

Metcalfe Public School Council Minutes

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

In attendance: Todd Thompson, Paula Paquette, Erin Jones Farmer, Chandra Copeland, Sylvia Chapman, Amanda Bradford-Janke, Katie McCarlie, Jen Therrien, Sylvia R., Victoria Taylor, Cherie Stanley, Kilmeny West

Regrets:

1. Approval of agenda

Approved.

2. Approval of minutes – December 2020

Katie motioned. Chandra seconded. Approved.

3. Principals' report

Todd presented his Principal's Report.



2020-21 Theme: Do differently... not more

1. Curriculum:

a. Our Umbrella (Numeracy, Literacy, Third Path, Experiential Learning, Digital Fluency, Equity)

1. Third Path - Summary on Regulation, [Summary and General Adaptation Syndrome Big Ideas](#)
2. Equity - PD Day

2. Covid - Increased Safety Measures

- Masks 1-8
- Staff goggles
- Cohorting
- Office closed

3. Black History Month
 - Daily on announcements
 - Recognizing prominent Canadians who made a contribution to Canadian History
4. Kindness Month
 - Catchem being kind initiative
5. No Valentines
 - Due to Covid protocols, we are putting a hold for this year
6. Traffic, Parking and Snow removal.
 - Going to try to figure out some new routines.

Notes:

1. 1.Third Path: There was a staff meeting today. For the Third path they are working on the concept of Regulation. These activities are included in daily announcements and can be seen on youtube. They did a Summary on Regulation, dealing with general adaptation syndrome. Working with the concept that stress leads to behaviour and that someone moves through stages of being regulated, to alarm, to resistance, to exhaustion. 10 key points covered in Big Ideas of Regulation.
 - They started with the next tier, which is belonging. The focus being that a positive attachment to the learning environment gives a better chance of being successful.
2. P.D. Day: Professional Development is Ministry driven. Each year they do a half day updated on Health and Safety, so they will do this. The other half day will be on equity. This will be training provided through the First Nations Instructional Staff. There is a division at the Board, OCDSB, working on this.
 - The training will be online, so staff can work from home, but all staff will participate. It will be Principal led training.
 - They did not get to their equity training piece at the staff meeting today as they had a visitor, who is a technology consultant at the Board. The new math curriculum has a component on coding and they were able to do some in-house work with the consultant on this today.
2. COVID – Increased Safety Measures:
 - Thanks to parents for supporting kids during online learning and for supporting the staff. It was challenging but everyone did an outstanding job.
 - The Ministry has increased safety protocol in place. All staff now sign in and confirm that they did the daily assessment each day. All staff are working with face shields or goggles along with their masks. There is one staff with an exemption who continues to wear a face mask.

- They are working on really keeping the 2 sides of the school separate and avoiding cross over between the areas; kinder to grade 4 in one area and older grades in the other. Only the Ranch (sensory room) and office are points of crossover. No one is in the office now other than the staff.
- Masks are required for all grades 1 through 8, though many kinders are wearing them too. Many parents expressed worry about how the kids would do with this. Kids who struggle were given mask breaks, but these seem to rarely be used. If a child is noticed to be having difficulty (i.e. pulling on mask, fidgeting or struggling with their mask or getting agitated with it) they will be offered a mask break, but students can ask for one if needed. A mask break is an opportunity for a student to go out the front door, take the mask of outdoors alone and get a breath of fresh air before returning to class. Masks are worn in all common areas and at all time, with the exception of when students are eating. Some students seem to be struggling with wearing masks when walking to the bus or at recess, but they are working on it and the kids are doing very well overall and seem to be taking the masks seriously.

3. Black History Month:

- February is Black History month. Teachers are being encouraged to integrate black history awareness throughout the year and not only at this focal time but it is being marked as well.
- Each day as part of the announcements, students are being introduced to a member of Canadian Society who had a big impact in history. They are trying to introduce less known figures.

4. Kindness Month:

- The first couple weeks of the month they have been doing a “catch'em” being kind challenge. Then they do a shout out during the announcements to anyone caught doing acts of kindness. The kids seem to really appreciate the shout out.

5. No Valentines:

- We are not permitted to exchange cards, candy or gifts this year.
- Staff have been challenged to mark the occasion electronically

6. Traffic, Parking and Snow Removal:

- There have been concerns raised, especially for kinder drop off. Mr. Thompson is working with the kinder team and has sent a message to kinder families.
- The snowbanks are a challenge this year and it makes the roads narrower. Unless it is a path that is paved, it is a health and safety concern for custodial staff doing snow removal of banks.

- There have been complaints of people parking in laneways of families living on the surrounding streets, including families that don't have children going to our school.
- Snow removal on Charters is less than ideal. Mr. Thompson even sent a message to the City about snow removal. He has also asked the City about no parking on one side of the street.
- Families are being encouraged to treat it as a "kiss and ride", but unfortunately Metcalfe is not set up well for this.
- Morning doesn't seem as bad with drop offs being spread out, but afternoon pick up is busy and problematic.
- There is worry about parking on both sides of the street and having kids crossing the street for fear of students darting across the street in case anyone would ever be hit.
- Families are encouraged to go North to South on Charters, that is coming in from United, turning onto Charters, dropping kids off and continuing down towards the arena.
- Some alternative options available include:
 - o Using the loop at St. Catherine's. We have permission to use this as we have an earlier start and finish time.
 - o Using parking at the arena, which is an option for older kids to walk down from there using the sidewalks and no need for crossing the street.
 - o United church parking, but this is less ideal because of need to cross the street.
- This is a matter of creating some new habits and tweaking things to figure out what works best. There will be some further discussions and some additional messaging and directions regarding this.
- It may be that best plan is kinder to grade 3 using Charters and 4-8 using St. Catherine's.
- Also, a reminder regarding speed. Please drive slowly as there are both kids walking home and kids being pick up on those roads that are narrow with the large snowbanks.
- A communication will go out in the next weekly message and it is expected to include a map along with some further directions.

4. Teacher's Report:

- Cherie Stanley did not have much to add as Mr. Thompson's report covered most of it.
- She showed off her safety gear for all to see.
- She said that they will continue taking it day by day as everyone settles back into the groove of in-person learning. Learning virtually was not the same thing and it is taking some time with the excitement, routines, and getting everyone all back in class together with their different styles and personalities.
- She thanked all parents for their support.

5. Treasurer's Report/ Financial Requests

- We finally had some revenue in the form of a \$500 payment from the school Board.
- Hot lunches refund: \$387 showing for cheques yet to be cashed. \$853.50 to be given in donations to Enniskerry food cupboard. \$1845 still awaiting answers on what families wish to do with their refunds. 2 emails have been sent out to these families and we will wait for their response; it may be that the funds come back to council if no response is received.
- Holiday craft was approved for \$400 but the actual cost was \$111.55.
- \$346.48 is the cost that was spent on Forest of reading this year, since it was modified program that Ms. Acres did this year. \$1000.00 still sitting awaiting confirmation of the final amounts from last year and to be paid out once that is received.
- We are trending to carry forward almost \$11,000. There is room to spend we still don't know what the next year will hold.
- Mr. Thompson confirmed that the Board will be giving leeway to carry forward this year. We may be asked to identify a project in the fall.
- There were two requests to cover the cost for brain pop. Ms. Bailey requested \$150.90 to cover the program for grades 3-8. Ms. Stanley requested \$239.78 to cover the cost for the program for the primary grades.
- Chandra motioned, Amanda seconded. All in favour.

6. Overview of Committees

- o Communications
 - Jen continues to look after this
 - Not a lot going on. She will repost periodically about Mabel's Labels.
- o Mabels Labels
 - Nothing has changed since last time. We are still sitting at \$23.62.
 - Idea to send out something for the next school year. We discussed the possibility of a welcome to new families that includes an introduction to Council and information about Mabel's Labels.
- o FlipGive
 - Chandra tried it, but so far only 2 orders and \$14 raised.
 - Some observations were made about the amounts of the gift cards being higher and the parameters not really working for what intended. Also, noted that a lot of gift cards were sold out in early December (i.e. Tim Hortons).
 - Council will continue to test it out as a group for now (code was shared for the group) and determine if it is a good idea to send it out more broadly.

- Decided to hold off on circulating for now and to possibly wait until we had a project to fundraise for; possibly target Christmas next year.
- o Little Caesars
 - Mr. Thompson called Castor Valley to ensure there wouldn't be any issues if we decided to go online, in contrast with how they would be doing their fundraiser and there are no issues, so we can go ahead with this.
 - Paula will see if Tatjana will lead this again. If not she will see if anyone else wants to lead it. Paula will let us know by email.
 - We have usually started this fundraiser at this point so there will be some delay, but we still want to target colder months for delivery and pick up.

7. Mail/correspondence

- 2 Fundraising flyers from Little Caesars were received
- Cheque from OCDSB was received as discussed above
- School Council Newsletter was received. Paula will scan and email to anyone who is interested in reading it.

8. Other/new business

- o Grade 8 Grad
 - What are options for graduation photos and other festivities? What can we expect for this year?
 - The Board gives weekly updates and pictures are in the plans, so this is on the radar. As for graduation, it is also on people's mind but it is possible that we are looking at something similar to last year.
- o Kindness Month
 - Council discussed doing something to appreciate the teachers. Usually this might be coffee in the staff room and we discussed how this might be done differently this year. As long as items are individually packages and there are no mass gatherings, then food orders are okay.
 - The idea of planting items for a front garden that people could see as they went into the school was discussed. This idea was supported by the group, so long as there was a card or a message sent expressing the plan to do that once weather permits.

Meeting Adjourned.

Next meeting: March 9, 2021 at 6:30 pm



MPS Council Financials (2020/2021)
Bank Account
September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021

Statement ending	Aug 31	Sep 17	Oct 16	Nov 16	Dec 17	Jan 17	Feb 17	Mar 17	Apr 17	May 15	Jun 17	Jul 17	Aug 17	TOTAL
Opening Balance	\$16,192.69	\$16,192.69	\$16,188.69	\$16,184.69	\$17,171.69	\$16,420.69	\$15,771.19	\$14,697.01	\$12,839.51	\$10,990.51	\$10,986.51	\$10,982.51	\$10,978.51	\$16,192.69
Revenue														
Hot Lunches				\$198.55										\$198.55
Jingle Bells Bazaar														\$-
Little Caesars														\$-
OCDSB							\$500.00							\$500.00
Bag2School														\$-
Cake Walk														\$-
Movie Night/Popcorn sales				\$792.45										\$792.45
Miscellaneous														\$-
Transferred from MPS Account														\$-
NSF Cheque & Fee repayment														\$-
Sub-Total (Revenue)	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$991.00	\$-	\$-	\$500.00	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$1,491.00
Expenses														
Hot Lunches														\$-
Hot lunch refund due to Covid-19					\$687.00	\$645.50	\$387.00	\$853.50	\$1,845.00					\$4,418.00
Jingle Bells Bazaar														\$-
Holiday Craft							\$111.55							\$111.55
Movie Night/Popcorn days														\$-
MPS Website														\$-
OCASC														\$-
Advertising & Promotions														\$-
Administration														\$-
Gifts & Honouraria							\$425.15							\$425.15
MPS – Student Council														\$-
MPS – Books														\$-
MPS – Library							\$346.48	\$1,000.00						\$1,346.48
MPS – Kindergartners														\$-
MPS – Activities					\$60.00									\$60.00
MPS – Music														\$-
MPS – STEM														\$-
MPS – Gardening														\$-
MPS – Grad														\$-
MPS – Little Caesars														\$-
MPS – Sports														\$-
MPS – Teaching aids														\$-
MPS – Technology														\$-
MPS – Guest Lecturer							\$300.00							\$300.00
MPS – Miscellaneous														\$-
MPS – End of year bbq														\$-
Interest & Bank Charges		\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$48.00
NSF Cheques														\$-
NSF Fees														\$-
Sub-Total (Operating Expenses)	\$-	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$751.00	\$649.50	\$1,574.18	\$1,857.50	\$1,849.00	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$6,709.18
TOTAL (Revenue - Expenses)	\$-	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$987.00	\$751.00	\$649.50	\$1,074.18	\$1,857.50	\$1,849.00	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$5,218.18
Bank statement	\$16,192.69	\$16,188.69	\$16,184.69	\$17,171.69	\$16,420.69	\$15,771.19	\$14,697.01	\$12,839.51	\$10,990.51	\$10,986.51	\$10,982.51	\$10,978.51	\$10,974.51	\$10,974.51