



MAPLE RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1000 Valin St, Orleans, ON K4A 4B5
Phone (613) 834-1927 | Fax (613) 834-6625



OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Education
Foundation
of Ottawa



Maple Ridge Elementary School Parents Council

1000 Valin St, Orleans, ON K4A 4B5

February 09, 2021

Attendees:

Cynthia Allen, Jennifer Tracey, Pamela Dossett, Robert Levesque, Brenda Beaudoin, Michelle Snook, Amanda Hope, Mireille Filion, Lisa Briscoe, Elitza Palazov, Barbara MacIntyre, Mara Belitzky, Jennifer Malek, Rosita McLaughlin, Wendy Mak, Kate Woods, Rhiana Lorimer, Shannon Hyndman, Imran Mirza

Welcome

Meeting called to Order

6:34 pm Minutes Record by: Pamela Dossett

Old Business & Approval of last meeting's minutes:

Motion to approve was by Wendy Mak, seconded by Lisa Briscoe

Principal's Report: Mireille Filion & Robert Levesque

Update on School Activities

Staffing Challenges

- Starting off with announcing some sad news. MR had to say condolences to Jason Buckle's family as he passed away unexpectedly last Saturday night from a brain aneurism. He was a young teacher, and this was his first teaching job. Our school had a lot of support through our Superintendent, psychologist, social worker, and previous Principle: Maryann Harvey. Our grade 5 & 6 and classes were impacted most as Mr. Buckle taught these grades. Parents have been very supportive as well. With the approval of our Board, we will create and a memorial display in honour of Mr. Buckle. In additional, students are welcome to hand-in cards and personal messages which will be sent towards the end of February to Mr. Buckle's mother in Hamilton, Ontario. Our Staff will be sending her flowers as well.
 - Rhianna suggested perhaps looking into having a contribution for the memorial from Council, perhaps we can put it on the agenda for the next meeting. We will send a card to the Office on behalf of Council and parents within the MR community.

Chromebook Supply

- Mr. Levesque advised that MR is just now receiving all the returned Chromebooks and are processing them prior to recirculating within the school. The Business and Learning Technologies group are currently reviewing the Chromebooks to ensure they are in full function. The goal in terms of supply expectations is to have 1 device for every 4 students. The District will help support this number. If we want to go beyond that number perhaps Council

can source them separately.

- Cynthia advised in the past that Council did purchase a bunch of Chromebooks; however, The Board advised they had to be returned. In this day in age, there seems to be such a disrespect of School property. Cynthia advised that if we do go forward with purchasing Chromebooks, we should have a guarantee that they would be staying within the school.
- Mr. Levesque also advised to beware that Chromebooks also don't have a long shelf-life.
- Much discussions were had surrounding whether Council should invest in more Chromebooks, no firm decisions were made at this time.

Report Cards

- Thursday February 11, 2021, report cards are supposed to be available online. Please be patient with this new online process as there have been glitches.

P.A. Day this Friday (February 12)

- Topic: Equity and Health & Safety training (presented to entire schoolboard).
- Some staff will be working from home, other staff will be at the school. EAs and ECEs will be following the same schedule for the day.

Return of Students

- Post-lockdown, we've noticed that the students have been rather tired.
- New rules have been made that it is now mandatory for grades 1-3 students wear masks. This has not been a significant change since kids were mostly already wearing them.
- Outside, Mme. Filion made a new rule that everyone must wear their masks. Kids sometimes forget to stay 6 feet apart, so this rule is helping a lot.

Get Real presentation(s)

- About being yourself and accepting yourself and other on who we are. The presentation was well received.
- The second 'Get Real' presentation will be on March 9, 2021 for grades 6, 7, 8 students.

M.A.D.D. presentation(s)

- Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD) presentation March 2 and 3, there will be a letter sent home for grade 7 & 8 due to the heavy content.

Black History Month

- Daily facts and information educating students about a Black Canadian first hockey player, first judges, etc. Few areas in the school that are recreating poetry, saying, proverbs, representing and celebrating the historical impactful Black Canadians
- Scavenger hunt in the foyer this month (geared towards grades 4+)

Chair Report: Cynthia Allen

- Cynthia referred to an email that was circulated to Council members referencing the pro-grant money from the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC). Unlike funding for Council activities in the past, this pro-grant money can now only be used for Schools hosting speakers. The PIC has since released a list of suggested speakers that Councils could host and advised that funding

will become available as of March 2021.

- Cynthia asked Council members if anyone had any suggestions of speakers, or any new ideas or alternate speakers, that we are interested in having do presentations. These presentations are supposed to be geared towards parents. We have had speakers in the past present on topics such as math, screen time, mental health for students, etc.
- No suggestions were put forward at this time, however, perhaps members can reflect on the subject further and bring forward ideas to the next meeting.
- Keith Penney would like to touch base with Council Chair's from Zone 8 at the end of the month, Cynthia suspects that perhaps this will be a topic of discussion.

Fundraising & Communications: Wendy Mak & Rosita McLaughlin

- Wendy contacted Purdy's and found out that and they will be having an Easter run. They have not changed on how they run the fundraiser. Wendy solicited feedback form Council for interest in participating in a Purdy's Easter fundraiser. Wendy volunteered to have all the chocolate delivered to her home and she can sort it all out. If the School is ok with it, she can either deliver the chocolate to the school or people could do porch pick-ups at her house as well.
 - Mme. Filion is okay with the plan; chances are, the School can make it work for parents to come pick up their chocolates at the school and to move forward with ta virtual campaign.
 - Timing for all orders would have to be in by March 24, 2021 to be able to have the chocolates in-time for Easter.
 - No paper catalogues will be sent to parents, strictly online forms (through pdf format) sent through email and posted on the MR Facebook page.
 - Minimum order of \$500, we normally set a goal for \$2000. The goal for what we want to put the money towards will be put towards upgrading the resources in the library. (See wish list)
 - Rosita and Wendy can touch base on the timing of everything and the messaging to kick-off the fundraiser.
 - Emphasize the pickup restrictions to only pick up on one day, after the chocolates have been sitting for 72 hrs. Barbara MacIntyre offered to sit at the table outside and help distribute.
 - Further discussions were had surrounding the logistics and details of the pickup, it was decided to first see how many orders are made, prior to deciding on the pickup details.

Financial Summary: Jennifer Tracey

(See Appendix A)

- Not much differences from January 2021
- \$552 still committed for outdoor toys, minus the cups that were purchased form IKEA
- \$550 for the reading expenditure is pending
- \$9465 funds still available

Wish List: all

- Mme. Filion advised that she really like to expand the library books, specifically for new topics surrounding mental health, cultures, and diversity. She would like to see more books containing illustrations and writings from Indigenous and other more diverse authors / illustrators that students can identify with. It is important that our School is well represented different cultures and expand references of diversity within our classrooms and library. Also, GV-Plus and non-fiction books, more diverse books to better represent more diverse population.
- Mme. Mara requested new resources such as French dictionaries, English dictionaries, bilingual French / English dictionaries, perhaps thesauruses. We are not at the stage where every student can have access to a Chromebook, nor are the teachers teaching in a 100% digital world as of now. As such, having the dictionary references would be extremely useful. The grades 6, 7, 8 students on occasion ask the teacher to use their phones sometimes, which at times can be appropriate.
- Mme. Filion acknowledged that recently, there have been many expenditures and topics geared towards the intermediate and senior students. Mme. Filion would like to research bringing in a science, arts, etc. geared to the junior students. Any ideas that may be brought forward would be appreciated.
- As a long-term goal, we would like to start a Robotics club, movement through electronics and coding. Children build robots and it relates closely to the curriculum. Each kit could be a few hundred dollars, but the children have been asking about it. Perhaps we can invest a lot of money towards beginning this program (geared towards grade 4-8).
 - Cynthia advised that we have done 'Hatch Coding' sessions in the past, we did have a grant for these classes. There are a couple kits that the School had purchased in the past, perhaps Mme. Roussel (who had used some of these kits in the past) could be a great reference to see if we already have something available.
 - Rosita confirmed that Council had spent about \$2000 in the past on this as well. This was around the same time that we applied for the grant, however, at the time there was no teacher who wanted to take on the project. Unfortunately, we cannot bring in parent volunteers to help represent the project due to COVID.
 - Mme. Filion advised that she investigate this further and will also continue to encourage the project in moving forward.
- Rhianna suggested that perhaps we can start a Maple Ridge Amazon Wishlist so that parents can look up what items are on the wish list and gift things to the classrooms.
 - This suggestion was well received by Council and Mme. Filion advised she will reflect on this further.

Round Table: all

7:55 pm meeting adjourned

February 9th/2021 meeting minutes approved by MRES council:

Cynthia Allen

March 9/2021

Executive Signature

Date



Appendix A

**Maple Ridge - Parent Council
Income Statement & Fund Reconciliation**

	Feb 6, 2021	(Last meeting) Jan 9, 2021	(Last year) Jul 31, 2020
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	500	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	637	137	2,880
Total Income	637	137	9,120
Expense			
Interest, bank charges	17	14	33
Miscellaneous	125	125	722
School - activities	-940	-940	1,097
School - books & equipment	2,869	2,055	6,314
School - greening	81	81	50
Total Expense	2,152	1,335	8,216
Net Income	-1,515	-1,198	904
Available funds, beginning of year	10,979	10,979	10,075
Available funds, end of year	9,465	9,781	10,979
Reconciliation			
Balance per bank	10,167	9,931	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	(702)	(150)	(1,881)
School Activities	0	0	(1,088)
School - Greening	0	0	(50)
Available funds, end of year	9,465	9,781	10,979