

Minutes
Maplehurst Middle School PSSC Meeting
Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 7:00pm
(meeting held at Maplehurst Middle School)

Present:

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

Absent:

Andrea Boudreau
Angela Lawson (DEC Rep)

Tracey called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

1. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved by Gerry and seconded by Ryan.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes were approved by Dianne and seconded by Mandy.

3. **High School Placement of Maplehurst Middle School Students:** Miss Nowlan explained that this item is not within the PSSC mandate. She will follow-up with the Superintendent to determine the approach that parents can take to get information regarding this topic.
4. **Parent Information Session:** The following information pertains to the upcoming Parent Information Session:

The session will be hosted by Maplehurst Middle, Northrop Frye and Evergreen Park schools. Tina Landry (NFS Principal) will extend an invite to Magnetic Hill school parents as well.

The session will be held on February 20th from 6:30-8:00 (snow date to be confirmed) at Maplehurst Middle School

The Communication Plan includes:

1. Save the Date – to identify the date of the Parent Information Session
2. Invitation with all details on sessions. Tina will ask presenters for a high level summary of session details to include in the invitation. On February 18th, there will be a reminder (repeat invitation). Invitations will be sent through School Connect and posted on the school website and Twitter.

Four topics are confirmed for the Parent Information Session, with the following presenters:

- Conflict Management – June Leger
- Social Media – Atlantic Wellness Center (In progress)
- First Nations Presentation – Presenter Confirmed by Tina
- Importance of Play – District Education Support Staff
- Stress Management & Resiliency
- Cyber Addiction

A table will be setup with information on mental health, staffed by district representation.

Tentative schedule:

6:30 à Welcome

6:45 – 7:15 à Session #1

7:15 – 7:30 à Break

7:30 – 8:00 à Session #2

Liz has inquired if it would be possible to understand how many attendees we are expecting. Liz has the ability to survey MHMS students. A request has been made to inquire if NFS and EPS can survey their parents.

Actions: Committee members are asked to let Tracey know if they are available to volunteer at the session. Amanda will post on the Home and School Facebook Page asking for volunteers.

5. **Crosswalk Installation and Sidewalk Plowing:** The committee discussed the need for a crosswalk to enhance walker safety; and it was noted that it would likely be the spring before a crosswalk could be installed. It was also mentioned that the sidewalks are often not plowed in a timely manner following a storm, which makes it more difficult for walkers. Gerry has spoken with Bryan Butler and Brian Hicks. Bryan Butler plans to come to the school with Gerry some morning to observe these issues.

Motion: A motion was made that the Maplehurst Middle School PSSC write a letter to city Councillors Bryan Butler and Brian Hicks and Councillors-at-Large Greg Turner and Pierre A. Boudreau outlining the safety concerns and a request for timely clearing of the sidewalks and installation of a crosswalk. The motion was approved by Don and seconded by Amanda. All were in favour.

6. **Cafeteria Seating and Areas where Students can eat Lunch:** Miss Nowlan provided an overview of seating options during lunchtime. There are 22 tables in the cafeteria and 5 more on order, which would allow for seating for 500 students. Some students are choosing to sit on the floor as a group with their classmates. During lunchtime students also have a choice of going to the library, the gym, tech rooms, art rooms, music rooms, or outside.
7. **Principal's Report:** Miss Nowlan reviewed the Principal's Report. See Appendix 1.
8. **Home and School Update:** Amanda provided an update to committee members. The first Chase the Ace fundraiser was held on January 13th at Sports Rock where \$150 was made. The second one will be held on Monday January 27th from 6:00-8:00pm. There will be an Adult Dance at Maplehurst Middle School on February 8th as a fundraiser. Tickets will be sold through Cash Online and at the Open House on January 25th. Other upcoming fundraisers include a Gift Certificate Wreath and a Liquor Sled Auction. Money raised from the fundraisers will go toward Playground development or the Learning Commons.
9. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm (motion by Joy, seconded by Tammy).

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 25th, 2020 at 7:00pm at Maplehurst Middle School.

Minutes prepared by Stacey MacAulay

Appendix 1: Principal's Report

January 23, 2020

Move to Maplehurst

We had our Grand Opening on January 10th and spent the day supporting students transitioning into the building. We reviewed our Guiding Principles, followed a shortened mock schedule, and finished the afternoon with a successful scavenger hunt where students explored every area of the school. The Huskies were excited and enthusiastic to be together under one roof.

There are still some building items that are being completed throughout the day and during the evenings. We are anxiously awaiting our bleachers for both the gym and stage as well as our new score clock. Work on the playground will begin in the Spring and students are currently working on the design of an outdoor classroom.

The cafeteria is being inspected this week and is scheduled to open next week. Information concerning ordering food online will be shared with families as soon as it is provided.

Our Keeping our School Safe document is complete for our new building and we have had 2 fire drills over the last week to ensure students can exit the building safely.

Our student drop-off and pick up zone has been running smoothly and we have received very positive feedback about this process.

School Growth

We have had four new students enroll since we opened on January 10th and four additional inquiries for space. 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 597 students. There are currently 200 grade 5 students at EPS and NFS and we will be sending 190 grade 8's off to high school.

School Life

Huskies are enjoying our new schedule and the choices they have in Maplehurst. As students enter the school, they have choice in where they begin their day prior to the 8:10 bell that sends them off to their home room period. The music begins at 8:30 and plays for 5 minutes while they transition to their first period. This transition happens between every period as we are operating without bells. Teachers teams are working together to support student learning through flexible grouping between 6 teachers in each subject area.

The noon hour again offers 6 choices daily; library, cafeteria, gym, art or music, tech or they can play outside. The routine is being followed well and we are assessing the noon hour this coming Monday during our PL day to reexamine our processes to ensure success.

The Student Council is meeting to plan upcoming events. Our four basketball teams are making great use of the gym. Our Impact Time will start again next week and run on Thursday afternoons for four weeks. Impact Time choices are posted on our website. An Open House is planned for this Saturday morning from 9:00 – 12:00 and tours will be led by students throughout the morning.