**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL**

**November 11, 2015 --- 6:00 – 7:30pm**

*A meeting of Central Public School Council was held at Central Public School in the Library at*

*175 Main Street East, Cambridge, Ontario, Canada.*

**In Attendance:**

Carolyn Baechler, Principal

Alison Bell, Teacher Representative

Becky Betts, Chair

Susan Nixon, Co-Chair

Kelly Stedman, Secretary

Faye Zevenbergen, Teasurer

***General Members:*** Jessica Lindlau, Karen Cluett, Kate McNaughton, Tara Wannop, Cuyler Morra, Mark Siemiaszko, Tricia Fournier/Ford, Shawn Newton, Jenn Newton, Megan McKay.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**Principal’s Update – *Mrs. Baechler*:**

November is National Bullying Prevention Month. Mrs. Baechler has plans to utilize the “UNLEARN” Poster program around the school. The month’s programming started off with the WITS assembly.

WITS – [www.witsprogram.ca](http://www.witsprogram.ca), W-Walk Away, I – Ignore, T – Talk it out, S – Seek help

November 18th – School Bus Evacuation Drill planned for all students.

Friday, November 13th is a PD Day. In the morning, the staff will be working on the BIPSA (Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement) and in the afternoon they will be working on their SIPSA (School Improvement Plan for Student Achievement). The focus this year is student wellness. We no longer have Leanne Brown from Carizon in our school. However, this year we have several programs that we have been utilizing for our students’ general wellness. Access to these programs is determined by the School Based Team. The programs are:

* Two from the YWCA: **Steps** – this program is for grades 5 and 6 girls and **Glow** – also for girls, building self-esteem, and a sense of confidence.
* Taming the Dragon – The school has partnered with the Family Counselling Centre of Cambridge and North Dumfries to provide this program that helps students from grades 2 and 3 to develop strategies that help them to manage anxiety.
* Roots of Empathy – utilized in the Kindergarten classes. Children observe the growth and development of a baby, and build skills that help them to empathize with the needs of others.

At our last meeting we discussed grants that can be accessed for school needs. Mrs. Baechler shared details about a Foundation allowing teachers to submit proposals for their Classroom Needs. www.myclassneeds.ca

MyClassNeeds Foundation (MCN) is a registered Canadian charity that helps connect deserving K-12 classroom projects with interested donors through a crowdfunding website.

Certified teachers working in Canadian publicly-funded schools can submit a proposal through the MCN website. The proposal must describe how the classroom project will benefit student’s learning and identify the resources required to achieve the outcome. The types of projects and resources requested can vary in scope and size (it could be science equipment, art supplies, a trip to a science exhibit, or any other resource that enriches the learning of students).

Recently, Alison Bell (Kindergarten teacher) submitted a proposal for an outdoor chalkboard (“Let’s colour together”). Within months, the proposal was approved and the goods were delivered right to the school.

The Parents Council Funding grant was obtained and will be used to prepare a Curriculum Night in the winter of 2016. Alison Bell will take the lead on this and will be arranging a night in February where parents can come in and learn about the math instruction in the school, including math assessment and some activities they can do in a group scenario. The cost will be $500 or less.

***Mad Science*** approached Mrs. Baechler about offering an 8 week program here at the school for the students. The cost would be $108 per student. The council agreed that this was a very expensive program that the program can be obtained in other venues for a lesser fee or even free if taken out in the community.

Mrs. Baechler briefly reviewed that while the media has presented that the school board and the teachers have reached an agreement, we must recognize that not much has actually changed. This is normal in such lengthy contract negotiations. The local boards have not all be able to determine the specific details of the new contract and this will happen over time. What they do know is that many job sanctions have been lifted. However, the support staff still continue in negotiations and so continue with their job sanctions. Ideally, things will be back to normal in January 2016. Mrs. Baechler is proud of the staff and teachers and is confident that they are caring professionals who are going above and beyond for the students.

**Treasurer’s Report – *Faye Zevenbergen*:**

Faye shared that we carried over $3108.28 from last year. Our expenses so far this month have been $331.92. Balance is $2776.36. This doesn’t account for Pizza Sales and expenses which are about $912.75, gross.

Pizza is provided from Dino’s Pizza, and this restaurant partner must follow a rigorous health guide as required by the Ministry of Education. We pay $7 per box (includes 8 slices) and we charge $1.25 per slice. We earn $3 per box. Our pizza profit is approximately $285 per month.

Becky requested approval for the upcoming year’s field trip expenditure. We agreed as a group to providing $5 per child (grades K – 5) and $12 per student for those in grade six. Grade six students get both a trip and a yearbook keepsake that the Council has generally covered. \*The motion was moved by Faye and seconded by Karen.

**Fundraising Update – *Susan Nixon*:**

QSP is currently underway. This year, our campaign is strictly being held online. At the time of the meeting, we only had 12 subscriptions. December 1st is the deadline for access to the prizes draws. December 15th is the draw for the trip to GWL.

We are considering implementing the Big Box Fundraiser in February 2016. We are being informed that the teachers will not be activating the chocolate bar campaign this upcoming year.

We discussed the marketing going on to promote the campaign. We have sent out letters and the information has been communicated online. Posters are all around the school exits. Sadly, only 20% of our parents are signed up for email communication, so this is not a great way to share information about what is happening at the school. Parents need to register for our email communication by signing up online at our school website. You can subscribe to the mail list right on the main page: <http://ctr.wrdsb.ca/>

Gift Giving Bazaar will be Wednesday, December 16th this year. Please speak to Susan Nixon for more info.

Gingerbread Decorating is happening on December 7th and 8th. Please speak to Karen Cluett for more details.

Baking for the Bake Sale will happen at home rather than after school this season, so we will be requesting donations of baked goods for sale at the Concert. Please remember to bake ‘nut free'. Contact Karen Cluett for dates and needs.

Boston Pizza Family Night is on Monday, November 23rd from 5:30 – 7:30pm.

Mayfair preparations are progressing. There are team leads for all the main categories for the success of the event. Faye is handling the Food. Becky will be leading the Games. Megan is running the Tickets and Communication. Kate will be organizing the Bake Sale and the Newtons are leading the Silent Auction.

Last month, Jessica sent out a form with the pizza orders to inquire about what interest the parents had in milk sales. This year, our milk supplier has changed. As a result, our costs are increasing. The results of the survey support the continuance of milk sales. We discussed the sugar content of chocolate milk and a suggestion was made that we sell only white milk. Jessica and Carolyn will work together on a solution with student wellness as top priority, not necessarily fundraising.

**Lice Check Update – *Fia Mohammed*:**

Next Lice Check: Monday, December 14th.

**Marketing Banner – *Kelly Stedman*:**

Heather and Cuyler Morra presented four very professional looking poster options. The group was asked to look at the four posters and provide feedback on the one they liked the most. Becky will move forward and make selection with Mrs. Baechler.

**Other Items/Q&A:**

Kate has been investigating activities around walking to school. She has looked into three programs. One (Step In) is funded through Public Health and would allow us to access promotional materials to promote walking to school as a healthy activity. Two (Cycling Into The Future) is a program directed to grades 5 and 6 students and it is a safety program facilitated by a retired teacher. Three (Trottibus, sponsored by the Canadian Cancer Society) is essentially a walking school bus. Any of these activities require school teacher sponsorship, so it was suggested that Kate reach out to Mrs. Ecclestone for assistance with applications and proceeding with a plan.

**Tabled for Next Meeting:**

School Council’s Mission/Values – what is our purpose.

**Next Meeting:**

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 13, 2016

**Adjournment:**

 Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Kelly Stedman – Secretary 2015 – 2016, Central Public School Council

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_