

Maple Grove Elementary School - Governing Board 2023-2024

Meeting Minutes

June 12th, 2024, 6:30pm

Maple Grove staff room

1) Call to order

Meeting was called to order at 6:36pm.

- a) Establishment of quorum

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

STAFF: Debbie Shizgal, Kathryn Fournier, Sylvie Turcotte, Arla Connell, Alicia Piercy, Lianna Myrand, Peggy Scott.

PUBLIC: Patrick Whitham, Deborah Dixon, Steven Colpitts, Cathenna Michaud, Aaryn Bradley.

REGRETS: Oumy Dia, Terhembe Ambe-Uva, Pamela Sherman, Kevin Lariviere, Bianca Mayo-Viau, Corie Jordan, Aarwa Sheikh, Shayna Lee Angers.

Special guests were introduced: Steven Colpitts, LBPSB interim assistant director general; Patrick Whitham, commissioner; Debbie Dixon, LBPSB regional director; Aaron Bradley, incoming Maple Grove principal for 2024-2025; Cathenna Michaud, Governing Board Chair at Lakeside Academy.

2) Land acknowledgement

Read by Mathieu Young.

3) Adoption of the Agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda by Arla Connell, seconded by Peggy Scott, voted unanimously in favour.

4) Approval of the minutes

- a) May 8th, 2024
b) May 21st, 2024 (emergency meeting)

Motion to accept the minutes from May 8 and May 21 by Kathryn Fournier, seconded by Arla Connell, voted unanimously in favour.

5) Business arising from the minutes

- a) None.

6) Correspondence/Consultation

- a) Three year allocation plan (Having 1 kindergarten class at Lakeside for the 2024-2025 school year)
- Steven Colpitts has been working all year to understand our school's needs:
 - We're in an area where students register constantly, so it's hard to be able to plan for the next year too far ahead.
 - In March there was a plan based on the registration numbers at the time, then in May (with still no budget yet) a cycle 3 class was added.

- Regarding the suggestion of portables: you need to apply to the ministry for funding to get them, the city of Lachine does not permit them, and certain conditions need to be met in order to maintain them. The school board has the school maps, and they know Lakeside (currently at about half-capacity) has space. This is a better option than some other schools have had, with classes being set up in malls. It's also a more cost-effective option than installing portables.
 - They got the budget yesterday: they can afford to give us a head teacher. This head teacher would not have a teacher's work load; they would be the support person for the teachers at the Lakeside classes and a liaison to the principal at Maple Grove, a role similar to a vice-principal.
 - The long-term plan is to bring stability. There are 2 rooms at Lakeside full of archives that need to be kept for 75 years; there is a long-term plan to permanently relocate these archives and dedicate the space to Maple Grove's kindergarten, moving all of the K4 and K5 classes to the Lakeside building in 2026.
 - The Lakeside archives need a space at a certain temperature and on a first floor. The school board think they have a place (to be confirmed in 1 year).
 - Moving the library for 1 year is doable, but a large undertaking. Stability will be found for Maple Grove; we are encouraged to please consider how we want to use the Lakeside space, and they will support our decision.
- **QUESTION:** What's the plan for Club Zone? **ANSWER:** There are ideas to be discussed at a consultation. There was a misunderstanding; Club Zone is not being kicked out of the Lakeside building. **COMMENT:** Club Zone's Board Of Directors chair is not aware of this yet.
 - **QUESTION:** Can there be support for the K classes at Lakeside? **ANSWER:** Yes. The head teacher will not have an actual teaching load; they will be the support person and liaison between Lakeside and Maple Grove. **COMMENT:** Having a head teacher in the Lakeside building makes this plan more interesting.
 - **QUESTION:** What will the K's do for recess space? **ANSWER:** This is still part of the discussions. **COMMENT:** The yard there is quite small, but Mrs Wilkinson will support what is needed. Maple Grove can share certain Lakeside services as well.
 - **QUESTION:** Does this mean the K class is definitely going to Lakeside next year? **ANSWER:** Maple Grove needs to have that discussion and decide what will move there. The school board will support what we decide. **COMMENT:** We maintain that keeping K class here would be the preference.
 - **QUESTION:** If the library moves, is it possible for each Maple Grove homeroom teacher keep some age-appropriate books in their class to maintain the integrity of the literacy program? **ANSWER:** Should be doable. **COMMENTS:** (1) We need to think about how to organize the library at Lakeside, if that's what happens. Keep age-appropriate books together, where will they be stored, etc. (2) The library is also a space that is used for other things as well. We need to consider that we'd be losing a multi-use space by turning it into a classroom.

- **COMMENT:** If we can expect our whole K cycle to be in Lakeside by 2026, having one K class there next year might not be the end of the world. If a K class does end up at Lakeside next year, we need security parameters in place (example: Maple Grove has alarms on the K corridor doors).
- **QUESTION:** What feedback is there from parents who have K4 kids in Lakeside this year? **ANSWER:** The parents went into the year knowing that they would be there. It has gone well.
- **QUESTION:** How will the K5 across the street interact with the rest of K5 at Maple Grove? **ANSWER:** This will be easier in the spring.
- **COMMENT:** We need lower toilets at Lakeside for the little ones. **REPLY:** This can be discussed with Mrs Wilkinson.
- **QUESTION:** How will you decide which children go to the Lakeside class? **ANSWER:** We would need to check the composition of the classes, but this would require further discussion.
- **QUESTION:** Will they expand the outdoor space at Lakeside? **ANSWER:** When the whole K cycle is there in 2026, yes.

The consultation is for whether or not we will accept the room at Lakeside. We can discuss afterwards to decide how we want to use the room. Steven needs to be advised by Friday, June 14. Motion to accept the room at Lakeside by Lorraine Deliva, seconded by David Marcogliese, voted unanimously in favour. Steven Colpitts and Deborah Dixon were thanked for their time and answers to our questions, and excused themselves from the meeting.

7) Regular business

a) School field trips

Dairy Queen

- Grade 5's on June 17, rain day is June 20
- 10:00am-11:30am
- The students will walk there and back
- 6 adults and 55 students, ratio of 1:10
- \$5 per child for a total of \$275

Motion to approve by Peggy Scott, seconded by David Marcogliese, voted unanimously in favour.

b) Daycare field trips

None.

8) Reports

a) GB Chair

No report.

b) Principal

- Grade 3 went to Droulers to visit a longhouse on May 13th. It was a long drive but a great trip for the 3s.
- On May 14th there was a dominos pizza fundraiser for grads

- May 17th was the Grad Trip day. They visited the Old Port, went to Voile en Voile, the SOS Labyrinthe and had a meal. A fun day was had by all.
- On May 21st Kwami Osei spoke to our school in two sessions about empowerment, resilience and to tell us his success story. He read a book he wrote to the Ks and Cycle 1 about positive affirmations. For the older students he gave them a lot to think about being your true self.
- On May 23rd Grades 1 and 2 took an STM bus to the Lachine Library for story time
- The grade 4 students of Mme Catherine and Miss Cirino's classes collaborated with students at Lakeside in a "shoebox" initiative. They collected empty shoe boxes, and filled them with essentials for daily living. These boxes were sent to shelters and community agencies, specifically to women and gender-diverse people facing income inequality.
- On May 27th Insectambulant visited cycle 1.
- May 27th also saw Shakespeare Canada present to grades 3-6. The one man show was highly engaging and lots of fun.
- All grades have had assemblies about the new Maple Grove Bottom Line
- Caterpillars arrived at MG a few weeks ago and Ks and grade 3s are busy watching to see what happens to caterpillars on their way to butterflies. We has our first butterfly today!
- May 29th FSSTT hosted students from a Nunavut college to see how the program runs at MG
- May 30th La petite valise presented to cycle 1.
- On May 30th Insectambulant presented to the K5s.
- On June 4th the K4s built bears as part of their parent component
- The English Exams for grade 6 are complete.
- June 5th saw a Halo assembly for grades 4, 5, and 6. Hopefully our grade 4s will be inspired for next year.
- June 6th was the soggy BBQ by our H&S. Despite the rain, fun was had by all.
- June 7th was Good Start. Thanks to all the staff who went above and beyond to prepare for this day.
- Our ed project and ABAV plan har ready for staff and GB approval.
- Gr. 6 Math exam end tomorrow after a full three days of math..
- Grade 4s went to the Planetarium today thanks to Ecole Montrealaise.

Coming Up:

- Our Volunteer Event is tomorrow, Thursday June 13th
- Our Farewell Dinner to our staff who are leaving MG is on Friday June 14th
- SpinJeux on June 18th
- Subway lunch for the whole school June 19th
- Grad is June 20th

June 21 is the last day of school with dismissal at 11:25. SEED runs until 4:00pm.

c) Teacher/Staff

- Sylvie Turcotte: Track & field was May 29 at PCHS. This was a big year with 80 students participating. Several classroom teachers and many new parents volunteered. The event was a success.
- Kathryn Fournier: We received a 20-year participation plaque and a banner for our annual participation in the Terry Fox Run.

- Arla Connell: This week is pool week for grades 3-6. The morning group from Monday was cancelled due to weather, so they will go this Friday. This has become an exciting annual tradition for grade 3's in particular.

d) Daycare

- The Park Safari trip was unfortunately rained out, but overall the children still seemed to have a good time.
- There are 117 registered for next year: there will be 6 groups, possibly 7.

e) Home & School

- Recent events: Domino's at home, the movie night was cancelled, Subway & pizza lunches are complete for the year with a free Subway lunch coming up next week, the silent auction went well, and the year-end BBQ unfortunately was not profitable due to the rain.
- Activities to pre-approve for September:
 - Scholastic book fair (November and March)
 - BoSapin
 - Oliver's Labels
 - Domino's at home
 - Silent auction
 - Grad snack sales (2 throughout the year)Motion to approve all activities by David Marcogliese, seconded by Joanne McGee, voted unanimously in favour.

f) PC Rep

No minutes from the meeting yet; no report.

g) Commissioner

Thank you to Mathieu for your hard work. You will have the support of the school board. Thank you to Mrs Shizgal for the last two years, and welcome to Mrs Bradley.

9) New business

a) School Fees

Motion to approve next year's school fees by Peggy Scott, seconded by David Marcogliese, voted unanimously in favour.

b) Educational Project

Mrs Shizgal made adjustments on the draft to describe the acronyms in the document, at Mrs Turcotte's suggestion. Motion to accept the educational project by Kathryn Fournier, seconded by Peggy Scott, voted unanimously in favour.

c) ABAV plan (Anti-bullying anti-violence)

- **QUESTION:** Is our plan different from other schools? **ANSWER:** We use a template and personalize it for our school. We updated last year's plan to reflect the current vision.

Motion to approve the plan and the evaluation: Arla, David, unanimous.

d) School board elections

Just a reminder to be registered to vote for next year's school board elections.

QUESTION: How do you register? **ANSWER:** Mr Whitham has forms you can fill out. If you need a form, please email him.

10) Questions from the public

COMMENT: Cathenna Michaud thanks us for the invitation to this meeting, and states that Lakeside is always willing to support Maple Grove.

11) Varia

Mrs Shizgal was wished good luck in her new permanent position at Dorset. Kathryn Fournier was thanked for her years of dedication and support, and was wished a happy retirement.

12) Next meeting

September 3, 2024 via Zoom at 6:30pm.

13) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:01pm by Peggy Scott.