Mapleview Heights School Council
November 5, 2012
Library

Present are: Rob Prouty, Dennis Bradley, Mae Senick, Michelle Millson, Dawn Storey, Pat Wilson, Jason Geddes, Karen Frost, Jennifer Otis, Jessica Biga-Wadstein, Kelly Pegg, Beth Samra and Sarah Prime.

Meeting commenced at 6:35 pm

1. **Technology Dollars and What’s Happening (Mrs. Mildon & Mrs. Motta)**
- Teachers are doing a lot of communication through blogs, tests, assignments, etc these days.
- Mrs. Motta has her classroom blog password protected this year, that way she can post pictures, etc of the students. A benefit to have it not password protected is that they can communicate with a wider audience (example: communicate with a class in Africa, write to an author and they can respond through the blog).
- Kids of this generation are more technology driven, they tend to be more apt to type responses on the computer as opposed to putting pencil to paper.
- Computer literacy is very important for kids to have these days.
- There are two story telling/blog programs that Mrs. Mildon and Mrs. Motta are here to promote:
  - Xtra-normal - Kids tend to pick this program up quickly. The cost is $20/month for the teacher and $0.50/student. It would be about $160 for what they’re asking for (all grade 3’s for 2 months of use).
  - The education version of this program has 10,000 letters can be programmed in, as opposed to the free version they used for demonstration. With this program you can choose different characters, up to 4 different ones, they believe.
  - If teachers in the future would like to use this program, they would need to submit a proposal for why and for how long for approval.
  - Age wise, it's appropriate for grades 3-8. It's possibly a little too much for grade 2 and under.
  - Voki - The cost for this program is $50 for access to 100 students for 2 years.
  - There is only 1 character they can create and it can only speak for approximately 90 seconds. This is both good and bad. The student would need to get their point across quickly and concisely, but it doesn’t have the same flexibility as the other program. One interesting feature is you can get the character created to have an accent (maybe for a French presentation). Also you can record it your own voice.
  - There is still some typing needed by the kids, they would have to do same amount of work for a presentation but finished product would be more enticing to kids.

2. **EQAO Results 2011-2012 (Dennis Bradley)**
- There was a considerable drop off from the positive trends of the last few years.
- They spent about 3 ½ hrs going through the results with the staff on the September PA Day.
- What did the results represent? Significant drop off
- All – measures all students, including exempt students (ex. Special needs kids). We have a higher percentage of except students, but not enough to account for the drop off.
  - Grade 3 - Reading 5%, Writing 5%, Math 7% (board 2% 2% 2%)
  - Grade 6 - Reading 11%, Writing 11%, Math 10% (board 2% 2% 2%)
There was no contextual reason for drop off that could be seen.

Where do we go forward? We need to find a way to move our data back to the positive trend. This hasn’t been the norm and we hope it’s just an off year, but we can’t take that for granted.

We can go into the student data and gather error analysis. Breaking down each question with regards to board and province. Possibly have to revamp, re-evaluate and tweak time allotment for that area in the curriculum.

We need to back to essential classroom practices. See what works and what doesn’t. He received honest reflection from the staff. There have not been huge staffing changes to account for this,

Dennis and Rob have had conversations with the grade 4 & 7 teachers to see what they’re seeing this year (after seeing last June’s results) and to take those results into account with this years’ curriculum. Ex, would need to have grade 6 base to build on in grade 7.

There is a school improvement plan that can be posted on-line.

During the tests, there is a set amount of time for each section. Those that require extra time and/or a quieter space, etc, are accommodated for. This accounts for approximately 20% of the group.

3. School Budget (Rob Prouty)

- $70,984 is our budget for the year
- Rob used the allocation tool, input the money in to submit it to the board
- Taking the number of students (k, primary, intermediate, ds) there is $24,000 to go back to all the kids (approx 700 kids here) which comes out to about $40/kid (to put in perspective, keep in mind that a text book is about $50/kid).
- Details of the budget allocation are as follows:
  - Parent engagement - $500 (this is a grant we submit for)
  - Special ed - $4000 for whole school (learning materials, instructional supplies and services)
  - School administration $3890 (phone, postage, other supplies and services, computers)
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- Nothing to extra curricular activities, this is part of what we fundraise for. The school generally pays for one tournament, but any others they’d like to compete in would be paid for externally.
- French $2500 (learning materials, textbooks, instructional supplies and services)
- General classroom supplies $28500 (casual supply, learning materials, textbooks, photocopying and supplies, instructional supplies and services)
- No $ to the library, it fundraises for itself (book fair produces approximately 60% return on sales)
- JK/SK $4943 (learning materials, photocopying and supplies)
- Primary division $7296 (learning materials, textbooks, photocopying and supplies)
- Junior $6355
- Intermediate $4500
- DS/Life skills $1500
- Professional learning $7000

4. **Baby Leafs (Marlies)/Barrie Colts (Rob Prouty)**
   - The Marlies have offered us an opportunity to go to a game around March 5th, not all of the students would attend. There would be some curriculum connections, but is would primarily be a family day. The only part that makes Rob nervous is that with the labour issue with the teachers, things could go a little further, the situation is up in the air and ultimately unknown at the moment. With the possibility of it progressing, we don’t want to rely on the teachers to do this field trip. If we go ahead, we’d be smart to promote this as parents (or grandparents, guardians, etc) to go with the students. Rob wasn’t sure what the price is but we wouldn’t be making any money on it. If it’s a $20 ticket, that’s what it would cost us (+ bussing).
   - Kindergarten students would not generally go on this type of field trip because of the long travel time, but would be allowed if they went with a parent/guardian and older student.
   - There is a Colts game booked for Saturday December 15th vs. Plymouth Whalers. The cost is $18/ticket tax in and we’d get $6/ticket. Karen Frost and Kelly Pegg said they could help out.

5. **Halloween Haunt**
   - This went well with generally good feedback. There were only a couple of criers.
   - A couple more items were bought for future use.

6. **Volunteer Pledge (Dawn Storey)**
   - One of our goals as the School Council should be to bring more volunteers into the school.
   - Using the ptotoday.com website, a US site which we can’t subscribe to because we’re Canadian, Dawn found a volunteer pledge letter. Using this as a basis, she tweaked for our parents with options on what they can do to help out the school, a list of things/areas where help would be appreciated.
   - When approved, we could post this on the school website for all parents to see.

7. **Poinsettias (Michelle Millson)**
   - The forms will be coming out within the next few weeks. It's the same deal as last year. There will be one pick up day in December, last year pick up times were between approximately 3:30-6:30 in the multi-purpose room.
   - Rob asked for the school to be notified of the pick up day when verified as the after school program will have to be moved that day as they're in the multi-purpose room.

8. **Candy Cane Exchange (Dawn Storey)**
• This is an idea for grade 8 trip fundraising.
• This would involve the whole school, like a candy gram. Kids, teachers or parents could order.
• We'd use the larger candy canes with a note that says “Merry Christmas/Happy Holidays” where To and From is filled out.

9. Milk Program update (Heather Cloughley)
• Heather is not here, so there is no update as of yet.

10. Lunch Lady
• From the looks of it, no parent is needed to run this program, however we are only getting about $0.35/meal.
• The first week seemed to generally have positive feedback.

11. Basket Raffle (Michelle Millson)
• This is not going to be done in December as it typically has been as we're not sure if there will be a Christmas concert. We were thinking it would be better done in the Spring at the year-end barbecue. We would have the baskets done up and on display there as tickets tend to sell better when parents actually see them.

12. Fundraising Plan (Rob Prouty)
• Data shown is historical and not the actual numbers as of yet. If we’re doing it as a fundraiser, it has to be on the plan but it's not a big deal if we have extra items listed right now. Just because it’s on the plan, doesn’t mean we have to do it. We can amend or add to it at any time, it just needs to be signed when it's changed.
• Fundraiser / $ projected to make / what it will be going toward
  o Hot dogs $3000 – grade 8 trip & DS swimming
  o Chocolates $3000 - technology
  o Drink machines $300 – Cinderella fund
  o Book fair $2000 – library (made between $4-5k in October)
  o Pizza sales $6000 – classroom technology & software add-ons
  o Poinsettia $1500 – additional literacy needs
  o Grocery tapes $300 – library
  o Popcorn sales $2000 – grade 8 trip and general school needs
  o Kindergarten levy $10 – K crafts and programs
  o Pitas $2000 school presentations
  o Barrie Colts $1500 – Cinderella fund
  o Toronto Blue Jays game $1000 – year end barbecue
  o Basket Raffle $5000 – teacher class materials
  o Yearbook sales $800 – school music program
  o School photos $1200 – gardening club and general school needs
  o Sentsy Candle sales $50 – grade 8 trip
  o Dance-a-thon $5000 – general school needs
  o McGregor Meats $2000 – grade 8 trip
  o School donations $500 – general school needs
  o Pampered Chef sales $700 – grade 8 trip
  o Papa John’s pizza booklet sales $500 – grade 8 trip
  o Lunch lady $500 – Cinderella fund
  o Sub sales $2000 – School presentations and Cinderella fund
  o Primary Idol $3000 – Primary literacy funds
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- Terry Fox Run $1000 – community fundraiser
- Jump Rope 4 Heart $3000 – community fundraiser

13. Q&A/New Business
- Is it possible to ask parents how they want to receive their information? Email, on-line, paper? It seems a waste to get information on paper when you'd rather receive it electronically. Newsletters are posted on the school website as they come out.
- Maybe we can do a parent council newsletter on the website.
- It was mentioned last meeting if we can invite a trustee to a future meeting. Our trustee was busy this month but is tentatively coming in December. Please think of any questions you can bring forward to her.

- **Next Meeting:** Monday @ 6:30 pm
- Meeting adjourned at 8.40 pm