

# Metcalfe Public School Council Minutes

## Tuesday, May 11, 2021

In attendance: Todd Thompson, Paula Paquette, Erin Jones Farmer, Sylvia Chapman, Victoria Taylor, Kilmeny West, Amanda Bradford-Janke, Jen Therrien, Sylvia R., and guest Louise Vaillancourt

Regrets: Chandra Copeland, Katie McCarlie and Cherie Stanley

### 1. Approval of agenda

Motion: Sylvia C  
Approved.

### 2. Approval of March minutes

Motion: Vicki  
Approved.

### 3. Principal's report

- Welcome our visitor, Louise Vaillancourt
  
- Mr. Thompson delivered his Principal's Report

We are in week 5 of virtual learning now and no indication of whether we will return to in person. Everyone is hopeful that we will, but the school does not decide and will have to wait for that decision to be made. Ottawa's number are looking good and trending downward so we will have to wait and see what happens

Once we closed that was when he had a few positive cases confirmed in our Metcalfe community but all are resolved now and dashboard is updated to reflect that.

Mr. Thompson is trying to go into classes periodically through the week and has attended in all classes. He has noted a different level of flow, in that teachers have adapted well and as they are more experienced and comfortable now he is seeing more ability to transition more seamlessly to small groups. For example, he was in the owl kindergarten class today and shared that there are usually 12 to 15 kids on at one time with kids popping in and out and the staff are doing well keeping 4 and 5 years olds engaged this way. He was also in Ms. Toohey's 7/8 class and half the students were in a group working on percentages and discounts, followed by a coding exercise while half the student were working

independently and kids were popping in and out with questions and there was a comfortable flow which mirrors how the class functions in person.

He knows that learning this way involves stress and impact on mental health as families juggle multiple commitments and scheduled. Some families are struggling. Some kids are not attending. He has checked in with many by phone where kids are not attending and has been looking at adjusting the learning schedules and models so that it works for the kids and families as best as possible.

Some teachers find some aspects of this style of learning challenging and he is working with them on engaging and improving on skills that aren't as comfortable. Everyone has been working hard and growing their skillsets to work in this manner.

- School Organization for 2021-2022 school year

The school is looking forward to next year. This is the time that class placements for next year happen.

Mr. Thompson sent out a communication consulting parents and inviting them to let him know if there was anything that the school needed to know that may impact cohesion or success of the child or their group. Requests for specific teachers are not permitted for many reasons, for example one siblings experience may be very different from another and one learners needs differ from another. Despite parent feedback, there are many barriers in a small school (i.e. limited class options) to address all comments but they do what they can to implement the best learning environment for everyone.

Sylvia R. asked how input can be given if someone did not receive that communication or for example is coming from another school to MPS for grade 7/8. The mailing lists can't be changed at this point but the weekly reports are always posted on twitter Fridays and anyone is free to send an email to him directly with any of their comments or concerns.

Class count is up 1 for next year because of the addition of EFI, there will be a new grade 2 EFI next year.

Class breakdown will be:

English: 1/2, 3/4, 5/6, 3 x 7/8

MFI: 4, 5/6, 7/8

EFI: 1, 2

Some teachers will stay virtual and some will be returning. Other positions will be filled long term placements. It will be mostly the same teachers but a few changed. Some movement is still happening so he will post once everything is finalized.

- Grade 8 graduates

Some may have seen communications on Facebook. The school is waiting for direction from the Board. MPS is unfortunately one of the schools whose milestone photos was missed because of the stay at home order. They are hoping to arrange them once we return to school but they can't confirm anything until that happens.

All leaving ceremonies will be virtual recording like last year. MPS will do something special regardless of whether we are in school personally or not. For example, they made sure to make it special last year with a special display, awards and certificates, grad gifts and they may do something similar this year. MPS tries to align with what Castor Valley is doing so that all graduates in our community will have a similar experience.

If there are not milestone photos at the end of this year, they will arrange to do them early next year and invite back the graduates to do them at that time.

- Ongoing consultations

1. Police Involvement in Schools

Link went out in the weekly news a couple of weeks ago. Parent feedback is important and consultations are ongoing.

Mr. Thompson shared his experience that school resource officer unit has been a program that has benefitted the school. The school resource officer gets additional training regarding how to work with youth in schools and the objective is to respond to issues in a manner that avoids criminal outcomes. Where police are called for an incident it is not the school resource officer that is first to respond and the initial response may be more strict. While racialized and Indigenous communities may have different historical experiences, he believes these relationships in the school can serve an important role in building bridges.

2. Revisions to Safe Schools

Safe Schools Policies have been compiled and rewritten. There is an opportunity to share feedback. High school students do their own, elementary students participate through their parents.

Parent feedback is encouraged as it strengthens outcomes.

4. Teachers report

Cherie sends her regrets and asked Mr. Thompson to report that there is not much to update since there is not a lot happening right now.

## 5. Treasurer's report/financial requests

- Financial statement was reviewed.
- Hot lunch refunds have all been issued. Funds being held until end of year for parents that did not reply in case anyone inquires until then.
- March statement was last one received. April was not yet received (Mr. Thompson noted that it had arrived in the mail bag today) so our statement will be updated for the next meeting accordingly.
- 111.55 still there for craft day in December
- 425.15 for gifts being held for Marian McEwen memorial, which will go forward when able to do so following lifting of COVID restrictions
- 1000 for Forest of reading from 2019/20, still awaiting final number as it had been filed and had to be pulled out again
- 390.68 for teaching aids is for brain pop
- Miscellaneous \$300 for emergency food cupboard donation to the school
- 117.69 to be input for kindness month expense
- Cheque received in amount 1236 from Little Caesars; additional amount to be confirmed for sale of extra kits sold.
- Balance of \$10,466.33, with Little Caesars cheque to be added to the balance.

### Requests:

- 1) Mr. Thompson requested approval of funds to replace picnic tables in the yard
  - Picnic tables in the courtyard are falling apart. He wants to move the ones in the schoolyard to the courtyard and purchase industrial grade ones for the outside yard. They would be chained to the tree like they currently are and given weight of them would require a team to move them so should be secure.
  - Proposed to purchase ones that are metal frame with resin top that can be left out in all weather. They cost \$1000 each and would be purchased through a tendered supplier with the school board.
  - Regarding lifespan, he commented that Manotick put a lot of money into outdoor picnic tables in different configurations and they look almost new years later. He will of course inquire into guarantees when looking to purchase.

Questions were asked and debated the number to be purchased. Initially 2 were requested but it is believed there are at least 3 in the yard, so it was motioned to approve 3.

There was discussion about whether the school still had portable outdoor sunshades purchased in the past and whether there was further need for additional exterior furniture or supplies to facilitate more functional outdoor learning spaces. Mr. Thompson will look at what he can find at the school and assess whether further outdoor needs exist and what additional purchases could provide value added for outdoor learning spaces.

- Council approved the purchase of 3 picnic tables at \$1000 each, plus taxes to be added in addition to that.
- Council is willing to approve additional items for outdoor learning spaces if needed.

## 2) Council usually gives \$500 towards graduation festivities

We were not meeting at this time last year and the school received additional funds for that purpose, but some of the funds they received last year will not be available this year and a donation would help out.

Discussion of how the funds might possibly be spent this year, including contribution towards grad t-shirts, graduate gifts, setting up a backdrop for photos on scene if certificates and awards are to be picked up like last year, photo accessory kits, graduate banner etc.

- Council approved up to \$500 to be contributed for grad celebration

## 6. Overview of Committees

### ○ Little Caesars Pizza

Jen reported that we made \$1236 with our fundraiser and 15 or 16 extra pizzas were sold at \$20 each. There was an error with our order that they delivered extras but they couldn't take them back so we had a bonus and were able to sell them to teachers and community members for \$20 per kit.

We are signed up for next year. The order deadline will be February 24 and the delivery date is set for March 3rd. We got an early sign up discount.

### ○ Communication

Jen has been posting as things arise but not a lot happening.

Discussion about posting the consultations discussed (police involvement and safe schools). May also post something about providing feedback to Mr. Thompson about class placements.

- Mabel labels

We may want to promote this on Facebook periodically as we think ahead to next year.

- Flip Give

## 7. Mail/correspondence

Only Little Caesar's flyers which we seem to get monthly.

## 8. Other/new business

- Virtual presentation - Parent Network - Social Media and Your Kids

This virtual presentation through the Parent Network happened in April. It was done jointly with MPS and Goulburn and there were 16 parents about half from each school.

It was a really good presentation, with general overview and lots of useful tips.

- Graduation Leaving Ceremony

Already discussed (above)

Meeting Adjourned.

Next meeting: June 8, 2021 at 6:30 pm

