

Maple Ridge Public School School Community Council Meeting

DATE: Monday December 1st, 2025

ATTENDANCE:

In Person: Patrick Li (Principal), Daad Samaha (Vice-Principal), Amy Patel (Teacher Representative), Lindsay, Sandrine, Jenn C., Victoria S, Kathleen, Hannah, Niki, Michelle D., Camille, Sachin, Brianna (MRPS Staff), Victoria V. (MRPS Staff), Stephanie (MRPS Staff), Paige

Online: Amonnie, Ashley, Paula

Meeting opened at 6:14pm

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS, ACTIONS & MOTIONS:

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Sandrine welcomed attendees to the 2nd SCC meeting of the school year
- Meeting participants observed readings of:
 - Our Land Acknowledgement
 - SCC Code of Ethics

2. Dec 1st Meeting Agenda Changes

- a. None requested

3. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

- a. Meeting Minutes from our first 2025/2026 SCC meeting on Monday October 6, 2025, were approved as presented. **Motioned by Lindsay and seconded by Camille.**

4. Action Item Follow Up:

1. Oversight of MBA Program:

- a. Sandrine, Yves, Ms. Feltham, Mr. Li and student leaders from our MBA (Maple Ridge Black Students Association) attended a meeting with the [Women's Multicultural Resource and Consulting Centre of Durham](#), an organization that supports Black families in

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Durham Region and students in school settings (with an anti-racism focus). The intent of the meeting was to start and maintain a partnership with this organization to help provide oversight of our MBA Program.

2. Classroom Tech Time:

- a. Mr. Li and Ms. Samaha addressed Staff about the use of unstructured tech time in the classroom (i.e. bring your Switch or iPad Day and free use on school's devices) based on concerns raised by SCC about excessive use of screen time in many classrooms (not all), replacing formal instruction time.
- b. A BIG thank you to Niki for her Lego donation, creating another potential activity in place of unstructured tech time. Also discussed idea of creating "Fun Boxes" as alternatives.
- c. Michelle D mentioned the use of "Go Guardian" within the TDSB that allows teachers to monitor student's online activities. To our knowledge, this software is not currently being used within the DDSB.

This concern, raised by the SCC during our October meeting, will be monitored ongoing and will be resurfaced as a discussion item as needed. **Patrick Li to conduct an "environmental scan" to gauge 1) if frequent unstructured tech time remains a reality for classes after his staff discussion, 2) willingness from teachers to uptake a fun box as an alternative to reduce screen time, and 3) types of games they would want**

3. Availability of Parent Volunteers with Complete Vulnerable Sector Checks

- a. A communication was sent encouraging parents/guardians to register as volunteers and to complete the required background screening. Mr. Li shared that MRPS now has many more parent volunteers, with completed or initiated checks, helping to increase our pool of volunteers as needed for field trips, classroom activities, etc.

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4. Teachers' Wish Lists

- a. Following Mr. Li's Principal's report, Ms. Patel presented a wish list of items to purchase from Teachers (wish list was requested by SCC). Items include:
 - i. Boomwhackers for music class
 - ii. Expo-brand dry erase markers and white boards, white board erasers
 - iii. Watercolour paints, paint brushes and paper
 - iv. Class set of noise-cancelling headphones
 - v. Books for "Battle of the Books" competition
 - vi. Glue sticks, thin and regular Sharpie markers
 - vii. Foam balls for the gym
 - viii. Skipping ropes, basketballs, rubber balls, chalk, pylons,
 - ix. Garden trowels for garden club
 - x. Exact quantities of these items for the specific classes who requested them will be needed to determine cost and affordability by the SCC. There was also a discussion about teachers directly requesting donations to their classroom families instead of the SCC.

5. Principal's Report

- a. Mr. Li presented activities and events taking place in October through December, including but not limited to:
 - i. Cross-Country Finals
 - ii. Effie recognized as MRPS' Volunteer of Distinction, celebrations held at DDSB Head Office
 - iii. Student Council Elections complete and Council has resumed
 - iv. Girls Inc Program continues
 - v. Parent / Teacher Interviews held
 - vi. Launch of the Cricket Club
 - vii. Grade 8 classes visit Dunbarton or Pine Ridge to prepare for Grade 9, visits to O'Neil to occur on Dec 17th
 - viii. Field Trips: Royal Winter Fair (Gr 7 & 8), Medieval Times (Grade 4), Enniskillen (Gr 1 & 2), Durham Forest (Grade 6),

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- ix. SCC Movie Night / Parent Lending Library Launch on Nov. 27, Grade 7/8s watching a movie at Pickering Town Centre on Dec 18th
 - x. Ballroom Dance performance on Dec 3rd
 - xi. Dec 11 – Professional Collaboration Day for homeroom teachers
- b. Mr. Li presented the “Milestones for Success,” a parent-friendly guide to learning issued by the DDSB and encouraged SCC members to review. The document is available via: [Durham District School Board \(DDSB\) Milestones for Success: Honouring Every Students Journey](#) As part of this initiative, each school is to create an “Achievement Plan.” **MRPS’ Plan is in progress, pending feedback from Staff, and will be shared with the SCC in the New Year.**
- c. Professional Collaboration Day prompted discussion about the frequency of opportunities where teachers can collaborate with each other across grades. Collaboration is highly encouraged and while the Board is offering these opportunities three times per year, they are often difficult to accommodate – involves a large number of Supply Teachers (ie. 15+) and significant co-ordination.
- i. Example shared of Grade 9 teachers providing feedback about Grade 7 & 8 learning, prompted by observations about de-streaming in Grade 9
6. Treasurer’s Report:
- a. Jenn presented the Treasurer’s report, highlighting the following financial items:
 - i. Current balance of \$4160.31 shown includes proceeds from Flip Give and Oliver’s Labels but does not yet include the \$311.35 raised by SCC Movie Night/Parent Library Launch on Nov 27th
 - 1. Updated balance: \$4471.66
 - ii. We accrued \$500 from last year that must be spent as soon as possible. Note: The \$500 is not part of the \$4471.66 balance mentioned above.
 - 1. **\$500 to be allocated towards purchase of new MRPS Sports Jerseys. Motion raised by Sachin, seconded by Lindsay.**

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2. \$300 of current balance (raised during SCC Movie Night) to be used to purchase books for Parent Lending Library.
Motion raised by Camille, seconded by Sachin.
- b. Paige motioned acceptance of the Treasurer's report as presented.
Seconded by Camille.

7. Fundraising Committee Report

Victoria provided an overview of fundraising activities:

- Dec 10th – Help needed to organize delivery of Big Box of Cards, planned for December 11th. **Hannah offered to assist.**
- Karate Night for Dec 11th cancelled and to be postponed to the new year
- Book Swap event planned for Feb 24th & 25th in Library. **Camille to assist with creating "Book Bucks"**
- Burger's Priest Night to occur after March Break.
- Coffee fundraiser to take place in mid-January
- Discussed Winter Nights Event, involving structured and unstructured play in gym in January, February and March
- SCC remains interested in the creation a donation link via School Cash Online where parents can donate, separately from any fundraiser or event
 - We need to keep in mind that requests for donations must be specific (we need to communicate what the funds will be used for)
 - School Cash online takes a percentage of sales as a service fee

8. Communications Committee Report

- a. Sandrine indicated to Camille the need for end-of-year or New year newsletter. The group agreed to highlight what has been done this quarter and highlight what is in. **Sandrine, Lindsay & Camille to work on content.**

9. Parent Engagement Report

- a. Lindsay and Sandrine indicated the need for a Parent Engagement Committee and Leader. **Sandrine will send out a separate communication**

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to members who indicated interest in this subcommittee after the first SCC meeting.

i. A related meeting is also likely to be scheduled prior to the holidays

- b. discussed possibly holding a STEM Night, in coordination with Ontario Tech outreach program as part of the PRO grant

10. Meeting Closure

a. Meeting Closed at 8:05pm. **Moved by Hannah, seconded by Paige.**