expulsion Rates - whether certain groups of students are suspended or expelled at a higher rate;
- Streaming - whether certain groups of students are over or under-represented in particular programs or streams (e.g., academic versus applied courses; English with Core French versus Elementary French Immersion);
- Sense of Belonging - whether certain groups of students feel more engaged/disengaged at school;
- Feeling Safe at School - whether certain groups of students feel more or less safe at school.

More information about the survey is available in our $\mathrm{Q} \& \mathrm{~A}$ document. If you have other questions or are looking for additional information please visit the OCDSB website and/or individual school websites or contact the Research Lead and OCDSB contact for this project - Sait Atas at valuingvoices@ocdsb.ca or at 613-596-8211 ext. 8571.

Thank you for your assistance as we undertake this important work.

Sincerely,
Your Principal

## Appendix C - Financials

## Maple Ridge - Parent Council Income Statement \& Fund Reconciliation

|  |  | (Last meeting) | (Last year) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Nov 9, 2019 | Oct 7, 2019 | June 30, 2019 |
| Income |  |  |  |
| Lunch Programs |  |  |  |
| Revenue | 12,824 | 12,707 | 26,750 |
| Expense | -7,281 | -7,335 | -17,120 |
| Total Lunch Programs | 5.543 | 5,372 | 9,630 |
| Family Fun Day |  |  |  |
| Revenue | 0 | 0 | 4,742 |
| Expense | 0 | 0 | 4,448 |
| Total Family Fun Day | 0 | 0 | 294 |
| Movie Night |  |  |  |
| Revenue | 0 | 0 | 1,325 |
| Expense | 0 | 0 | -330 |
| Total Movie Night | 0 | 0 | 995 |
| Other |  |  |  |
| Grants | 0 | 0 | 2,470 |
| Other Revenue | 1,202 | 112 | 228 |
| Other Expense | -627 | 0 | 0 |
| Purdys Revenue | 0 | 0 | 1,635 |
| Purdys Expense | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Other | 575 | 112 | 4,333 |
| Total Income | 6.118 | 5.484 | 15.252 |
| Expense |  |  |  |
| Interest, bank charges | 11 | 8 | 33 |
| Miscellaneous | 373 | 373 | 197 |
| School - activities | -1,050 | 0 | 5,209 |
| School - books \& equipment | 1.628 | 0 | 10,603 |
| School - greening | 0 | 0 | 228 |
| Total Expense | 962 | 381 | 16,268 |
| Net Income | 5,156 | 5,103 | $\underline{-1,016}$ |
|  |  |  |  |
| Available funds, beginning of year | 10,078 | 10,078 | 11,094 |
| Available funds, end of year | 15,234 | 15,181 | 10,078 |
| Reconciliation |  |  |  |
| Balance per bank | 30,734 | 21,178 | 21,379 |
| Balance per PayPal | 372 | 300 | 0 |
| Outstanding cheques | (28) | (934) | (57) |
| Outstanding deposits/receivables | 2.057 | 14,340 | 2,057 |
| Commitments |  |  |  |
| Hot lunch | (4.050) | $(6,400)$ | 0 |
| School equipment | (13,851) | $(13,301)$ | $(13,301)$ |
| Available funds, end of year | 15,234 | 15,181 | 10,078 |

Appendix D - Kinder yard



