



MAPLE RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Education
Foundation
of Ottawa



Maple Ridge Elementary School Parents Council

1000 Valin St, Orleans, ON K4A 4B5

January 12, 2021

Attendees:

Cynthia Allen, Jennifer Tracey, Pamela Dossett, Barbara MacIntyre, Elitza Palazov, Nelofar Dost (Yousuf Dost), Imran Mirza, Robert Levesque, Lisa Briscoe, Amanda Hope, Mireille Filion, Michelle Snook, Wendy Mak, Crystall Matheson, Jennifer Malek, Clive Allen, Sarah Yeast, Brenda Beaudoin

Regrets:

Jennifer Malek, Rhiana Lorimer, Kate Woods, Rosita McLaughlin, Mara Belitzky

Welcome

Introductions

Meeting called to Order

6:33 pm Minutes Record by: Pamela Dossett

Old Business & Approval of last meeting's minutes:

Motion to approve was by Michelle Snook, seconded by Barbara MacIntyre

Principal's Report: Mireille Filion & Robert Levesque

Update on School Activities

Vice-Principals are now shared by schools

- New structure has been implemented where two sites share a Vice-Principle. As such, Mr. Levesque is now working at both Maple Ridge and the other site is Fallingbrook Elementary. He works mostly at Maple Ridge; however, works at least 1 full day / week at Fallingbrook. For now, in virtual mode, day-to-day business has not changed much, but when we return to school Mr. Levesque will have to adapt accordingly.

Remote Learning

- In generally, there has been positive feedback from both students and parents. One challenge that we have seen are that students with mental health concerns are finding remote learning more difficult than in-person classes. Parents know their children best. If you have a student who is feeling overwhelmed, please contact your teacher first to let them know what is going on. Teachers and parents can work together to find creative solutions for these students, such

as alter class schedule (reduce amount of time spent online), depending on the students' needs.

- Grades 1-8 students spend most of their day with teachers doing synchronistic learning. Kindergarten students amount to approximately ½ their day in synchronistic learning with their teachers. On January 7, 2021, we welcomed back three DD (Developmentally Delayed) students for learning in-person in our school.

Chromebook Supply

- Maple Ridge has lent out 78 Chromebooks to families within the community. With each student needing to be online with their teacher throughout the day, it is difficult to share Chromebooks amongst families. Since we are getting low in Chromebook supply, we will be reaching out to the District to help supply more devices.

Spirit Days

- Prior to the COVID-19 lockdown, there were themed Spirit Days within the school (Superhero day, fun colours day, etc.) On December 16, 2020 we held a Wellness assembly, based on a book called, "The Cold Little Voice". The ideas as that we are trying to help kids find strategies to help them deal with feelings of sadness / depression. We guide them to speak up, guide them on who they should contact, what they should do, and help them to build-up their mental health toolbox. We encouraged them to think about which mindfulness activities (such as drawing, painting, listening to music, talking to an adult etc.) they could do when they are feeling overwhelmed. The main message to the kids is to reach out to adults, parents. Even though we are learning virtually now; we want to continue this theme and continue to pass along these messages over the next few weeks.
 - Cynthia proposed in the past, MR had used Poppy DesClouds to help with resilience presentations. There are also many books and activities in some of the Fishbowl section within the School's library that the kids could use to help with building their mental health toolboxes. Council had also started a Parent Resource library. Mme Filion suggested that her staff could make a list of mental health resources within our library and then post the list on the website so students/ parents could request to borrow these books.

Students Entering Grade 8 (September 2021)

- Sir Wilfred Laurier Secondary School is going to have a virtual presentation regarding the introduction to Secondary School. The presentation will be held on February 2, 2021 at 7:00pm. Students who will be entering Secondary School in September 2021, along with their families, are encouraged to attend this presentation.
 - Cynthia advised that she also posted this information for high school students on the Facebook site.
- Normally, this time of year the students who are entering Secondary School in September 2021 would be choosing the classes they would like to take in grade 8; however, this process has been put on hold for now. As soon as we receive more information is released, we will communicate this information.

Students Entering Kindergarten (September 2021)

- Next Tuesday evening (January 19, 2021) I (Mme. Filion) and Mr. Levesque will be hosting a virtual introduction to kindergarten at 7:00pm. We will be using a new platform, (like Zoom

meetings). The presentation will be posted on the Maple Ridge School website and anyone can join. The focus of the presentation will be about the kindergarten curriculum, OCDSB's vision / mission, and the Maple Ridge school philosophy. We are hoping that in the spring 2021, parents and students can physically enter the school and check-out the classrooms, library, gymnasium, etc. Kindergarten registration can be done online at www.ocdsb.ca

Upcoming Activities

Given the current State of Emergency due to the COVID-10 pandemic and as a result of all the recent changes that the Board has implemented, in general, it has been very difficult to implement any school activities. Below is a list of activities we are hoping to roll-out:

- On January 26, 2021, we are planning on rolling-out a special presentation called Start of Success. This presentation is geared to the intermediate students (grades 6, 7, & 8). The goal is to help generate awareness of concepts surrounding human rights, racism, LGBT, and how to be a citizen that supports each other. Mme. Rouselle is hoping the kids will participate.
 - Cynthia had heard about "Me Project," which speaks to transgender, menstrual cycle products, etc. Mme. Filion had not heard of it.
- March 2021, we are planning another special presentation geared to the intermediate students (grades 7, & 8), to support the Mother's Against Drunk Drivers association (MADD). This is a powerful presentation about substance abuse and peer pressure, and/or family pressure. A follow-up discussion about the film will be a necessity, to talk about losing loved ones after drinking and driving, etc. It is very well done, but it isn't a discussion that we want to have virtually, prefer it to be in-person as it can be quite emotional for some of the students.
- This Spring, we are hoping to launch the in-class Science-in-the-School geared to the intermediate students (grade 7, 8). To help reduce the spread germs, each student will have their own science materials. The Board was able to fund \$1000 towards this project, with approximate costs of appx \$200 / class.
- We are looking for ideas on how we can bring experiences into junior classes; however, this has been very difficult to think of activities using a virtual platform.
 - Cynthia wondered if there were any activities that we can link up our students with secondary students in our area? The secondary students can always use the community service hours and our students could benefit from their teachings. Secondary students from (for example) Canterbury could show dance moves, painting techniques, etc. to the younger grades, through virtual classes. Cynthia pointed out that there is currently a Reading Buddy program being offered through the same manner, where high school students would get their volunteer hours to have virtual reading sessions with younger students.
 - Mme. Filion although there could pose some challenges around this idea (supervising the virtual readings, arts sessions, etc). perhaps this could be a possibility for the intermediate students' grades 6+. Mme. Filion advised she will investigate starting something like this within the school, however, would like to reflect about the potential difficulties surrounding placing boundaries around supervision.

General School Repairs

- Getting a lot of repairs in the schools, tiles, glass, ventilation, etc.
- Progress on repairing the drainage concerns in the Kindergarten yard, Mr. Levesque provided

this update:

- After consultation, it has been determined that the kindergarten yard requires significant construction to fix the drainage problem, as it involves a large portion of tearing up the pavement and grading. This issue has been placed on the list of projects and the team meets regularly to review progress. The expense involved in this repair would come out of the School's and/or Council's budget. Given this significant expense, in the meantime the team is currently looking at fixing what is already there to help remedy the drainage issues that occur in the Spring.
- The soil around the trees has really sunk down, there are some challenges to putting wood chips down to keep them in place. Cynthia pointed out that this was brought forward throughout 2020 and there were suggestions that had been made to build hexagon benches around the trees and quotes were provided in past meetings.
- Mr. Levesque committed to following up with his maintenance staff for an update and will bring it back to Council for next meeting.

Open Discussion:

- Imran Mirza would like to express his opinion to influence a change in the OCDSB curriculum. He would like to infuse more mindfulness activities into the current curriculum and daily structure during the day to help the students deal with stress and to enhance methods to cope with this drastic virtual change. He would like everyone's support to help voice this change to make this change as quickly as possible. Some examples of the changes he would like to see are to add more exercises such as breathing, (meditation is a long stretch). Can we get the Board to put more breaks to breath? Over time, this would become a tool in their toolbox.
 - Cynthia added that Council has brought this forward in the past and had bought in Poppy DesCloudes (about 3 years ago) to help enforce these tools. Feedback was very positive from both kids and parents. Unfortunately, we do not have any influence over curriculum; however, Mme Filion could bring this back to their teachers to help incorporate and provide feedback.
 - Mme Filion advised that some teachers have already added this to their timetable, about 4-5 other teachers may have some challenges.
 - Cynthia also advised that this could also be brought forward to the Parent Involvement Committee (who will be meeting tomorrow, January 13, 2021).
 - Mme Filion advised that she will review the Poppy DesCloudes program further and reflect on this subject more.
 - As parents, if you have any helpful links please send them to herself and/or Mr. Levesque so they can circulate these tools to their teachers.

Chair Report: Cynthia Allen

- Parent Involvement Committee meeting tomorrow (January 13, 2021). She has heard that OCASC is not happy about the change in pro-grant money for funding for projects. The change was made because it seems as though Council's would apply for the grant and not follow through with the projects, they had advised they were going to do. We, however, were lucky because we followed through with the projects. They have decided that they will change the way their will be allocating the money. OCASC had provided feedback on how the money should be distributed; however, at the PIC meeting they are being told that they must use the money towards speakers only, not other projects of their choice. OCASC is upset because it is

of their opinion that this is not a very good use of money, since parents don't typically think speakers provide the best method to engage students. Every Council is supposed to be getting \$500 from PIC every year, whereas normally, we applied for funding up to \$1000.

Fundraising & Communications:

- Council is hoping to perhaps another Papajacks fundraiser in the Spring 2021
 - Pam Dossett advised that perhaps we can extend the communication fundraiser to parents who are in Northeast Virtual School, but who has a student's home school as Maple Ridge.
 - Lisa Briscoe suggested that for those parents who walked-in to Papajacks storefront, maybe we could quote the school so that those proceeds would be counted
 - Jennifer Tracey suggested that maybe we could have a one-time delivery to a volunteer's house to then distribute those who had placed orders.

Financial Summary: Jennifer Tracey

(See Appendix A)

- The sound system receipts have all been submitted and we are \$500 under budget.
- One question was that we still have \$150 committed for Starfall Education (providing kids games, movies, and books). Mme. Filion advised that she purchased a different program called Learning A-Z and had just signed the cheque for it last week. She will double check with Tanya tomorrow. Jennifer asked if everyone was comfortable if we aren't going through with Starfall Education, but rather Learning A-Z. No objections were voiced.
- Secondly, last meeting, Pam had gotten 20 sleds donated to the school from Canadian Tire Orleans. Mme Filion submitted receipts for an additional 30 sleds and pull cords for sleds in the amount of \$213.30; however, Council had not had discussions about approving this purchase. In November 2020 meeting, it was discussed that the profits made from the Papa Jack's fundraiser would go towards the Kinder sleds. In the end, the Papajack's fundraiser costs amounted to \$890, and yielded profits of \$142.50. Using these gains and adding the additional \$70.80 to those costs, motion to approve made by Jennifer Tracey, seconded by Lisa Briscoe. All were in favour.
- Following Council's meeting in December, an email was circulated on December 14, 2020, (closed December 16, 2020) to provide funding for cards and gifts for the MR custodial and administrative staff as a Holiday appreciation gesture from Council. There were 14 yes votes and 0 no votes. Thanks you Wendy for giving them the gifts.

Wish List: all

- Grades 1,2,3, & 4 primary students would like sleds like the kinder have. Mme Filion was ok with that, but not for use during recess, but to have available a set for Phys ed class. In addition, they requested snow molds, igloo, tennis balls, and buckets. After feedback, Mme Filion spent about \$500 and purchased:
 - 12 blue sleds
 - 10 Canadian Tire buckets (to make sandcastles out of snow)
 - 12 bags of tennis balls
 - 50 snow moulds

- Mme Filion expressed that she would like some more molds, shovels, and perhaps more buckets. It was suggested that rather than shovels, perhaps the students could use cups and offered a suggestion that you can get a set of 6 durable cups from IKEA for \$1.99 / set.
- Wendy put the motion forward for \$600 towards more snow toys, motion was seconded by Crystal to purchase more buckets and cups. Jennifer offered to help with pricing for buckets from Home Hardware and curbside pickup from IKEA.
- The teachers also requested mini sticks, however, unfortunately the school is not permitted to have these anymore for safety reasons.

Round Table: all

8:22pm adjourned

January 12th/2021 meeting minutes approved by MRES council:

Cynthia Allen

February 9/2021

Executive Signature

Date

Appendix A

Maple Ridge - Parent Council Income Statement & Fund Reconciliation

	<u>Jan 9, 2021</u>	<u>(Last meeting) Dec 5, 2020</u>	<u>(Last year) Jul 31, 2020</u>
Income			
Lunch Programs			
Revenue	0	0	16,983
Expense	0	0	-10,560
Total Lunch Programs	0	0	6,424
Movie Night			
Revenue	0	0	0
Expense	0	0	-184
Total Movie Night	0	0	-184
Other			
Grants	0	0	500
Other Revenue	137	137	1,202
Other Expense	0	0	-627
Purdys Revenue	0	0	1,805
Purdys Expense	0	0	0
Total Other	137	137	2,880
Total Income	137	137	9,120
Expense			
Interest, bank charges	14	11	33
Miscellaneous	125	0	722
School - activities	-940	-940	1,097
School - books & equipment	2,055	2,468	6,314
School - greening	81	81	50
Total Expense	1,335	1,620	8,216
Net Income	<u>-1,198</u>	<u>-1,483</u>	<u>904</u>
Available funds, beginning of year	10,979	10,979	10,075
Available funds, end of year	<u>9,781</u>	<u>9,496</u>	<u>10,979</u>
Reconciliation			
Balance per bank	9,931	10,663	14,693
Balance per PayPal	0	0	0
Outstanding cheques	0	0	(695)
Outstanding deposits/receivables	0	0	0
Cash On Hand	0	0	0
Commitments			
Hot lunch	0	0	0
School equipment	(150)	(1,167)	(1,881)
School Activities	0	0	(1,088)
School - Greening	0	0	(50)
Available funds, end of year	<u>9,781</u>	<u>9,496</u>	<u>10,979</u>