

Minutes
Maplehurst Middle School PSSC Meeting
Tuesday, February 24, 2020 at 7:00pm
(meeting held at Maplehurst Middle School)

Present:

Tracey Redmond (Chair)
Elizabeth Nowlan (Principal)
Sylvie Arseneau (Vice Principal)
Sarah Johnson (Teacher Representative)
Amanda Kendall (Home & School Representative)
Stacey MacAulay (Secretary)
Angela Lawson (DEC Rep)
Dianne Breau
Donald Moore
Gerry Murphy
Joy Cummings
Mandy Lawson
Ryan Edison
Sherri Leger
Tammy Orava

Absent:

Andrea Boudreau
Joanne Touchie
Marcel LeBlanc (Vice Principal)

Tracey called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

1. **Approval of Agenda:** the item 'High School 2020-2021 Year' was added to the agenda by Angela Lawson, DEC Rep. The agenda was approved by Don and seconded by Amanda.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes were approved by Ryan and seconded by Joy.

3. **Temporary Crosswalk:** Temporary crosswalk signage has been installed. Miss Nowlan spoke with Jean Guy Leger from the City of Moncton who indicated a plan is in place to put a sidewalk on Maplehurst Drive on the school side in the spring. There will also be a sidewalk on Teaberry Avenue.
4. **Follow-up on Sidewalk Snow Clearing:** A letter was sent on behalf of the Maplehurst PSSC to City Councillors regarding the timeliness and priority of snowplowing of Maplehurst Drive and Twin Oaks Drive. Bryan Butler has indicated he will wait for the next storm during which he will come to the school and observe the situation.
5. **Parent Information Session:** Tracey provided a summary of the recent Parent Information session (see Appendix 1). There was discussion about a possible future session in the fall 2020.

Action: A potential future parent information session in the fall 2020 will be added to the agenda of an upcoming meeting to discuss this option further.

6. **Remaining Budget:** The PSSC only spent the price of 7 toques and 1 ball hat on the Parent Information Session (which equates to less than \$100). There is remaining money in the PSSC budget to be spent by March 31st.

Motion: A motion was made by Don Moore that the remaining money of the PSSC budget be spent on communication supplies as determined by the Principal and Staff. The motion was seconded by Ryan. All were in favour.

7. **Principal's Report:** Miss Nowlan reviewed the Principal's Report. See Appendix 2.
8. **Home and School Update:** Amanda provided an update to committee members. Gordon MacDonald resigned on February 24th as the Home and School President. Tracey Doyle (current Vice President) will assume the role of President. There will be a fundraising dance on March 28th with 3 bands playing. Tickets can be purchased through Cash Online. The first Chase the Ace is completed with \$400 being raised. The second Chase the Ace has now started.
9. **High School 2020-2021 Year:** Angela Lawson, DEC rep, discussed the issue of high school placement for Maplehurst Middle School students. Currently, students in the Evergreen Park catchment zone would attend Bernice MacNaughton and students in the Northrop Frye zone would attend Harrison Trimble. See Appendix 3 for full notes as read at the meeting and as provided by Ms. Lawson. There was a significant

amount of discussion on this topic with concern raised that committee members don't know what options would exist if Maplehurst students were all to attend the same high school. It was explained that if a letter is not written, the high school placement would remain status quo (ie. Students split between Bernice MacNaughton and Harrison Trimble). After much discussion, a motion was made.

Motion: A motion was made by Don Moore that the PSSC write a letter to the DEC stating, "As a PSSC, we are requesting that the DEC come up with some options to keep Maplehurst Middle School students together during high school. Of note, we are not comfortable with the option of Maplehurst Middle School students being rezoned to Moncton High School." The motion was seconded by Sheri. All present at the meeting voted in favor of the motion.

10. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:44pm.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 20th at 7:00pm at Maplehurst Middle School.
Minutes prepared by Stacey MacAulay

Appendix 1: Summary of Parent Information Session Held on February 20th

Conflict Resolution

June Leger - Northrop Frye School

- Discussion to understand how children are being taught to be able to resolve conflict in a constructive manner in order to be successful in society. We are building our children's resiliency by teaching them from an early age how to resolve conflicts, and work together, so that when they reach the workforce, they will already have these skills available to use.

Cyber Addiction

Kathleen Smith, Clinical coordinator for Child & Youth

Presenters: Jessica MacFarlane & Maryse McEachern

- Discussion on addictive qualities of social media and the internet; including problematic internet use, the negative impacts it can cause in a child's life and warning signs to look for in our children. Discussion will also include strategies to help promote healthy screen time and guidance for parents to have these discussions with their children

Stress Management & Resiliency

Michelle MacPherson - District Office, AESD

- Discussion to assist in understanding how making our children more resilient in life can reduce their level of stress or improve their overall well-being.

Social Media

Maurice Boudreau, District Office, AESD

- Discussion on how certain apps are designed to get kids addicted to their devices, and how behavior can be altered for some children.

Building Resilience through Play

Shelley Stocker & Emily Hopper, District Office, AESD

- Resilience is not a trait that people either have or do not have. It is a process that involves behaviors, thoughts and actions that can be learned and developed in anyone. Join us as we take a look at compelling research supporting the importance of PLAY. Our unified goal as parents and educators is to teach skills needed to grow resilient adults.

Summary

Survey was sent to Maplehurst, NFS and EPS in early February to gauge interest in sessions to help determine locations within the school.

94 people responded to the survey:

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Northrop Frye School	29.79%	28
Evergreen Park School	11.70%	11
Maplehurst Middle School	58.51%	55
TOTAL		94

Of the 94 respondents, 58 people indicated they would attend, 34 were 'Maybe', with 2 as

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	61.70%	58
No	2.13%	2
Maybe	36.17%	34
TOTAL		94

'No':

91 indicated what sessions they were interested in, the most popular being Social Media and Resiliency related.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Conflict Resolution	43.96%	40
Stress Management and Resiliency	72.53%	66
The Importance of Play	6.59%	6
Social Media and Your Child	73.63%	67
First Nations Presentation	1.10%	1
Total Respondents: 91		

Based on session sign-ups, we had:

Stress Management & Resiliency – 13

Social Media - 18

Cyber Addiction - 12

Conflict Resolution - 15

Building Resilience through Play - 0

58 signed up for sessions - Approximately 30 people attended

Feedback from those attendees was very positive. Wished they could spend more time in the sessions, and not have to choose 2 of 5.

Budget: Only cost for the Maplehurst PSSC budget will be presenter gifts (7 toques and 1 ball hat, and 8 lanyards). Cost to be communicated by Liz once inventory is replenished. NFS sponsored the cost of snacks, water and giftbags.

Questions:

- As a PSSC, would we want to plan a future session?
 - If yes, discuss/plan the following at future meeting
 - Could we send a survey with 2 or 3 popular topics only to gauge interest?
 - Discuss timing:
 - Would earlier in the school year work better?
 - i.e. Late September/early October timeframe?
 - Discuss format of the evening
 - Rather than have people pick 2 of 5 sessions, offer 2 or 3 only to be presented to all
 - Hold it in cafeteria and offer fewer sessions with 5 min breaks in between?
 - Feedback from attendees supported the above note and also indicated it would be beneficial to share the Social Media related presentations with the students as well.

Appendix 2: Principal's Report (February 25, 2020)

Building Update

Our cafeteria is up and running and getting very close to becoming a *cashless* operation. All information for ordering lunches and purchasing cash cards is on our website and has been sent home through School Messenger to families.

Work continues our building. The projectors and adjustable screens have been installed in the cafeteria. The bleachers are scheduled for installation late April. The alarm system and final painting throughout the classrooms is taking place throughout the day and during the evenings.

Our student drop-off and pick up zone continues to work well. A message concerning morning drop off times will be sent prior to the first day back after March Break as some students are being dropped off before the duty teacher begins and this is a safety concern.

School Growth

We have had twenty new students enroll since we opened on January 10th. Our projected numbers for next year now total 620 students and staffing will begin later in March. We currently have 27 homeroom classes with some of those being housed on the bottom floor, so we have room for anticipated growth. (Our current enrolment is sitting at 606 students)

School Life

We have added a 7th option for students during the noon hour with the opening of the two multipurpose rooms offering Huskies a place to play games or work on projects.

We just completed our second round of Impact Time where Huskies had 46 options to express interest in before they were organized into small groups for 4 weeks. Impact time took place on Thursday afternoons for 90-minute sessions. New options that were offered by volunteers included Pound Fitness, Social Dance, Cyber Titans, Chess, and Coding through Brilliant Labs.

Congratulations to the four basketball teams that represented Maplehurst with pride throughout our first season. We now have two more banners to hang in our new gymnasium. Badminton and Wrestling are about to begin, and we thank all our coaches for volunteering

their time with our students. Our Drama club is registered to take part in the District Drama Festival and rehearsal are taking place twice a week.

The Student Council held its first dance on February 12th and it was well attended. Winter Carnival is taking place this week and the weather is cooperating with us as students have activities outside at noon.

A group of artists who will be applying for our \$50 000 grant, toured the building last Friday and their applications will be judged by our committee on April 24th.

Teacher committees have been formed to plan for student recognition and year-end celebrations.

Teachers thoroughly enjoyed Staff Appreciation week and are grateful for such a supportive community.

Appendix 3: Notes Provided by Angela Lawson, DEC Rep

Why is this topic now on the PSSC agenda?

- High school placement, requests for new schools and boundary changes are not within the PSSC mandate
- School community and how to maintain and grow it is within the mandate of the PSSC
- Parents and educators have been raising concerns more frequently since MHMS has officially opened to myself, other DEC members and some PSSC members.

Since discussions began about the MHMS, the main concerns from parents and DEC members was high school placement. The DEC and district knew we would have to look at solutions for high school placement but it was agreed that options would only be considered once students were officially in the new school however options have continually been looked at in preparation for this point.

- A new high school for the North end was requested on the capital budget in 2018 but it is unknown if or when this would be approved. The location of the school on the capital list was expected late in January 2020 but has been delayed so at this time, we still don't know how this project as scored.
- Enrollment in multiple schools that feed into our high schools has changed over the years so there may be options to allow students from MHMS to go into 1 high school.

Letter request:

- “Maplehurst Middle School has worked hard to create a strong school community in which students from Evergreen Park, Queen Elizabeth School and Northrop Fry have come together into 1 middle school. These students play on sports teams together and are involved in various extra-curricular activities. MHMS is the only middle school in Atlantic Canada that takes students from one middle school and disperses them into separate high schools. We as a PSSC think it is important, to continue to grow our school community, ask the DEC to look into options to ensure that students from Maplehurst Middle School have the opportunity to go onto high school as 1 unit.”

Next steps is, letter from PSSC to DEC, DEC to direct the superintendent to find a solution and once the options are available, more information will be provided to the parent community.