

## **Metcalfe Public School Council Minutes Tuesday, March 9, 2021**

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

Regrets:

### 1. Approval of agenda

Approved.

### 2. Approval of minutes – February 2021

Approved.

### 3. Principals' report

At the staff meeting today they discussed Equity & Inclusion. They watched a video and followed that with a discussion.

Mr. Thompson played an excerpt of the video for Parent's council:

- **Educating Equitably After the Pandemic: Five Essential Strategies for Meeting the Needs of Students and Improving Schools**

Key concepts are meeting people where they are and giving them what they need to succeed, rather than a one size fits all approach. Idea that changes need to occur so that schools are not perpetuating inequality. Discussion about how the pandemic has had disproportionate impact on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. Focus on Goal of removing barriers and how to make equity central in how schools function. Importance of aligning skills of staff to meet needs of student and utilizing collaborative problem solving. Asks schools to reflect on issues and challenges in their school and to consider who are allies and partners in their schools and communities.

Mr. Thompson talked about the pandemic giving us a change to look at what works and what doesn't work in our education system. Challenges faced in the past year have forced shifts in how schools operate and gives an opportunity to look at the system as a whole and consider what things work and what things don't when thinking of what education looks like after the pandemic.

Staff broke into groups and had conversations about what changes are needed and how that change might be advanced.

Mr. Thompson wants MPS to be forward thinking and innovative and wants students to have pride in their education and where they are going after leaving MPS.

In the past two weeks, parents will have seen notification of case of COVID associated with MPS. This notification goes out whether there is a case within the school or due to shared transportation with the High school. The school is required to send the same messaging, which is intentionally vague so as not to identify people directly.

We are an anomaly in that we are the only school where students from 2 schools share the bus (normally it is different routes using the same bus for different schools rather than two schools using the bus together).

Mr. Thompson has gone back to Ottawa Public Health to see if the message can be altered to share that the exposure is through the school or through transportation and he is awaiting a response.

While the system is not perfect, OPH has done a pretty good job in ensuring everyone is getting consistent messaging.

When we receive the letter from the school that means that the school has done their part of the contract tracing. It is actually the school that keeps the records and does the tracing (who was present, who was on the bus etc.) and provides all of that information to OPH. OPH would then contact the family, likely within the next day or so.

#### 4. Teacher's Report:

- Cherie Stanley did not have much to add. She wanted to thank everyone for the kindness week surprise. She reported it really lifted the spirits of all of the staff and that the cards from the kids were greatly appreciated.

#### 5. Treasurer's Report/ Financial Requests

- Cheque from the School Board in the amount of \$500 was deposited.  
- Not a lot to report this month. \$269.50 more of hot lunch refunds were processed, leaving \$117.50 to be claimed. \$111.55 still sitting in the account for the holiday craft. \$425.15 for the Margaret McKeown memorial is still there. Forest of Reading had \$346.48 for this year and \$1,000 still to be resolved from last year. \$390.68 for brain pop paid out. \$300 for food cupboard still sitting

there. Balance is just over \$15,000.00. On track for around \$10,000 balance for end of the year.

- There were no requests for funds this month.

## 6. Overview of Committees

### ○ Little Caesars

- Closes tomorrow and it is going well, we hit over \$1000, which will be updated on the Facebook page.
- Jen posted to Greely news.
- Reviewed that all will be put outside at the end of the day, pick-ups will be drive through, one at a time and keeping distance. Reminder that no one can go in the school.
- Jen has been looking after this and they are likely okay for organizing amongst Jen, Paula, and Erin who are already at the school. Sylvia offered to help volunteer with pick-ups at end of day as has done in the past.
- Jen will likely be taking over this fundraiser next year.

### ○ Communications

- Jen continues to look after this and everything is going well. There is not a lot of twitter activity.
- Jen has been posting about Little Caesars for now but after that is done will go back to promoting Mabel's Labels.

### ○ Mabels Labels

- Nothing has changed since last time. We are still sitting at \$23.62.
- Plan is to send something at end of school year and target for the next school year.
- Jen set herself a reminder to post in July and August a reminder about our Mabel's Labels account when people are more likely to be ordering.

### ○ FlipGive

- Nothing changed since last time, still at \$14.30 balance.
- Will continue with us sampling and try to target for use next year.

## 7. Mail/correspondence

- 1 brochure came for online/virtual fundraising and no other mail or correspondence received.

## 8. Other/new business

- Paula thanked all of the parents and their kids who did the cards for kindness month; they were all special and greatly appreciated.

- There will be no meeting in April as our normal schedule would fall during the scheduled April break and along with other holidays it will be a short month.

Meeting Adjourned.

Next meeting: May 11, 2021 at 6:30 pm