

Maple Grove Elementary School Governing Board 2023-2024

MINUTES

February 14th, 2024, 6:30pm

Via Zoom

1) Call to order

Meeting was called to order at 6:35pm.

a) Establishment of quorum

MEMBERS: Mathieu Young, Lorraine Deliva, David Marcogliese, Oumy Dia, Toni Lowe, Joanne McGee, Aaron Totton.

STAFF: Debbie Shizgal, Sylvie Turcotte, Kathryn Fournier, Arla Connell, Alicia Piercy.

PUBLIC: Terhemba Ambe-Uva.

REGRETS: Patrick Whitham, Pamela Sherman, Peggy Scott, Kevin Lariviere, Corie Jordan, Arma Sheikh, Shayna Lee Angers, Bianca Mayo-Viau.

2) Land acknowledgement

Read by Mathieu Young.

3) Adoption of the Agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda by Lorraine Deliva, seconded by Kathryn Fournier, voted unanimously in favour.

4) Approval of the minutes

a) January 10th, 2024

Motion to approve the minutes by Arla Connell, seconded by Oumy Dia, voted unanimously in favour.

5) Business arising from the minutes

None.

6) Regular business

a) School field trips

- No field trips to approve.

b) Daycare field trips

i) Bowling at G Quilles (formerly the Rose Bowl)

- February 19, 2024 (Ped day activity) from 9:30am – 1:00pm

- 6 adults and 60 students for a ratio of 1:10

- Extra cost of \$26.00 for the activity

- Transportation by school bus

Motion to approve by Kathryn Fournier, seconded by David Marcogliese, voted unanimously in favour.

7) Reports

a) GB Chair

No report.

b) Principal

- Trouble the dog has been visiting the school weekly. Feedback has been really positive.
- Our Open House was on January 19th.
- Cycle 1 continues with their monthly assemblies.
- Corri-Bouge was here on January 26th to install floor stickers. They are a big hit with the Ks and Junior Hallway.
- January 31 – there was a Winter Concert at Lakeside. It was really enjoyed by our students and Lakeside enjoyed playing for us.
- PED Day on Jan 26 we started the work on our Mission and Vision statements. After two more meetings with the School Success team our Mission and Vision are done.

MISSION (what we live by)

Building bright futures... ensemble.

At Maple Grove Elementary our mission is to nurture academic potential and cultivate respectful citizens through the learning of French and English.

VISION (what we hope for the future)

At Maple Grove...

1. We learn in French and English.
 2. We are respectful of ourselves, peers, adults and the environment.
 3. We are problem solvers, critical thinkers and engaged learners.
 4. We are kind and value each other's differences.
 5. We are proud of our community.
- February 1st I visited each of the Grade 6 classes to discuss respect and expected behaviour.
 - Grade 6 went to the Holocaust Museum on Monday Feb 5th.
 - On Monday the 5th we had a lunchtime assembly for grades 4 and 5 to discuss respect and behaviour with an emphasis on respecting the SEED staff.
 - On Tuesday Feb 6th we had the same assembly for grade 6.
 - Tutoring as part of the rattrapage will begin after March Break.
 - IA hours will increase by 15 minutes a day for anyone who is interested as part of the rattrapage program.
 - Registration that started in January is underway. About half the school has re-registered. We currently have 24 K4s and 33 K5s registered. K4 parents have all been told that we will let them know if they have a spot in the next few weeks.
 - Thursday Feb 8th we welcomed Reptizoo for the Ks in the library
 - Feb 9th was a PED Day. We worked all day on the Educational Project.
 - Feb 13 we went to Lakeside to see a tap dancer who was performing for BHM.
 - Grade 4 has started a Board Game project through Ecole Montrealaise.
 - Feb 14th is Valentine's Day. We wore lot of red and pink.

Coming up:

- Feb 15th is grad photo day.
- Feb 16th is end of term 2.

- School Dance on Feb 23rd.
- BHM Fair for grade 6.

c) Teacher/Staff

Presented by Sylvie Turcotte:

- There was a "Guess the number of candies in the jar" contest organized for Valentine's Day. One class per cycle won the jar of candies.
- In Physical Education and Health, gymnastics is almost done. Although we had reserved the WOW program (Winter on Wheels) for the last 2 weeks of February, the lack of snow forced us to cancel the project for this year.
- Our school registered for the very first "Dance Off". It is a board-wide tournament. It will be held in April. About 27 students are practicing with Mme Ally and Mme Romito to learn 5 different dances.
- We would like to thank Home & School for the special treats during Teacher Appreciation week. We are especially looking forward to the special lunch on Friday.
- **Presented by Arla Connell:**
- Cycle 2 teachers are collaborating on a project to get reading levels up (might mix between grades 3-4).
- Roles for the play will be given out tomorrow.
- Daily announcements are being made by grade 6 students to highlight a Canadian person for black history month. Announcements are being done in French and English.

d) Daycare

- No report

e) Home & School

- Grad committee held their first snack sale; there was an emergency Walmart run because they ran out of snacks quickly, but it was a success.
- We were selected to receive funding for a mushroom project to be spearheaded by Mme Karina; more details to follow once the project starts (after March Break).
- There was some confusion in the planning for the staff lunch from Non Solo Pane, but the order went in and we look forward to treating you this Friday.
- The school dance is in the works for February 23rd.
- We renewed our agreement with School Start for the school supplies. They'll send us an email in March or April when they're ready for us to provide the supply lists.
- The next pizza lunch day will be February 23rd and the next Subway lunch will be February 28th. We have volunteers lined up for distribution.
- Thank you for the donations we've received for the silent auction. We're still collecting, so please keep thinking of us!
- The English book fair will be on March 14-15. The displays will be delivered on March 13th.

f) PC Rep

- The next PC meeting is tomorrow. No report today.

g) Commissioner

- Patrick Whitham forwarded us a copy of the report in his absence.

8) New business

a) School pick-up concerns

- CONCERN: We've had comments from parents that they sit in traffic for 2 blocks during after-school pickup. Some parents' frustrations have led to shouting and aggression. Is there something we can do about this?
- SOLUTION: The bus strike is still ongoing, which has led to an increase in the number of students being picked up after school. Everyone is doing the best they can in a difficult situation. Debbie Shizgal and Arla Connell are present during pickup time and have started inviting parents into the school yard to meet their children in an effort to alleviate the masses in the street. Debbie Shizgal has also contacted the police about driving by to help keep everyone calm and orderly.

9) Correspondence/Consultation

a) 2024-2025 Principal selection Criteria (due March 14th)

- Item #1: changed "resources" to "school budget".
- Items #2 and #3 (now collectively #2): these were essentially the same point with different wording; the two items were combined into one.
- Item #4 (now #3): remains unchanged.
- Item #5 (now #4): remains unchanged.
- Item #6 (now #5): reworded to specify engagement with local partners and promotion of the school.
- New item #6 added: Ability to lead a culture of inclusion and acceptance in a school community with a diversity of cultures and financial situations.
- New item #7 added: Openness to explore innovative ideas from staff and parents.

Motion to accept these modifications by Oumy Dia, seconded by Aaron Totton, voted unanimously in favour.

b) Lester B Pearson 2024-2025 Budget consultation (due March 28th)

Please review the document; we will revisit at the next meeting for discussion.

10) Questions from the public

None.

11) Varia

a) Direction of the driveway at the school's main entrance

- QUESTION: There is no clear indication of a correct direction of traffic. Cars drive in from both Sherbrooke and 52nd Avenue, and the driveway isn't wide enough for cars to comfortably pass around each other, particularly at the bend by the front doors. This has led to cars being blocked in and unable to exit. This issue has been noticed particularly during bad weather mornings when an increased number of students are dropped off late all at the same time. Is it possible to put up clear signage to make it a one-way only?
- ANSWER: It was agreed that a one-way driveway would be good, and that it would make the most sense for cars to enter from Sherbrooke and exit onto 52nd Avenue,

since Sherbrooke is a 2-way street and provides the easiest access. Debbie Shizgal will look into getting signage installed.

b) New fence in the school yard

- QUESTION: Why was a new fence installed in the yard? How are the snow plows managing?
- ANSWER: It was installed to prevent the kindergarten students from running around the corner and getting lost in the crowd of older students. We haven't had much need for plows this year, but they've gotten the job done.

c) Upcoming solar eclipse

- QUESTION: The EMSB is having a Ped day on the day of the solar eclipse. Do we know if the LBPSB is considering doing it as well?
- ANSWER: The topic will be brought up at the council of commissioners at the meeting on February 26.

12) Next meeting

March 13, 2024 at 6:30pm in the Maple Grove staff room.

13) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Arla Connell at 7:52pm.