



Maple Ridge Elementary School Parents Council

May 14th/2019

Attendees: Cynthia Allen, Barbara MacIntyre, Jennifer Tracey, Marc Laliberté, Marianne Harvey, Micheline Lalonde, Heather Peppy, Elitza Palazov, Tracy Charles, Lisa Briscoe, Wendy Mak, Jennifer Malek, Wil Dykstra

Regrets: Rosita McLaughlin, Brenda Beaudoin, Michelle Snook, Amanda Hope

Meeting called to Order

Approval for May Agenda

- Motion to approve agenda. **Motion passed with no modifications.**

Approval of April meeting minutes

- Motion to approve minutes. **Motion passed with minor modifications.**

Minutes recorded by: Cynthia Allen

Principal's report (Marianne Harvey & Marc Laliberté)

School Activities

- April 10 - KellyLee Evans – a Canadian jazz and soul music singer, Juno award winner - presented to the grades 4-8 students. She has had to overcome some difficult events in her lifetime such as being struck by lightning in 2013 and then a head injury followed by post-concussion syndrome. She talked to the students about how now having overcome these hard times, that she has superpowers. She asked the students to look into their own superpowers.
- April 11- Movie Night – INSIDE OUT, sound worked well, was a success, well attended, more intermediate students present this year than last. The April movie night profits help to defer the cost of the School Leaving Ceremony for the grade 8 students in June. Everyone at the movie was well behaved.
- April 17 – Ottawa Children's Choir gave a presentation to K-grades 3 students.
- April 25 & 26 – OurSchool Survey –which is the OCDSB school climate survey. The purpose of a school climate survey is to better understand students' perceptions about bullying, safety at school, and student engagement.
<https://ocdsb.ca/our-schools/inclusive-safe-and-caring-schools/bullying-prevention-intervention/school-climate-survey> It was administered to students in grades 4-8. There were 131 responses from the grades 4-6 students and 92/93 responses from the grades 7&8 students. Results are already available. Preliminary look, there was nothing too shocking or out of the ordinary. Interestingly, it showed that the Junior students (grades 4-6) are not as comfortable at the school as the intermediate students (grades 7-8). There are 10 measurable outcomes eg. hours spent watching tv, hours spent playing videogames, have you been bullied at school, do you feel you have an advocate at school. The results forms the basis for next School Learning & Well-Being plans. There was a section – What do you like about the school? What can be done to improve your school? In general, the comments were positive. There were many comments about the school wifi and how slow it is. At the staff meeting today, the survey results were discussed and staff were asked to let the students know that their voices have been heard.

- Verification of school wifi– The guest wifi is comparable to old dial up – speed is 1 Mbps for both uploading and downloading. The OCDSB wifi, which is the network the students and staff sign into, is about 40-50 Mbps. When using wifi, typically you need about 1Mbps per student therefore only about 40-50 students or fewer, should be on wifi at any given time. There should be no more than 6 chromebooks connected to wifi at a time per classroom. Students & staff must shut down the chromebooks after use and not just close the lid. When the next students try to use that chromebook in another part of the school, the chromebook will continue to look to connect to the previous wifi hub if not closed down completely. At the fall Parent’s Conference hosted by OCASC and OCDSB, the IT department explained to parents that the servers have surpassed their lifespans by several years and the system is to be ‘overhauled’. Parents were also told that staff and students need to be cognizant of the number of devices connecting to the school wifi. It is not just the chromebooks in the classrooms, but individual phones, *eg.* for a school with 1000 students, at any given time there is an average of 2400 devices connected or trying to connect.

Education Week (May 6-10)

- Mini-enrichment course- Several grade 8 students attended the mini-enrichment courses at Carleton U and Ottawa U. There were a few minor glitches but overall a very positive experience. For students that did not participate in a mini-enrichment course, Scientists in School & Clay Animation gave demos and workshops.
 - Wednesday, May 8, students from grades 4-8 attended an Ottawa Fury game
 - Walk Across Canada – last week & this week, as part of physical literacy, there is a period during each school day that the students get up and walk, dance, jump and move around. Each minute of activity = so many kilometers. The students will continue to walk east, and there will be a party at the end in Newfoundland.
 - Door Decorating Contest – there was a door decorating contest for Education week. The theme was Canada. There were pizza party prizes for each of the divisions.
 - EQAO – Exams start Wednesday next week. School is still recruiting scribes.
- May 15 –The grade 7&8 Me to We students with the grade 2 students are walking to Summerside public school as part of the ME to We Walk for Water. The students have been learning about countries that don’t have access to running water in their homes but have to go get water daily. The round trip is 6Km.
 - May 24 – Track & Field here at MRES – this year the theme is provinces and territories themes. Initially the school thought that a First Nations theme would be nice, however will look into this further for next year so that it is done respectfully with input from the Board.

Chair Report (Cynthia Allen)

MRES Council Constitution Review: Every 3 years, the Council constitution is reviewed and updated as appropriate. A review committee, (Amanda Hope, Jennifer Tracey, Wendy Lim) have reviewed the documents and suggested changes. The vote to approve the revision to the Council Constitution is deferred to the June meeting. The draft document will be circulated to Council members via email to be able to take the time to read the proposed changes and provide comments if needed.

OCASC (Ottawa Carleton Association of School Councils) Update

- **PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE:** Several schools are having issues getting year end trips approved. PIC brought this up at the last Board meeting to see if this NEW policy was being implemented across the Board. The Board responded that they are re-applying principles and policies but that there were no NEW policies in place. Trips must be high educational value, low risk, limited time out of school, cost versus access, equity of access etc.... There are apparently several 'legacy' trips that have not been approved and yet these trips have been yearly events at some schools. There was discussion as to whether this was an issue at our respective schools. Miss Marianne said that trip approval this year was not as straightforward as in previous years. The grade 8 overnight trip to Toronto was approved. There is some question as to whether it will be approved for next year.
- **NEWS FROM TRUSTEE:** The province has gone out to a second round of consultation on class size for next year therefore the increased class size that has been in the news is not a 'done deal'. At the elementary level, there was no proposed change for grades 1-3 classes, and a modest change in class size for grades 4-8 from 23.84-24.5 students. Consultation is open until May 31/2019. For more information, please follow the link.

https://efis.fma.csc.gov.on.ca/faab/Memos/B2019/B09_attach1_EN.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2n6VLWkO6JX3ipB1kgdAruMLFOIHrrfwaxeJ4mxGPgDyd0hitNOzfBDZM

The OCDSB is working on a new strategic plan.

A consultation has gone out regarding Rowyn's Law (the concussion policy) and how it is to be handled in schools. There is a lot of conflicting information available even amongst the medical community.

- **Extended Day Programs Advisory Committee** is seeking 3 parent members to serve on the committee. This applies to elementary schools. Apply at: <http://ow.ly/8pVB30omQsv>.
- **PRESENTATION from My Life OnLine : Dave & Blake co-founders.** How to help your kids to be Safe & Kind Online. Talking to your children about social media. The program is predominantly for grades 4-8 however can be applied to older students. This is different than the 'shock & awe' internet safety workshops. Dave & Blake talked about Project versus Protect, Hurtful versus Helpful, Handling Haters *ie.* Rate the Hate, iMessages, uMessages. This is teaching kids to be responsible on line. The internet is not going away. Social media in one form or another is here to stay. There are both live presenter training sessions and video sessions. If you purchase the *My Life OnLine video program*, each student has an account and can track their progress. There are 10 modules which take about 4 hours to complete, including quizzes. There are sections for students, parents and staff.

There is the possibility of receiving a 15% discount because we had a school representative at the OCASC meeting. <http://welcometomylifeonline.com/>

Email contact: daveandblake@welcometomylifeonline.com

Dave & Blake recommend <https://www.icanhelpdeletenegativity.org/> to deliver similar programming geared towards older students

Financial Report (Wil Dykstra)

- No new financial summary provided. No changes from April.
- Wil is going to speak with Tanya, the office administrator, to be sure that we pay for what Council has committed to pay this year. Council discussed that when we vote to financially support a school event or to give the funds to the school for the purchase of various items, that amount of funding has been committed. Purchases that are made through the school are eligible for an HST rebate. Often, the office

does not ask Council for the money until they know what the HST rebate is so as to not charge Council the tax. For example, if Council commits \$300 for an item, once purchased, the school may apply for and receive a rebate of \$25. As it is now, the school passes that rebate along to Council. This is causing delays in reconciling Council financial commitments. It was suggested that the next Council (new Council voted in Sept 2019) re-visit this practice to see if it is practical or not to continue. It is within Council's right, to pass a motion to not collect that rebate back from the school. Council finances could be reconciled in a more timely manner. This would need to be voted on by the new Council.

- The office administrator has also asked that if Council is going to financially support an item or event, that it would be best if we provided the funding for the total cost. Balancing the books so to speak would be less complicated. For example, earlier this year, Council voted to pay for the purchase of plaques and medals for \$3050. However the final amount exceeded this initial quote by about \$300. Rather than have the school pay that remaining amount out of their budget, it would be easier if Council paid for it. **Motion passed to pay the additional \$300.**
- Movie night – There was a mis-communication regarding who was in charge of running the movie night. Wil provided the float from Council. The glow bracelets, water and juice boxes were also purchased with Council funds. The school ordered the popcorn to be able to receive the HST rebate. At the end of the evening, the profits along with the float was not given to Council but given to the school. This was a family movie night that was organized by Council to help support the grade 8 year end celebrations. The funds should have remained with Council. Wil is going to discuss with the office regarding the movie night money.

Communication (Rosita McLaughlin) - Deferred as Rosita was absent.

Fundraising

Family Fun Day - Planning for May 30th is in full gear. School of Rock is going to come give a demo. City of Ottawa is providing a fire truck. Circus Delights is coming with 7 inflatables. Prizes have been purchased for the carnival type games. The ticket order form has gone home with students. A FFD prep party is planned for Thursday, May 23 in the school library. Prizes have been solicited for raffle baskets.

Wish List

Mr. Renaud has asked for **\$350** to purchase 7 electronic compact scales to be used predominantly by the grade 4-8 students. **Motion passed.**

Roundtable

June 14 is the date for the Volunteer Appreciation breakfast that the school staff organizes to thank the many volunteers that have helped through out the year.

Adjourn: 8:20pm

May 14th/2019 meeting minutes approved by MRES council:

Cynthia Allen

June 18 / 2019

Executive Signature

Date