



Maple Ridge Elementary School Council
Meeting Minutes May 10th, 2016

6:30 – 8:35 PM

Attendees:

Cynthia Allen, Nicole Guertin-Colverson, Natalie Makara, Rosita Mclanghlin, Micheline Lalonde, Jacquie Jette, Tracy Murdoch, Elitza Palazov, Jennifer DaSilva, Jennifer Tracey

Regrets: Wil Dykstra, Barb MacIntyre, Shealee Free, Crystall Matheson, Mary Dixon-Bourque, Robin Januska

Minute Taker: Cynthia Allen

Meeting called to Order – (Cynthia Allen) - 6:36PM

Meeting agenda approved. All were in favor

Approval of April meeting minutes – Approved by Rosita McLaughlin, seconded by Jacquie Jette

Principal Report – (Nicole Guertin-Colverson)

- **Secondary School Review:** In 2011, the OCDSB initiated a review of the way programs and services were offered at the secondary schools within the school board. The Secondary School Review included seven major areas of study:
 1. School Configurations - Currently within the OCDSB, there are several different school configurations such as K-6, K-8, K-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-12 or 7-12. The OCDSB is looking to minimize transitions for students by moving towards two school configuration structures K-6/7-12 or K-8/9-12.
 2. Specialist High Skills Major programs
 3. French as a second language – French immersion but also making the “French Extended program” more accessible,
 4. International Baccalaureate/Advanced placement – Colonel By is the only OCDSB school to offer the IB program.
 5. Digital Learning
 6. Community Hugs and
 7. Canterbury Arts program – Can the Arts program be a stand-alone program?

A series of discussion forums took place in April. Several reports have been released on the 7 guiding principles. More information is available on the OCDSB website. <http://www.ocdsb.ca/sch/as/Secondary-School-Program-Review/Pages/default.aspx>.

- School Play Structures – Mme Colverson had a meeting with Dan Fournier, Project Leader, Architectural and Engineering for the OCDSB. The current play structure in the large school yard could possibly have its life span extended another 10 years since it has been well maintained and in good physical condition.

Explanation: Following the April Council, a group of Council members met with Mme Colverson and decided on various play structures and centers that were appropriate for our school yard. The intention was to start building a play area using play stations that were not necessarily to be used for climbing purposes. For safety purposes, play structures that are more vertical are closed by the OCDSB as soon as the ground freezes until the spring thaw. That could be over half the school year therefore discussions have focused on eventually replacing the large structure with small stations. In speaking with Dan Fournier, it became evident that changing one small structure at a time would be very costly in order to be compliant with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. Each play station would require the ground cover and pathways to be accessible. When the time comes to replace the structure it would be more economical to replace the sand with woodchips (which are in compliance) and purchase several play stations to fill the current location of the large structure.

Funding from the OCDSB for playground improvements, whether greening or play structures, is available through an application process. The next deadline is in September. Council will need to keep this in mind.

“All Signs” - will be painting games and lines on the asphalt in the coming weeks.

- The month of May into June, there will be 7 Colombian Junior and Intermediate aged students studying at Maple Ridge. None of the students will be staying with Maple Ridge families.
- Tell Them From Me (TTFM) – Natalie Makara explained that there will be a climate survey released soon from the OCDSB. The Board is hoping for parents to fill out the survey between June 1-15/2016. Every student from grades 4 through 8 will be given the opportunity in the computer lab to complete a student survey. Mme Smyth is assisting with this. CORRECTION: This year students are not completing a TTFM survey, just the parents & guardians.
- Freida Fong, a Maple Ridge crossing guard on Provence at both mornings and afternoons did well in the Marie Armstrong Crossing Guard Award competition. Freida won this award last year (2014-15). Although Freida had the most number of votes this year, the statistics were calculated in such a way that Freida will not be receiving the award again this year. However for having the most number of votes, the school receives a \$300 gift card from Canadian Tire again this year. Congratulations Freida. Thank you for keeping our students safe!

Dance-a-thon- Friday, April 29/2016 Wrap – up (Tracy Murdoch)

- We collected over \$12,000. There were several students that brought in large sums of money. The individual winners for most funds raised, one from each of the four divisions (Kindergarten/ Developmental Disabilities Program, Primary, Junior, Intermediates) received their \$15 gift card at the dance-a-thon.
- There were 5 classes that collected the most funds (normalized for class size), one from each of the four divisions, with a tie between a Kindergarten class and a Developmental Disabilities class. The winning classes will receive a pizza party.

Winning classes were: Mrs. Hamiltons SK & Mrs. Cameron
Mme Séguin EFI grade 1
Mme Smyth EFI grade 6
Mme Grenier EFI grade 7

- Very positive feedback. There was great music. Thank you to James Thorpe for providing great audiovisuals for the day. Tyrell Stewart, who is a co-op student but also a dance instructor led the students. He was very enthusiastic and succeeded in getting the students involved. There were two members from the Ottawa RedBlack cheer squad that attended in the morning. Hot 89.9 Street Team attended in the afternoon. Council sold glow-bracelets (50cents each or 3 for \$1) to add to the ambience. Several classes painted decorations and the gym was decorated very nicely.
- Lessons learned regarding the collection of pledges. There were a few mix-ups and miscommunications regarding the counting of the money. A more streamlined process will be in place for any future dance-a-thons.

Chair Report – (Cynthia Allen)

OCASC update:

- Cynthia attended the April OCASC meeting that welcomed:
 - Barbara Finlay – Ontario Deputy OmbudsmanThe Ontario Ombudsman can take on any issue brought to them. Their role is to get both sides of the issue from parties directly involved so as to eventually come to a reasonable resolution. The Ombudsman cannot enforce the law or set policy, however their office ensures that issues are resolved fairly and that each side followed proper procedures.
The Ontario Ombudsman office deals with 500 provincial government offices, 72 school boards, 10 school authorities, 21 universities and 444 Ontario municipalities. The office is expanding due to an increase in workload.

The Ombudsman presentation is posted on the OCASC website along with the April OCASC meeting minutes. <http://ocasc.ca/>.

“Proud to be me” (<http://www.proudtobeme.ca/index.html>)

Maple Ridge received a Proud to Be Me grant to fund a series of workshops at the school for the primary age students (grades 1-3). Jennifer Laale from “*Be Your Best – Improve with Improv*” facilitated 4 workshops on May 2 & 3 /2016. As the PTBM grant was for \$500 which did not cover the cost of all 4 workshops, an electronic vote was conducted in March and Council agreed to pay the difference of \$404 so that every student could participate. Teachers provided very positive feedback.

Pizza day– Jennifer Tracey has agreed to do the ‘behind the scenes’ work for the pizza lunch program next year just as she has done this year. This includes setting up the menu, maintaining the on-line ordering system, printing the orders and dealing with pizza payment issues. Robin Januska coordinates the distribution of the pizza at the school this year, including recruiting volunteers, purchasing supplies, liaising with River Pizza and accommodating parent and student requests. Robin will not be able to take on the role of pizza coordinator next year. A school wide message is going to be sent to parents asking for assistance or else we risk losing this lucrative fundraising opportunity.

Lunch Lady- No change. Typically 60-70 orders per week with about 25 cents per meal coming back to the school.

Family Fun Day

Planning is underway for the 17th annual family fun day scheduled for Thursday, June 9. A message is going to be sent out school wide to ask for more help in the planning. Through the years, the silent auction has grown. Soliciting prizes is no longer a one or two person task. A call for high school student volunteers has been sent out. Mme Colverson and Mme Makara are going to ask various grade 8 students if they would like to help with the FFD. If so, a permission form must be signed by their parents. As this is a parented event, students who are working at the event and do not have a parent present, must have parental consent in writing. Messages asking for parent volunteers and donations of cakes will continue to go out.

Council voted to donate a portion of the FFD profits to the Red Cross to help with Fort McMurray relief. Fort McMurray has been hit with raging wild fires. The government of Canada has a matching funds program in effect until the end of May. We typically raise at least a couple thousand dollars at FFD, therefore, rather than to wait for June, Council is going to donate \$1500 now to take advantage of the government funds.

Grants: -

The city of Ottawa Tree Grant “report back” was completed and submitted.
The PTBM organization will require a short description of our workshops and feedback.
PRO grant – The application is to be submitted by end of May.

Financial Report : See Appendix 1 -

May 10th/2016 meeting minutes approved by MRES council:

Executive Signature

Date

Appendix 1.
Maple Ridge - Parent Council
Income Statement
(as of May 10, 2016)

	Jul '15 - Jun 16	Jul '14 - Jun 15
Income		
Lunch Programs		
Revenue	24,095	31,428
Expense	-13,033	-16,535
Total Lunch Programs	11,062	14,893
Dance-A-Thon		
Revenue	12,593	0
Expense	-202	0
Total Dance-A-Thon	12,391	0
Entertainment Book		
Revenue	3,240	4,288
Expense	-2,182	-2,604
Total Entertainment Book	1,058	1,684
Movie Night		
Revenue	0	983
Expense	0	-231
Total Movie Night	0	752
Family Fun Day		
Revenue	0	0
Expense	0	-3,757
Total Family Fun Day	0	2,982
Other		
Grants	1,500	2,500
Other revenue	1,402	1,315
Other expense	-1,402	-581
Total Other	1,500	3,234
Total Income	26,011	23,545
Expense		
Interest, bank charges	27	111
Miscellaneous	60	75
School - activities	1,785	1,727
School - books & equipment	2,381	2,717
School - greening	0	31,551
Total Expense	4,253	36,181
Net Income	21,758	-12,636
Cash, beginning of year	3,822	16,458
Cash, end of year	25,580	3,822
Reconciliation		
Balance per bank	55,490	31,737
Balance per PayPal	599	
Outstanding cheques	(63)	0
Outstanding deposits	407	2,085
Commitment (School Yard)	(28,842)	(30,000)
Commitment (Activities/Equipment)	0	0
Future payments (hot lunch, etc)	(2,011)	0
Cash, end of year	25,580	3,822