

Malvern Home & School Meeting
Minutes of November 3, 2009

Present: Line Pinard, Jennifer Nahorniak (chair), Leesa Blake, Claudine Tyrell, Fermer Santos, Marlene Bourdon-King

Regrets: Leslie Rose, Vicky Tsorlinis

1. **Welcome** to all present, attendance list circulated.
2. **Student Council Report – Paige Sopik**
 - Halloween Fashion Show – both students and staff participated, big success
 - November – Malvern on the Move T-shirt design contest –winner’s shirt will be printed for sale – proceeds to go to a local charity not yet named. There will be other Malvern on the Move activities in December.
 - Equity Club (Brick by Brick) – a Vow of Silence is being held on Nov 20th where Malvern students collect pledges and take a vow of silence in respect of those in developing countries who do not have a voice. Proceeds going to Feed the Children. Last year’s event raised \$4000 which went towards building a well in Sierra Leone.
3. **Review of October minutes:**
 - a. Clarification re: Terry Fox Run – it was the Grade 10 Class 10B which raised the most money but were not named the winning home run because they did not have the greatest number of students participating. Their contribution will however be recognized.
 - b. Motion by Helen Coombe to accept the minutes, seconded by Marlene Bourdon-King – motion passed.
4. **Treasurer’s Report:** Vicky is absent tonight but all matters related to transfer of signing authority for her and co-chair Leslie Rose has been transitioned from last year’s treasurer. Full report in December. At present we have approximately \$7000 in the bank. One outstanding bill from the Boardwalk Ball being handled.
5. **Guidance Presentation – Claudine Tyrell**

Called “My Blueprint” this is an initiative by the TDSB to empower students and parents in course and school selection for post-secondary study including university, college and apprenticeships. Students create an account online which enables them to see which schools offer which programs, cost, allows for side by side school comparisons on a variety of factors as well as what is required in high school for them to be eligible. Students can create their own goal lists and create/upload resumes.

Ms. Tyrell profiled a mock student account – also has capacity to record extra-curricular activities which is helpful for university requirements. The website is personalized for each school and lists only those courses offered at that school. Guidance staff are beginning to be trained in the use of this tool and being introduced to Grade 12 students. Parents are encouraged to go online and familiarize themselves with the tool.

For Grade 12s there is some capacity to pick up extra courses that may be required via semester e-learning but students need to register soon! Information about the tool will be available on the school's website and the password will be embedded in the website itself. For more information contact Guidance.

6. Presentation by Leesa Blake – Curriculum Leader Science

Ms. Blake presented on Malvern's designation as a **Specialist High Skills Major** with a focus on the environment. We had previously received Gold status as an eco-school so our focus on the environment for this designation is appropriate. Ms. Blake has contributed significant work and preparation in order for Malvern to achieve this designation.

Students who complete this receive a designated diploma. Students must apply specifically for this stream – for Grade 11 & 12s it connects to career and post-secondary studies in terms of the economy of green industries. It follows all four paths but currently apprenticeships and workplace opportunities do not exist. She reviewed potential “green jobs” and outlined courses currently available at Malvern – contact Guidance Office for more information.

This stream requires completion of 2 co-op credits and they are expanding this to provide for a 4 credit co-op option as well. Students also benefit from receiving certification (which is required) in 7 areas: First Aid, WHMIS, GPS, CPR (these first four are mandatory) and also Paddling, Pleasure Craft and Leave No Trace (a program that teaches students how to go into the environment and not leave substantial negative impacts). This additional certification adds to their employability. They will also have the opportunity to attend other specialist events including a visit to the Peregrine Foundation, seeing the play Toxic Avenger.

Next steps involve developing the 4 credit co-op; one credit can be completed in the summer or at night school or as a part time evening job during the year. Currently there are no SHSM courses available in French. Teachers who participate receive a 6 hour training. Contact Ms. Blake at 416-393-1480 Extension 20096 for more info – leave a message if no answer.

7. **Principal's Report: Ms. Line Pinard**

- Thanks to Leslie Rose for representing Home & School at the Red & Black Day – which was a full out success! Ms. Pinard was in the parade in Mr. Sasabuchi's Delorean. There were cheerleaders and the marching band. The event was filmed for Rogers Cable 10. Kids behaved very well. Malvern lost two and won 2 of the games. We achieved the goal of encouraging school spirit. She acknowledged the extraordinary efforts of Leslie Gage who coordinated this event. Feedback is positive to repeat next year and participation will be enhanced as Birchmount Stadium is increasing their seating capacity. Thanks to everyone who participated!
- Thanks to Nanci Harris, Jenn Nahorniak and Leslie Rose for completing the grant application for the TDSB "Parents Reaching Out" proposal. No word yet on if we were successful but based on enthusiastic response from parents as to workshops they would be interested in, Home & School Executive is committed to making some of these events happen regardless. 76 responses to the survey received; majority of parents would like a presentation on "The Art of a Conflict Free Conversation with Your Child" and there was also strong interest in sessions on the Millennial Learner, Teens & Substance Use.
- We have a new .5FTE teacher – Ms. Charline Dass – three large English classes will be reduced as a result of her joining Malvern's teaching team.
- Ms. Pinard informed group of Nickie Lewis – office administrator's serious accident which occurred last week. She is presently in hospital and is progressing. Our thoughts and best wishes are with her. Responding to her accident involved the use of the defibrillator and also initiated a reorganization of office roles to ensure backups exist for critical tasks.
- Physical plant – We have been inspected by the Board and will be getting wireless capability in the Library shortly. This makes Malvern one of the first schools to receive such capability.
- H1N1 Update: parents have received information on what is happening. It has had considerable impact on the school – measures such as increased cleaning and provision of hand sanitizer in the classrooms. So far there is not an appreciable increase in absenteeism that is attributed to it specifically. A phone tree for staff has been established. The Board has a preparedness plan in place. Be advised - if your child is feeling unwell or experiencing symptoms that are flu like please have them **STAY HOME!**

Nanci reviewed resources about H1N1 on the Ministry of Health's website: <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/ccom/flu/> - There are amazing resources including locations of clinics, a flu assessment tool and tips for staying healthy provided. While lab testing for H1N1 is not being done outside of hospital admissions, a definitive marker of H1N1 is a sudden onset of fever 38.5 or higher. People are advised to get to their doctor

within 48 hours onset of the fever as antivirals such as Tamiflu are being administered to assist with minimizing the impact of the disease.

- **Onward Malvern Foundation:** they met last week. Receipting is now underway and they are strategizing new directions. As for the money raised for the pool to remain open – at present under advisement this money is in a separate account until more direction for its disbursement is received. Hopefully this direction will come by January – this money includes \$25 from each student’s activity fee. We are experiencing increased permit use of the pool which is helping with revenues. The pool is also going to be upgraded.
- Upcoming Dates: Nov. 4th – Take Your Child to Work Day for Grade 9’s, Nov 11th – Remembrance Day auditorium (focus on WWII and profile of last year’s trip to France by Malvern students), Nov 13th – Commencement, Nov 20th – Vow of Silence, Nov 22nd – Malvern Marching Band is in the Santa Claus Parade and Nov 24th – Student Equity Conference.
- Ms. Pinard profiled Malvern’s considerable success at the Toronto Cross Country Championship – Malvern won two trophies long held by Birchmount and Leaside! There are pictures in the current edition of Beach Metro News. They will be competing in OFSAA this Saturday. In addition, Girl’s Field Hockey is also going to OFSAA.

8. **Vice Principal’s Report – Ms. Fermer Santos**

- Reminded parents the first reporting period is coming up. Report cards going out soon.
- Parent Teacher Night is Thursday Dec 3rd from 2-4 and 6-8pm. Parents are reminded to have their kids set up appointments with time in between to accommodate if they have to go to different locations. Majority of interviews held in the Cafeteria and the Library. All interviews are 4 minutes and efforts are made to honour that time – parents are asked to be mindful and courteous so they don’t extend that time at the expense of other parents waiting to see a teacher. If the issue is serious parents are reminded they can always set up an individual appointment with a teacher.

9. **Commencement: Helen Coombe**

- Provided update on current status of volunteers, invitation for parents to contribute items of food or \$ to purchase pizzas. There will be a presentation cake. Still needs assistance with picking up balloons the day of the event. Thanks to Helen for her outstanding coordination of this event and for everyone’s help to date!

10. **Staff Appreciation Night**

- Date set for December 7th. A blast email to go out Nov. 20th inviting parents to support this event that recognizes all Malvern staff. Thanks again to Nazli for her generous hospitality in hosting for the 7th year!!!

11. Vintage Clothing Fundraiser – Jenn Nahorniak

- Currently 21 orders received for sales for Home & School totaling \$1400. Money is allocated depending on which group sells items (us, Red & Black Society, Student Council).

12. Other Business:

- Uniforms for Girl's Basketball Team – the current uniforms have deteriorated considerably. Regrettably too late to rectify this year but will be replaced for next season. Historically team members purchase their own and keep them but some need to be purchased by Malvern for those students who cannot afford their own. Also identified some challenges with communication and recognizing this team – this is the staff advisor's role and will be addressed. Parents expressed a willingness to assist in any way.
- Concern expressed re: current amount of teacher absences – Line clarified this is an unusual situation resulting from a combination of Professional Development sessions, illness, individual teacher training and sports events. An issue is getting the kids to take the supply teachers seriously as permanent teachers leave extensive work to be done.
- Boardwalk Ball – Angela Wall reported on challenges with securing a local site. Nanci to look into renting Beach United Church east campus, Angela will pursue Balmy Beach Club and Ashbridges Bay Yacht Club. More info on this event next meeting.