

Maple Ridge Secondary School
Parent Advisory Council Meeting
November 21, 2011: 7pm

Minutes

In Attendance: 10 Parents; S. Derinzy (Principal), D. Watt (Acting Vice-Principal,) C. Raible (Vice Principal); 6 Guests

New Business: Presentations from School Groups/Teachers requesting PAC gaming account funds

- a) Mark Beale (Social Studies teacher). Epic Project. Teaches Comparative Civilizations course (120 Grade 12 students) which is very popular as famous for EPIC project which coincides with social responsibility week (just before Spring Break). Last year's project was on genocide. Classroom becomes a museum & all students in the school go through the "museum" to educate to students about an issue; the "museum" is also open in evenings (Monday & Tuesday) This year's topic is children and war. \$1000 has been approved in the past and being requested again this year. This project has always come in under budget.
- b) Lorne Ward (Athletic Director) Three goals: Pursuit of Excellence, Lifelong Fitness, Avoid User Fees for Grade 8 & Juniors Teams. In last year, 565 students have participated in sports clubs. 101 games played in MRSS Gyms last year. Gyms at MRSS plus Mt. Crescent Annex and several other elementary schools are used extensively throughout the week. Department doesn't ask Coaches to fund raise. Senior Team members continue to pay team fees. Costs for Uniforms, Registrations Fees, Referees, Transportation are ongoing concerns. Requesting for \$10,000 to support program.
- c) Rick Halas (MRSS Alumni & current parent). Predominate features we see when coming to the school are fences, cracked pavement and stark/austere appearance of school grounds. Rick makes comparison to other schools in District which are generally more treed/landscaped than MRSS. Benefits of trees/landscaping – improve micro climates, reduce carbon emissions & symbolic nature of trees, improve ambiance, allow shade for students, uplifting/inspiring environment, improved aesthetics. In last year, Rick has attempted to create partnership to work on MRSS landscape improvements but is requesting PAC support and seed money for project. He continues to look into fundraising options. Simple landscape plan has been developed with interest groups & professional landscaper Estimate of \$2821 requiring parent volunteers; \$3600 for professional landscape firm. Principal Derinzy notes the need for landscape firm to be responsible for maintaining trees/shrubs for first year to establish plants.
- d) Sacha Page (Guidance counsellor) appearing on behalf of basketball program. Mr. Page sights long history of basketball excellence at MRSS. At present there are 3 teams totalling approx 100 students that play frequently during the season. Requesting funding for The GUN – rebounding machine for use at basketball practise. New \$5000, refurbished \$3500. Beneficial for students to improve shooting skills which are much more difficult to develop without this type of machine.
- e) Wanda Young (Teacher/Librarian). Library is very busy throughout the day and very well used at lunchtime. Most students go through Library at some point & on average 3 classes per day use the library computers. Ms Young identified lack of computer capability to access online data resources due to old computers, slow computers which create frustration. Sites lots of benefits from having new iMACs (12 replaced last year through PAC funds). Requesting replacement of EMACs to increase to classroom set to 25 new iMacs. \$16,000 to replace additional 13 EMACs. Old EMACs are approx 10 years old & will be redistributed to other classrooms. (see PDF Requests for Funds for PAC #2 – Page 2)

- f) Special Education Program (see see PDF Requests for Funds for PAC #1 (p1-3) and PDF Requests for Funds for PAC #2 – Page 1)
- g) The Digital Arts Academy (see PDF Requests for Funds for PAC #2 – Page 3)
- h) Road Safety Signs for Special Events (see PDF Requests for Funds for PAC #2 – Page 4)
- i) Strategic Games Club (see PDF Requests for Funds for PAC #2 – Page 5)
- j) MRSS Wrestling Team (see PDF Requests for Funds for PAC #2 – Page 6)
- k) Girls and Boys Rugby Program (see PDF Requests for Funds for PAC #2 – Page 7)
- l) Auto-Mechanics Program (see PDF Requests for Funds for PAC #2 – Page 8)
- m) Junior Field Hockey Team (see PDF Requests for Funds for PAC #2 – Page 9)

Treasurer notes that PAC has requests for funds of approximately \$86,000 but only \$38,000 in funds to distribute. Discussion re: criteria for deciding how to allocate PAC gaming grant funds: 1) provides the greatest benefits to the most number of students; 2) fair distribution between Depts/programs (e.g. Depts that have been given funds in past years may have less priority); 3) fits with school priorities (e.g. upgrading the library); 4) greatest immediate need. Administrators to review request first and may be able find other means to fund some of the requests. Comments that many previous school fundraisers (e.g. candy machines) have dried up – other schools have charged fees for participating in extracurricular clubs & teams. Other written proposals will be scanned & emailed out with minutes. Decision regarding approval of funding requests deferred to December 12 PAC meeting.

Correspondence: Thank you letter for Library computers

Treasurer's Report: General Account \$4,082.70; Gaming Account \$39,786.62

DPAC : no report as representative not present

Chair report: Special Olympics has requested time to make presentation at next PAC meeting.

Principal's Report: Highlights in past month: Take your kid to work day, Post-Secondary Night, and Remembrance Day services which was completely planned and executed by students. Swim club won 6 Golds in recent BC Championships. Job action: no escalation or change from previous meeting. Dec 15/11 report cards may be sent out with only attendance information depending upon Labour Relations decision if report cards are deemed to not be essential services. Teachers are still responding to requests for information from parents and Counsellors are following up if there are educational concerns for parents/teachers. Upcoming events: Dec 1 - Christmas Dance, Dec 3 - Food Drive at Superstore (85-90 students committed to helping), Dec 5 & 6 - Ridge Music Dessert Concerts at ACT, Dec 6 - Dinner for last year's winner of MRSS Governor General's award, Fri, Dec 9 - Glenwood Elementary invited to school for Christmas lunch, Dec 16 - Christmas Assemblies for students which are a much anticipated tradition at MRSS, Christmas Cabaret.

Approval of Minutes of October meeting: tabled to next meeting.

Adjourned at 8:40 **Next meeting: December 12, 2011 at 7pm**

***PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE MINUTES ARE IN "DRAFT ONLY" FORM. THESE MINUTES WILL BE APPROVED AND ACCEPTED AT December's PAC MEETING.