

Malvern Home & School Minutes - June 8, 2011

Present – Line Pinard, Diane Sharpe Leslie Rose, Casey Fleming, Vicky Tsorlinis, Emily McRae (recorder), Mike Izzo, Virginia Dawe, Diane Wyman

Welcome:

- Leslie kicked off the last meeting of the year and her last meeting as Chair. She commented that we had a great year, with good turnout to meetings, proactive parent participation, and many issues were addressed. She may come back as a community member. Casey & Diane will take over starting in September.

Students' Council & MSAA Report

- Duncan Tooley was re-elected as President. This year the Council hosted many great events, including recently the winter formal, and the grad BBQ. He introduced the new team – Kat Young (Secretary), Emma Finley (Spirit Leader), Raphaella Dagge (Social Convener), Graham Burgess (Grade 12 Rep), and Jamie Neal-Ellis (Treasurer). Not in attendance was Gracie James (External Affairs), Anthony Rizza (VP), Molly Sher (Grade 10 Rep) and Larry Chen (Grade 11 Rep).
- The new MSAA leaders are Jamie Porter and Margaux Daly.

Approval of May Minutes

- Reviewed & approved by Mike Izzo, seconded by Vicky Tsorlinis.

Treasurer's Report

- New Balance is \$11,056.64. More income & expenses are still expected from the Boardwalk Ball and Vicky will finalize in the September meeting. Breakdown provided as follows: Dutch Act \$1,160, Silent Auction \$1,145 and ticket sales \$3,890. We also received funds for the Staff Appreciation event from the OMF.

Principal's Report

- Thank you to Ginetta Peters for all her work in coordinating the update of the Grade 9 parent handbook. Many people have reviewed it and will be distributed in August to new students.
- Thank you to Vicky, without her there is no Boardwalk Ball! The baskets were wonderful. Vicky spent so many hours on them and it was well worth it. Her reputation is amazing!
- Casey, Jane, Diane, Leslie, Vicky and Chris all made an enormous impact to the Ball's success.
- Thanks to Leslie as she leaves after 4 years on the Home & School Committee. She participated on many committees including the pool, awards, monument restoration, and OMF committees. She dealt with many issues with parents, came to school to do many presentations to students and parents, spearheaded premier awards presentation, ministry grants, support for Red & Black day, attended school climate initiative and fundraising events. She went beyond the call of duty and has done an amazing job for Malvern's staff and students.

- Safe schools – It has been very quiet, with few disciplinary issues. Line would like cyber bullying & inappropriate use of electronics to be a focus item for next year. Often, students don't realize the repercussions of sending inappropriate pictures of themselves online. We should bring in speaker for parents & kids.
- Line would like volunteer parents at school during the first week of September to cover areas outside of school which would help to avoid issues off campus. An email will be sent out to solicit parent participation.
- Diane contacted Chris Vollum after she attended a session for parents focusing on the use of Facebook. She asked him to get back to her about presenting at Malvern next year.
- Physical plant – The school is getting a new PA system over the summer. Wireless ports are being installed in several sections of the school. Since we are part of the Nelson pilot project, the TDSB is paying for a number of these ports. We are hoping to get more laptops / netbooks/ IT equipment that different classes can use. We will have to establish a policy regarding students bringing their own laptops to the school.
- We will get a portable which will be stationed by the small gym. It's already timetabled and in use for every period.
- Pool committee has had no recent meetings. Our former pool captain Sharon Gomes has put together a proposal for additional "Swim to Survive" classes for this summer.
- Onward Malvern foundation – We received \$500 for rugby expenses and \$1,030 for the Staff Appreciation event. Diane will participate in this committee next year. We sent out an appeal for new members and have a new Treasurer, but would like more participants. The chair will be stepping down soon, so additional roles need to be filled
- Restoration committee met and will meet again next Monday at 4. Mike Izzo will be the Master of Ceremonies for the whole event. Our Drama teacher Erich Lehrer is helping stage the event and many community members are participating.
- School fees. Our registration fee will remain at \$75.00. Thanks to parents for their support of this fee which provides many opportunities for students to participate in additional activities at the school. The TDSB is being careful in how it charges classroom fees next year, especially for required courses. In the past, some books attracted extra charges, and they will no longer be charged. Fees would only apply for enhanced parts of program – for example, a phys ed uniform, or the option to buy better quality tools / supplies. Question was asked as to whether this may create an equity issue. The school would always address a situation where the fee was not affordable by a student / family.
- Staffing – The only teacher retiring is Ms Kee, after 36 years. Ms Dawe and Mr. Ouzas are taking a 1 year leave. Ms Blake will move on to be Instruction Leader for Science at the TDSB. Ms Sharpe has been promoted to a TDSB position for Student Success.
- Dates for registration in the fall have been set for Wednesday August 31 for Grades 9 and 10, and Thursday September 1st for Grade 11 & 12.
- This Friday we will have a double assembly in morning, and in the afternoon teachers will be available for questions. On Monday morning, teachers are available for tutorial, and in the afternoon most of the English exams will take place. Exams end on June 23, and on June 24 students can come into school to check their marks and

pickup their yearbooks. The graduation formal is June 24, with Down With Webster playing for those attending. On June 28 summer school registration begins, and on June 30 we plan to mail report cards but will email parents regarding alternate plans in the event of a postal strike.

Vice Principal's Report – Diane Sharpe

- FAQ's regarding the Assessment and Evaluation changes have been distributed. Our staff were asked to review for changes specific to our school, nothing major was recommended. They will be posted on the Malvern website. Teachers must employ a number of strategies including talking to the parents before marks are deducted. Policies may vary by department and grade level, and will be communicated in the course outlines to students at beginning of year.

EcoSchools Update – Virginia Dawe

- We achieved Platinum EcoSchools Certification despite tightened criteria. We have to score 88% to achieve this level. We gained points for collaborating with other schools in our area (Kimberley Beaches – where we planted herbs and taught students about going local). We lost points for not having the most effective paper recycling program. We did a waste audit in cafeteria as part of the eco class. Our next big challenge will be Phase 2 of Monument Restoration Plan, which will be landscaping with plants that compliment our butterfly garden, and more seating for outdoor classes, where we would earn eco points. We have invited Catherine Dorton who works for our trustee. Catherine is an expert at writing grant applications and will hopefully help us secure funding for these changes. Ms Dawe made a YouTube site just for Malvern (you need a link to it to view, but can't search for it) where videos of the waste audit and work with Kimberley school are posted. The videos were reviewed in the meeting.

School Climate Survey - Mike Izzo

- Mike has been leading issues around diversity and safety in the schools. It was mandated that schools have to do a School Climate Survey, basically about safety and underlying issues. We are renaming our team to "School Climate Council" from School Action Team. Mike is waiting for data from survey but it was not available yet, however the issues expected are hazing, homophobia, anti-violence, issues of class, and cyber bullying.
- In the past, Malvern had a central group but we want to take it to the next step. Ginetta Peters was our parent representative for these initiatives. Will move meetings to after school rather than noon to allow more people to get involved such as parents, Board staff, public health, and others. We cannot combat some of these issues unless we have all members of community on board and talking. Mr. Izzo is facilitating this change in structure over the coming year through these enhanced meetings and a cyber based hub.
- Plan is to facilitate improved communication and coordination through a website. Students from equity course will build it this summer, with sections for all the clubs and calendars to be posted. It will be public so any parents can view and include

blogging function to allow messaging. We have a \$500 grant from student success, and it will be up and running by September.

- We want to maintain strong link with 55 Division. There is a student based safe schools club that works closely with the police on various school activities, but the 55 Division liaison officers have currently been removed at Malvern. Much discussion followed regarding the benefit of this program and what we could do to influence the liaison program, which was deemed to be very beneficial to our school.

Music Council Report – Carolyn and Karen

- Distributed facts about the quality of the music program
- Successful at Vancouver Music Fest (silver and 3 bronze), participated in 3 Santa Claus parades, Beaches Easter parade, Red & Black day, alumni events, concerts, and Boardwalk Ball.
- Many congratulations were extended to the excellence of the band at the Boardwalk Ball. A \$500 payment was made by Home and School to the Music Department.
- Several fundraising events coincided with performance events, with good results.
- Next year, plan to do more fundraising for instruments.
- Ms Pinard recommended looking into various music grants available (up to \$10,000 may be available).
- Home and School Council would like to invite Carolyn and Karen back to present again in the fall when they have developed their new fundraising plan and to provide guidance on what they can / cannot do for fundraising.

Boardwalk Ball Report

- Updates provided earlier in this report.
- Next year, the Ball will be on June 8, 2012.
- The planning team will meet to discuss what went well or what could be improved. One recommendation was to start dinner earlier because many people are already there to drop off their kids.

Parents Reaching out Grant - \$1000

- Decided to pass on this grant for this year.
- The committee would like to have Michelle Keeley present, but may fund otherwise

Grade 9 Parents Handbook

- Ginetta Peters has updated and it is almost ready for release (see Principal's report)
- Will also include a letter re the hazing issues

GoingSolo Book Sales

- Sold 22 copies this year, which earns a \$150 profit for Home & School

New / Other Business

- Casey raised a question about using OMF funds for the band payment. Boardwalk Ball funds were used to make the band payment since it is required by the band immediately. OMF would not be able to generate funds until the fall.

- Leslie thanked Chris Gillis for all of his contributions to Malvern and Home & School. This is his last meeting. He hosted a wonderful Staff Appreciation event and made important contributions to the Boardwalk Ball and the OMF.
- Leslie thanked all the H&S participants for many great years working at Malvern.

Meeting ended at 9pm.