

Malvern Home and School Meeting Minutes December 7, 2010

Present:

Leslie Rose, Line Pinard, Claudine Tyrell, Vicky Tsorlinis, Casey Fleming, Diane Wyman, Diane Sharpe,

Welcome:

Leslie called the meeting to order. Diane Wyman and Casey Fleming introduced themselves as the new Vice Chairs.

Students' Council & MSA Report presented by Duncan Tooley – President

- Food drive ongoing for the holiday season– donations to be donated to Centre 55, there has been a great response thus far
- Clothing drive – to be donated to Out of the Cold program – great response, 6 bags thus far
- Candy grams on sale – money to be donated to charity
- Theme for December – Give Back to the Community
- Student Council has designed and is selling a school t-shirt, there are 6 colours available – tank tops available as well. Orders can be placed through Student Council in the cafeteria. To be delivered in January. They are also to be on sale at December 8th's Music night
- Holiday Assembly in auditorium – Dec 17 – special schedule planned with an early dismissal
- Jan 28 Winter Formal planned – venue may be Spirales– tickets will be \$32 - \$35 – need 200 people to be able to go ahead with the event. This event is targeted at students in grades 9 and 10 but is also open to grade 11 and 12 students

Equity Conference Update

- Mike Izzo - Chair of School Equity and Safe Schools Council presented an overview of the recent Equity Conference held in November
- Conference Objective – investigate justice issues, address safety issues such as; bullying, anti-homophobia
- There was an extensive list of guest speakers who spoke to many social justice topics such as; anti-violence (due to hazing focus this year), inclusion, anti-homophobia ...Some of the organizations offered to come back in March to follow-up on some of the topics explored
- Four day event – day 1 kick-off assembly, then an hour taken out of the middle of the day over three days for the workshops. Students attended classes those days on a shortened schedule
- Students asked for some focus on health, poverty, immigrants – these will be addressed at next year's conference
- Teachers have been asked to integrate these topics into their curriculum starting next year in order to extend the benefit of the conference
- Planning events for World Food Day –details TBA
- The school is building a partnership with King and Birchmount CI's – the purpose is to visit their feeder schools to address grade 8 students on school policy and what to do if they encounter hazing before they start grade 9
- These initiatives are in response to requests from the Parent Council, staff and students
- Thank you to all the parents who volunteered during the conference – this assistance was critical to the success of the event – it is an enormous amount of work to host a conference of

this magnitude– *we are looking for greater parent involvement next year to assist in the advance planning as well as to present workshops*

- *Mike will develop an appeal to parents to be released prior to the end of the school year*
- Student feedback collected but not yet tabulated
- Some initial student feedback indicates some frustration over insufficient space in some popular workshops –a suggestion was made to disallow students to register for the same workshop over several days in order to allow others to attend
- *Key to Learn* -an on-line registration system was used for this conference with very positive results
- *Safe school survey to be conducted with all students – annual survey developed by the Ministry of Education – a parent asked if the survey includes questions on drugs – feels that drugs and absenteeism need to be addressed at Malvern- concern is that drug use is starting at feeder schools*
- *Line explained that she has sponsored information sessions with parents on these issues in the past and that there are some funds available to host additional sessions if a parent wishes to take the initiative on this*

Approval of November Minutes

- Correction to names of Staff Appreciation Night hosts; Chris Gilliss and Karen Perry
- Casey Fleming passed motion to approve – seconded by Diane Wyman

Treasurer's Report presented by Vicky Tsorlinis

- Bank account currently at \$9020
- Commencement - \$665 donations; \$436.01 expenses
- Staff Appreciation - \$210 + \$50 additional donations tonight – total \$260 so far– funds in Home and School account traditionally used to make up the difference – this year the hosts, Chris Gilliss and Karen Perry, offered to donate the difference
- Casey suggested appealing to students to donate a loonie or toonie for this event in the future and possibly have a collection box during Parent/Teacher interviews
- Decision made to not fund-raise for this at the music festival as there is a lot of fund raising for the music trip

Principal's Report

- Commencement went very well – the traditional graduation cake was all eaten – a huge thank you to the parents who volunteered at this event particularly organizers Helen Coombe and Sharen Grieve and to those who contributed food
- Thank you to Ginetta Peters, the parent volunteer who hosted the presenters at the equity conference
- Laura McLeod to shadow Sharon Gomes as Pool Committee Chair this year
- Laura McLeod also sitting on Memorial Restoration Committee –has also offered to assist with publication of the archives
- Poinsettia sales going very well – toward BC Music trip fundraiser – were for sale during Teacher/Parent interviews and will also be for sale during the Holiday Concert
- Auditorium seats are in need of being replaced, there are three rows of new seats that have just been installed but several more are needed for which a sizable sum is required to fund – Diane Wyman has agreed to contact Wexford CI's lead parent to explore their fund raising initiatives – Diane will need a subcommittee to assist with this initiative

- Flood repairs complete – weight room restored
- Fermer Santos and her ICT Committee are looking at the installation of wireless internet for the entire school – it currently exists in parts of the school – Line would like Malvern to be among the first schools to be made completely wireless – it is a board initiative that all schools will be wireless within the next two years
- Safe schools meeting scheduled for Dec. 8 – Mike Izzo to Chair
- Snowballs –please talk with your children about the perils of throwing snowballs whether on school property or not
- There is a laneway near the Food Fair on Swanwick and Pickering Avenues in which students have been seen “hanging out” - the school is concerned about this and asks that you speak with your children about avoiding this area
- Parent /Teacher interviews – one suggestion made; to remind teachers to limit their meetings to five minutes per student per parent in order to avoid backing into others’ times, the implementation of an on-line registration system has received very positive feedback (95%)
- Parent Engagement Fund has \$500 – looking to parents to initiate ideas on how to use these funds
- Parents Reaching Out grant - \$1000 – schools apply for this to the Ministry of Education (Nanci Harris submitted our proposal this past spring) – Malvern was successful this year with grant to fund ten sessions with a counsellor for ten students and/or their families – to be administered through Guidance and VPs’ recommendations
- Premier’s Award for Teaching excellence – Claudine Tyrell recipient in 2009/2010 nominated by a parent last year – applications for 2010/2011 are now available. Deadline is January 31, 2011.
- Malvern CI only TDSB school that had 7 City champions or finalists for Fall sports: Cross country (3), field hockey (2) and rugby (2). Congratulations to our coaches and athletes!

Vice Principal’s Report delivered by Diane Sharpe

- Diane presented the School’s Improvement Plan – every school has a plan, this is not unique to Malvern – the School Board releases their plan on which each school aligns itself with.
- The Malvern Plan:
 - Literacy, numeracy, pathways, community, culture, and caring are the six key focus areas – looks at programming and establishing goals for improvement and how these are to be achieved
 - Literacy goals – generally achieve high EQAO scores so the focus is to be on Special Education students to improve their EQAO results
 - Numeracy focus to be placed at the applied level
 - A lot of work on equity, pathways, how to assess to really support learning – want the focus to be on valuable feedback to support the learning process
 - Learning team strategy – each department embedding equity theme into their curriculum
 - Board will review for approval

Guidance Department Report

- Focussing on guiding grade 11 students with course selections to ensure they take courses that will prepare them well for achieving future goals
- Information sessions on My Blueprint - community involvement hours, resume, course information to help guide students on how to plan effectively for their pathway of choice; University, College, Apprenticeship, Workplace

- Specific to Grade 11:
 - Jackson Vocational Interest Survey (JVIS) – administered with grade 11's in response to confusion about course selections – very detailed – helping students to plan for career planning and university applications
 - Shad Valley – four week university experience for students in their summer between grade 11 and 12 – highly recommended for students who are university bound
 - Duke of Edinburgh award – covers 4 pillars – community involvement, outdoor excursions, athletics, skills – three levels – gold, silver, bronze – each level has requirements to complete for each level
- Specific to Grade 12:
 - Representatives from various universities have visited Malvern
 - Students are applying now to their choice of schools
 - Have organized a Grade 12 university panel of first year students (Malvern grads) who are coming to speak to grade 12 students about their first year experience on December 17 at 9AM
 - Grade 12 students' summaries of volunteer activities, academic achievements, extra-curricular activities due Dec. 17

Malvern Red & Black Society represented by Vandra Mason - President

- Vandra provided an introduction to the society and an update on current activities
- In 2003 Malvern had their Centennial celebration – 4000 people attended. The society originated from this event
- Society was originally created to keep Malvern Alumni in touch with each other and the school and to raise money for school initiatives
- Society's mandate is twofold; to serve alumni and current school community interests
- Currently fund raising for storing archival materials, restoring old books and the restoration of the war memorial
- The society donated money to saving the pool in spring 2009
- They publish a newsletter, often with original research on Malvern topics – have three Facebook pages and are on Twitter
- Have files on illustrious Malvernites such as Glenn Gould, Doris McCarthy, Matthew Jocelyn, Norman Jewison
- Are currently researching each of the names of the boys listed on the War Memorial
- Organize regular alumni reunions including special receptions for Malvern senior alumni

Staff Appreciation Night

- 308 Glen Manor Drive 4:00 Thursday Dec. 9, hosts Chris Gilliss and Karen Perry

War Memorial Restoration Update

- Fund raising in excess of the cost of the restoration is to be dedicated to lighting, landscaping, a rededication ceremony, and ongoing maintenance
- War Memorial Restoration – have achieved fund raising goal– have requested \$14,000 grant from Veterans Affairs Canada (approval anticipated imminently) – restoration to begin in spring
- Metro Skilled Trades Council donated \$9,000 which made a significant difference to the fund raising effort as well as sizeable donations from; the Commins Family and the Pace Trade Union

Pool Committee Update

- Doing well
- Open swim now available on Saturdays
- Blast e-mail to be sent about additional swimming available to community

Onward Malvern Foundation – Volunteers Needed

- Charitable organization
- All tax-receiptable donations are made through the foundation and then redirected
- Meet approximately once per month

Malvern Music Parents Council

- Newly formed committee - seeking new members as they have ambitious fund raising goals
- The music program at Malvern is very well established and well respected across the city for a non-arts school
- Have an opportunity to attend a prestigious music festival *The National Music Fest* in Richmond BC in May – are fund raising to cover the significant admission cost – families are to cover travel costs
- Uniforms need to be replaced as they are becoming thread bare – a uniform costs approximately \$1700
- Poinsettia sales is the first fund raising initiative – has been very successful thus far

New/Other Business

- Suggestion made to post the Malvern Handbook on the school's website – to be raised for discussion at the May meeting
- Parent Carolyn Curren suggested the creation of a Concerned Parent Network for those with serious concerns about drugs and other teen issues – Line is able to provide a permit to meet at the school as well as funds to the group for speakers if desired – this needs to be initiated by a parent committee
- Diane Wyman expressed concern about donor fatigue among parents given the numerous initiatives so far this school year – suggested a discussion on this topic to consider fund raising initiatives overall and to look for alternate sources of funds such as organizations