

Minutes
Maplehurst Middle School PSSC Meeting
Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 7:00pm
(meeting held via Zoom)

Present:

Tracey Redmond (Chair)
Elizabeth Nowlan (Principal)
Sylvie Arseneau (Vice Principal)
Sarah Johnson (Teacher Representative)
Stacey MacAulay (Secretary)
Angela Lawson (DEC Rep)
Andrea Boudreau
Donald Moore
Jamie Teed
Joy Cummings
Mandi Lawson
Michelle Lord
Ryan Edison
Sherri Leger
Tammy Orava
Tracy Doyle

Absent:

Marcel LeBlanc (Vice Principal)

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

1. **Welcome to New Members:** Tracey welcomed three new members to the committee: Tracy Doyle, Jamie Teed, and Michelle Lord. All members introduced themselves to each other.
2. **Committee Norms:** Tracey reviewed committee norms/expectations, such as the frequency of meetings (once/month), duration of the meetings (1 hour), and respectful behaviour among members.

3. **Chair/Secretary:** No nominations were put forward for the positions of Chair and Secretary for the 2020-2021 school year. As last year was shortened due to COVID-19, Tracey Redmond and Stacey MacAulay will continue in the roles of Chair and Secretary, respectively.
4. **PSSC Handbook:** Tracey referred committee members to the PSSC Handbook which outlines roles and responsibilities. The link is <https://secure1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-E/schools/Maplehurst/Pages/PSSC.aspx>. There won't be committee training provided by the District this year due to the pandemic; however questions can be directed to Tracey.
5. **Upcoming Meeting Dates:** The committee members decided on the following meeting dates: Wednesday, November 18 and Thursday, December 10. The meetings will be held at 7:00pm (either virtual or at Maplehurst Middle School, to be determined).
6. **Principal's Report:** Miss Nowlan reviewed the Principal's Report. See Appendix 1.
7. **Mask Use within School:** There has been some confusion about requirements for mask use within the school. The confusion can cause uncertainty and challenges for classroom management by teachers.

Motion: A motion was made by Tracey Redmond to write a letter to parents to clearly communicate the expectations of mask use at school as per GNB requirements and Public Health Directives. Ryan seconded the motion and all committee members were in favor.

8. **Middle School Considerations during COVID-19:** It was discussed that adjustments have been made for most other levels of students due to COVID-19 (e.g.: smaller class sizes and increased resources in elementary schools and every second day attendance at high schools). However, similar adjustments haven't been made at the middle school level resulting in loss of flexibility for collaborative work (in a school which was designed for modern day collaboration), additional work for teachers to cover duty and clean work spaces, difficulty physically distancing due to the large class sizes, lack of extra teacher resources, inability to continue with in-school suspensions and detention rooms, etc. These situations can have a negative impact on school culture and student and teacher wellbeing.

Motion: A motion was made by Ryan to write a letter to the DEC to ask that this issue be addressed. The motion was seconded by Jamie and all committee members were in favor. The letter will be sent to the DEC for their next meeting on October 20th.

9. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm. The motion to adjourn was made by Joy and seconded by Don.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 18 at 7:00pm (location to be determined – either virtual or at Maplehurst Middle School).

Minutes prepared by Stacey MacAulay

Appendix 1: Principal's Report

October 14, 2020

Building Update

Our cafeteria is operating, and the delivery of lunches is going well. The orders are delivered to each homeroom for the beginning of lunch and trays are returned to the cafeteria cart as students finish eating.

Our student drop-off and pick up zone continues to work well. Speed continues to be a concern of a few parents who exit the zone and refuse to stay in the right hand pick up lane. Additional signage is being installed.

The playground equipment is on schedule for delivery however, we may be delayed if we remain in the Orange Phase as the company is travelling from outside our zone. We do have a small playground committee and hopefully will have more volunteers for the fundraising and labour required. A huge thank you to the Home and School for our first playground donation of \$1763.14.

The district was able to remove the graffiti from the back of the shed in the back of the school.

Our new Emergency Evacuation location is the YMCA on Twin Oaks extension. Classes have practiced walking to this location and our full practice will take place when we return to the Yellow Phase. Our Lockdown practice is also postponed for now.

School Population

We have 644 students as of today with a few registrations in the cue for the coming weeks. We added a grade 7 English class the second week of school and now have 27 homerooms (9 English, 14 FI, 4 LFI).

School Life

We celebrated Orange Shirt Day on September 30th by completing an activity involving a video that was created by 6 Bocklandt.

The final judging for our Artists Grant will take place on October 15th. Five artists have been short listed for the \$50 000 grant.

Classes are heading outdoors for a 20 recess daily. The Orange Phase is presenting challenges for mask directives and yet, students are doing well with the tightened expectations. As of this afternoon, masks are required during PE classes and outdoor recess.

Student Council elections will take place over the next 2 weeks. Plans will be under way for some virtual events and hopefully a Halloween celebration within classes.

Classes are organized in team clusters that include five or six subject teachers. Teams have been working together to organize advisory activities as well as build team culture. The Meet the Teacher videos are also organized by team clusters and will be available by Friday of this week.

Teachers will be meeting next week to plan and learn more about options to support Office Teams. John Jamer will be released for 10 days to also support student learning for Teams.

We look forward to the return of extracurricular activities, Impact Time and flexible groupings as we are all missing the connection and opportunities these provided.