

Malvern Home and School Meeting - March 1, 2011

Present: Line Pinard, Fermer Santos, Claudine Tyrell, Leesa Blake, Virginia Dawe, Leslie Rose, Casey Fleming, Vicky Tsorlinis, Emily McRae (recorder)

- Welcome & introduction of guests
 - Casey Fleming opened the meeting and introduced Sheila Cary-Meagher
- Student council & MSAA report – Clare Merchant
 - On March 31, MSAA is holding an overnight Sport-a-thon to raise money for underprivileged children through Right to Play. It is a night of sporting events and games, plus a study room option. There is the potential for community hours, but this is yet to be confirmed. The cost is \$25 to cover food, although requests have been made to local food stores for donations which would increase the amount raised. Staff will supervise students overnight. There will be an email blast sent out with information shortly, with a reminder about fundraising sent a week before the event.
 - Congratulations to the many athletic teams who have had some recent successes– volleyball, swimming, hockey, curling, basketball, ski & snowboard.
 - Friday at lunch, there will be floor hockey finals, and the top student team will play against the teachers & police team.
- Approval of February minutes
 - Correction to spelling of Lianne’s name.
 - Approved by Leslie Rose, seconded by Barb Shnell.
- Treasurer’s Report
 - Balance of \$8,270. This amount does not reflect the following outstanding Cheques:
 - Chris Gillis \$1,444,
 - Canopy for X-Country Team \$1,372,
 - Funds transferred to OMF for \$900.
 - \$500 deposit for this year’s Boardwalk Ball at Bluffers Park.
 - Closing balance reflecting these items will be \$4062.85
 - We can request \$500 from OMF for deposit for Boardwalk Ball.
- Principals Report
 - Thank you to Leslie for organizing the two Parents’ Seminars.
 - Safe schools update. It has been a fairly uneventful month. We participated in a joint submission with King and Birchmount for School Climate funding and were awarded \$9,000, which will be used to communicate with the feeder schools to address the safety and transitions concerns of incoming students presently in Grade 8.

- Claudine provided additional information on this program. We are teaming with Trinity Theatre, the TDSB, and 15 to 20 students from the participating high schools to put together a theatric program to present to the feeder schools in May. An update will be provided to the Home & School meeting and Staff meetings in May. Topics will include bullying, drug & alcohol use, and transition from grade 8 to 9. The location is expected to be Birchmount High School and it will be taped so that those who are interested can watch it afterwards.
- Pool change room renovations started today, including privacy cubicles, and painting, to help increase permit revenues. Pool statistics interviews are completed and the results are expected to be posted on the internet in the near future, which will allow people interested in permits to see what each facility has to offer. We have had a healthy increase in permits.
- An Onward Malvern Foundation (OMF) meeting was held last month, where fund allocation was discussed. The OMF transferred approximately \$28,000 back to the Malvern Red & Black Society for monument restoration, \$2,000 to the music department for uniform repair & renewal and \$1,000 for a new girls' "boxing for fitness" club, which is intended to build confidence, and not for competition.
- Cell phone use update. We have taken steps to address concerns raised by parents. A memo was sent to staff reiterating our policy and how they should implement it in the classrooms. If there are recurring issues with a student using their cell phone, the hall monitor can be called to address with the student. If it continues to recur, the student's parents will be called to pick up the phone. Parents need to help the school by supporting the policy and adhering to appropriate boundaries for cell phone use at school. A discussion followed regarding how we are still learning how to fit this technology into the classroom in a meaningful way.
- This week is Peace Week and as part of that, tomorrow is our World Food Day. We will have an extended lunch including foods from all around the world. Cost is \$1/ticket, which will get you a serving at each station. We will also be selling "Me to We" T-shirts, priced between \$15 and \$25 with proceeds going to Free the Children.
- Thursday is late start for teacher review of the new report card comments.
- On March 5 Orchestral Zeppelin will be held at the school with tickets priced at \$30. Our music students will get the opportunity to play with professional musicians.
- Monday March 7 is the deadline for course selection sheets. Over 250 students still haven't handed in their selection sheets.
- Report cards will be issued on March 11. Online sign up for Parent / Teacher interviews will be used again, as we had a lot of positive feedback last fall. Interviews are March 24 from 2-4 and 6-8. A blast email will be sent out to announce dates and provide instructions.
- On March 25 we will have a late start and Earth Hour events from 2 to 3 during which the school will "go dark", with all electrical devices turned

off. Teachers are encouraged to reduce electricity for the entire day, except where needed to provide safety in halls and washrooms.

- Vice Principal's Report- Fermer Santos
 - EQAO literacy test is scheduled for Thursday March 31 in the morning for 291 Grade 10 students and any others who missed it. 41 students will be accommodated in a special setting. The rest of the student body will start the school day at 12:40 for 35 minute classes. Prior to March 31, all students writing the test will have an assembly to cover how to prepare, and tips to do well. Malvern has always done well in the past. Blast emails went out today and students received a hard copy letter. Grade 10 English classes are covering some aspects in their classes, but an email will be sent including a "getting ready" guide and a "keyword" guide so they understand the terminology. The test covers the grade 9 curriculum. Please go to www.eqao.com for more information.
 - Malvern is one of the pilot schools participating in Nelson Education's program developing new teaching tools, such as digital textbooks. Six teachers participated and were very excited about implementing the program. The VP of Nelson agreed to expand the use in our school, using the 24 subject areas they have developed. To support this, IT will be looking at our school to expand our wireless capabilities so that we can be early adopters.

- School Facilities Update – Sheila Cary-Meagher
 - Have been pursuing solar panels for the schools, but not all schools will qualify depending on how they are configured. Estimate 450 schools that can be done and are evaluating capabilities. However, we have learned that Toronto Hydro cannot accept the generated electricity in the city centre, so are assessing where it is practical to proceed. Potential for income from the sale of electricity is very high.
 - The board can no longer borrow money; must work with what the province provides. Result is limited funds to meet facilities requirements in the schools. Many challenges getting the right projects funded.

- Our Green Future Project Update – Catherine Dorton
 - Environmental co-coordinator for Ward 16
 - Mandate is to get additional green initiatives going in schools working with parents. Launching pad is energy audits that Sheila had commissioned. Look at issues such as electricity use, waste management and determine what can be improved taking into consideration what is in the parent community and school community's control to improve.
 - She is an experienced grant writer, and will work to expand our funding to support these initiatives. Will share successes in one school across the Ward to other schools.

- She is attending eco schools meeting to see how we're tracking. She will be getting involved with a greening committee of parents to set some priorities.
 - It was mentioned that we could use funding for butterfly garden; the goal is for it to be a certified way station.
 - Leesa Blake mentioned that our school doesn't have much space for big trees. Last year we got 4 very small new trees, which needed special care. Outside the fence is city property, so it can't be used for new trees. Discussion followed about opportunities for vertical gardening, solar panels, and a roof garden on the north gym, but there have been many challenges to implement any of these projects.
 - Leslie Rose asked about the second stage of the war memorial renovation - the beautification stage. Could we apply for funds to do this?
 - A pilot project funded by the Ministry of Education has concluded. It included 9 schools that had their roofs outfitted with solar panels. Kew Beach participated and is going to expand the program through a community co-op which is broadly community based, selling bonds that would be RESP eligible to fund it. Malvern didn't qualify for an earlier application for solar panels due to the configuration of our roof.
 - Our Green Future project is expanding the role of schools in providing information about the potential impact of greening opportunities in our world.
 - Currently there is no ability for recycling of food waste in our school since we have no pickup process. Asked Catherine to help us to implement programs.
 - Catherine's email is catherinedorton@gmail.com
- Parent Seminar on Bullying Feedback
 - 35 people registered and 20 attended
 - Feedback was positive, people found it quite valuable.
- Boardwalk Ball Update – Vicky Tsorlinis updated
 - Event to be held on Friday June 3 at Bluffers Park.
 - Committee met last Saturday.
 - Vicky is managing the Dutch auction, and is targeting 40 baskets. Donations are way down compared to last year so she suggested we do 2 blast emails to request donations.
 - Silent auction donations are also required.
 - Casey is managing tickets production and sales.
 - The committee is creating a letter that can be taken to companies to solicit silent auction donations. This should be here at our next meeting.
 - Any volunteers for the committee are welcome, and we will also need volunteers on that day to monitor the silent & Dutch auction.
 - Last year we sold 130 tickets, and this year we are targeting 100 to 130 attendees. We will start selling tickets in May.

- New / Other Business
 - Leesa Blake – students asked about a Galapagos trip for March break next year. Will consider pure tourism or combine with volunteering.

The meeting closed at 8:45.