

MAPLE LEAF SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES:

A meeting of the Maple Leaf P.S. School Council was held on April 12, 2016 at 7 p.m.

Present: Gord Wagner
Barbara Lloyd
Jessica Cordner
Amy Johnson
Chantal McCallum
Donna Macaulay
Cathy Richmond
Christine Stafford
Vicki Jones
Ms. Kimber
Nathan Pickard
Matt Dodson
Beth Vincent

Absent: Ian Malcolm
Kim Taylor Reed
Kerrie Jackson

Review of Minutes

- approved
- Action Items: send email to Kim with approved minutes

Admin Report

- see attached
- Gord brought in a report that examines the elementary school data from student survey (2014/2015) that is combined with the Statistics Canada data to allow cross examination of findings. **See attached**
- Parent survey data (2014/2015) is available but very small sample size and not a lot of variation in demographic, therefore not a good indication.
- Gord asked for comments/feedback on what is in the survey results.
- MLPS VENN data: reading is marginally stronger than writing; 50% of our students are below gr. level; many of our students don't feel they are good at math
- Gord wanted to remind Council that our job is more than just fundraising and gives us a forum to understand more about our students, teachers and what is going on in the school. We are an advisory body too.
- The new Health and PhysEd curriculum - lots of controversy. Gord brought a guide for curriculum for each grade level. The Board recognizes that parents will have concerns/fears etc. Parents have the choice not to have the students

attend these lessons but it would mean that the parents are responsible for picking up the students as there is no alternate place or material.

- Gord provided the Ontario Parent's Guide to the new curriculum.
- Matt brought up that there is a lot of focus on the EQAO prep and the students are feeling pressure about writing it. Gord said that the learning for the EQAO is only the material that they would be learning anyway. He doesn't want the kids to feel pressure but does want them to take it seriously. Kathy mentioned that possibly students are more anxious as they will not be able to go to teachers for guidance.

Chair Report

- Barb expressed that the talk with Michelle Cassidy went very well
- 4 Council members went to the Parent Symposium; there were several workshops that were attended. Matt spoke about the talk that he went to that discussed assistive technology and how the tools benefit learning (ie. Google Read and Write). Barb brought some information about sexting and the far reaching implications.
- Christine suggested that next year we provide a line in the budget to allow for donations for presenters who offer their talks/activities at no cost. We could add criteria and limits for where these monies are spent.

Treasurer Report

- Ian was not present
- There is no concrete understanding of who is handling the movie nights; Gord thinks that there was an agreement in kind but the money raised is still going to Council and it should probably be going to Mrs. Genno's snack cart account.
- see attached
- Gord said that we were not able to use all the funds budgeted for cost-sharing but there are lots of things that the remaining balance could be used for. **Gord Action Item:** will check with the Board to see if we can use both the fall and spring round of cost-sharing.

Fundraising

- Kerrie was not present
- Dance-a-thon will be tomorrow and parents are invited to join.
- Plant sale info has gone home and there is an online option again.

Playground

- There were soil samples taken in the kindergarten area in preparation for correcting water pooling problem.
- Vicki was asking about how we are going to have the games repainted on the asphalt and if we need to leave some money in the budget to allow for this work.

Parent Engagement

- Students are really enjoying the fruit and veggie distribution on Tuesday mornings (until the \$1000 has been spent), some are even getting to try fruits that they have never tried.

- Chantal said the feedback from the Michelle Cassidy event was very positive.
- Chantal is still calling for volunteers and most parents are very excited and feel so much more welcome in the school than previous years.
- Chantal has spoken to Randa and they will bring back the “You are the Chef” program for grade 5-8 next fall.

New Business

- no new business
- Alycia Kimber (our Positive Climates/Equity staff rep.) spoke to Council about a group called Kind Campaign that is coming in from Florida and is teaching girls how to be more kind to each other. An assembly will be held for the girls, free of charge. Alycia asked if there was an option for the boys and they have arranged for ‘Youth Speak’ to meet with the boys at the same time as the girl’s assembly. This is something that ties into the new curriculum under Modern Learning They are providing both meetings for free and she asked if Council would be willing to provide some money for a donation. Council agreed on \$150 for a donation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm. Next meeting to be held on May at 7pm.