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

**NOVEMBER 12TH, 2014 - 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

Cheryl Reeve, Treasurer

*General Members:* Kathryn Tarrant, Meagan Apon, Tricia Fournier/Ford, Sheena Hahn, Fia Mohammed, Jenn Newton, Karen Cluett, Faye Zevenbergen, Leanne Brown, April Parlee, Georgina Zymerman, Cuyler Morra

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**Approval of Agenda & Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

 Please refer to our school website or the binder held at the office at the school for previous minutes and agendas. <http://ctr.wrdsb.ca/school-council/>

**Special Guest – *Leanne Brown, CYW – School Mental Health Coordinator (kidsLINK):***

Leanne joined us to let us know that she is offering **Consultation Support Services** at Central on Tuesday mornings. She has three available time slots: 9:00 – 9:45, 10:00 – 10:45, and 11:00 – 11:45. Appointments must be booked by signing up in the office in the yellow duo-tang. These meetings are a one-time consultation appointment in which Leanne can offer advice or referrals to other community supports that may benefit the family.

**Coffee Connections** – next session is **Thursday, November 27th** at approximately 9:15am in the library. All parents are welcome. Babysitting not provided, but smaller children are welcome.

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

Mrs. Baechler reminded the Parent Council members that she welcomes emails as a way to express your concerns about the school or facilities – Carolyn\_baechler@wrdsb.on.ca.

The group had a short discussion about current concerns over dog waste in our school yard. We don’t have a lot of control over this type of issue and have sings at the entrance point to the back yard. The school maintenance team is reviewing if there are other or better options for the sign placement.

Website – The teachers and school have been and will continue to actively use the website to communicate with parents and the community. Please sign up for communication posts directly to your email, if you haven’t done so already. The sing-up link is found on the main webpage in the bottom left corner.

Parent’s Learning Evening - Mrs. Bell has been planning an educational evening with parents. The goal of the event will be to improve communication and share information with parents about literacy and rubrics and other items of interest.

Confidentiality – A reminder that all visitors to the school are expected to maintain the confidentiality of all of the students while helping out in the school.

CILM – Collaborative Inquiry in Learning Math – On Wednesday, November 19th there will be a number of visitors from other schools to meet with our schools teacher and principal to discuss math.

**Treasurer’s Report – *Cheryl Reeve*:**

October fundraising activities:

Profit made from Pizza sales - $290.50.

Profit made from Milk sales - $176.96.

Total revenue - $452.96.

QSP Sales – no final results are compiled yet, but the estimates are somewhere close to $1700. Reminder that families can continue to order through QSP all year long and the benefits still come to Central.

Trips have all been decided upon.

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

Fia reported that last month’s lice check went very well. The committee had the support of many volunteers to quickly get the issue under control.

The next check will be December 16th. Please see Fia if you would like to volunteer some time during that day.

Please note that teachers do continue to check and re-check throughout the school year.

The committee aspires to make the process smoother and better each time it is done. Our future checks are scheduled for February 9th and April 7th (adjusted after they noted that the original date of April 6th was actually Easter Monday and the school is closed).

Someone asked why we don’t do monthly checks. The response from Fia was simply that we don’t have the resources. Lice checking is time consuming and it is already challenging to get to each and every child per quarter.

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

Susan shared that she has already distributed the permission slips for Baking Club and that she expected more interest than the 21 participants she had already received permission slips from.

Susan explained that the purpose of the bake club was two-fold. Children are there to participate in a school club, but also the volunteers and children are building stock for the sale of baked goods at our Holiday Concert and Bake Sale. In the spring session of the Bake Club, the baked goods are sold at May Fair.

Gift Giving Bazaar - A request for parents to donate low cost gifts ($1 or $2) that the children can buy and bring home to give as a gift to that special someone. There are lots of volunteers, but anyone interested can see Susan or Becky.

Kathryn mentioned that there were some gifts set aside last spring at May Fair, that were designated for the Gift Giving Bazaar. Becky volunteered to look after finding them.

 ***Craft Sale & Bake Sale*** (Christmas Season) and this year we are continuing with the Gift Giving Bazaar

December 17th

Fundraising Activity – Susan divided the council member into small groups and asked them to brainstorm fundraising likes, dislikes, and wishes. This will be looked at again at a future meeting, once the results are compiled and organized.

**Succession Planning – *Becky Betts:***

A call to all members to think about council positions or committees they would like to be on in the future. Also, if you know of someone who would be a good addition to the council, please nominate them. We want to be prepared for roles that will become vacant with parents who have older children and who will be moving on from the council in the next year or so.

**Other Business:**

**Conference - Safe, Caring and Inclusive School**

Becky, Mrs. Baechler, two Grade six students and a group of teachers attended a conference about Safe, Caring and Inclusive Schools. The conference allowed participating schools to share some of the neat things that they have been doing to provide their students with safe learning environments. Becky was proud to report that our new **Wolf Pack Behaviour Guide** is what our school is doing to be safe and inclusive. Families will be getting a colour copy of the Behaviour Code in the next week.

**Skating Races**

Skating Races are on again this winter in Cambridge. Central will not be having any skating dates this winter, due to the changes in safety and the requirement that all children wear a CSA approved hockey helmet. Instead we are having a Winter Fun Day and we will also be learning Rocks & Rings – which is a fun introduction to curling that will be hosted in the gym.

**WITS –** [**www.witsprogram.ca**](http://www.witsprogram.ca)

Mrs. Baechler and Mrs. Bell shared with the group a bullying based website developed at Queen’s University that the teachers have been invited to use in their literacy materials. WITS (Walk Away, Ignore, Talk It Out, Seek Help) works for primary grades and LEADS (Look & Listen, Explore Points of View, Act, Did it Work?, Seek Help) is meant for grades four to six.

Mrs. Baechler clarified that there is a big difference between bullying and conflict. And that the school and school board are encouraging the use of this material in their literacy learning.

**Next Meeting:**

There is no December meeting.

Next meeting: **Wednesday, January 14th – 6:00 p.m.**

**Adjournment:**

 Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Kelly Stedman – Secretary 2014 – 2015, Central Public School Council

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