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

**October 14, 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:*** Cuyler Morra, Mark Siemiaszko, Georgina Zymerman, Meagan Apon, Kari Mills, Tricia Fournier/Ford, Fia Mohammed, April Parlee, Shawn Newton, Jenn Newton, Megan McKay, Karen Cluett

**AGENDA ITEMS**

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

Mrs. Baechler has been very busy in the office as a result of further union job action including now reduced activities from our secretary Heather MacNeil. She has had to take over some of the duties of the secretary including answering the front door. Job action resulted in the inability to have a replacement for our school custodian while he was away for his annual fall vacation. Due to the increase to her daily work load during the contract negotiations, her energies are not focused where she would like them to be. Her priorities continue to be the safety of the school and the maintenance of all the relationships in the school. Your patience is much appreciated in this challenging time, especially in regards to accessing the school.

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

No new update for this meeting. We reviewed our financial status at the end of the school year, last year.

**WRAPSC – Sex Education Information – *Becky Betts:***

WRAPSC is the Waterloo Region Assembly of Public School Councils and meets 6 times in each school year to support student achievement through parent involvement. Each school is encouraged to have a representative at the meetings and report back at their own council meetings. Anyone interested in coming along to the Tues Nov 3th meeting can contact Becky or Susan.

The Board would like to remind families that the school website is the main hub of all communications so please check there for updates. To receive an email notification of new information, go to ctr.wrdsb.ca and at the bottom of the page enter your email address. The same procedure is required on the Board website at wrdsb.ca. Each page requires you to enter your email. For example, if you'd like to receive updates on WRAPSC, go to that page within the Board site and enter your email at the bottom there. There's also the PIC (Parent Involvement Committee) page that is recommended for parents/guardians.

Becky attended the Oct 6th  WRAPSC meeting which included a presentation by the Board about the new Health and Physical Education Curriculum and provided a handout of resources to give parents more information on the details of the modified curriculum. See below: *New Health & Physical Education Curriculum – Parent Resources*.

Becky assured us that parents will be more confident with the changes in the curriculum, once they get informed and take a closer look. Mrs. Baechler assured us that parents will be informed before any of the Sexual Education topics are covered. Parents are encouraged to speak with their child's teacher with any concerns, and if further discussion is required, the principal. See Board Policy 1012, Faith and Religious Accommodations.

**New Health & Physical Education Curriculum – Parent Resources**

Go to government site <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/health.html#display>

* Curriculum Documents to access the actual curriculum document
* Resource Documents Specific to this Subject Parent Guides are great for overview what students are learning and how to read the official curriculum document.
* Grade-by-Grade Overviews What will your child learn and how you can support that learning at home.

Teacher resource but public site – EduGAINS.ca

* Go to Curriculum, Elementary, Health & Physical Education, Resources +, Overview of Changes to HPE Curriculum
  + This is a terrific document using tables to create an easy to read yet detailed resource about the changes, and reasons for those changes to the H&PE curriculum.

Faith and Religious Accommodations Policy 1012

* Wrdsb.ca, About, on left side Policies and Procedures, Policies, 1012

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

All fundraising activities are still on hold, pending the ESS/OSSTF job action. Activities should resume when labour issues are resolved.

A suggestion was brought forward that we start to pursue community grants as a component of our fundraising activities, which can reduce the strain on parents individual contributions. April Parlee has agreed to take a leadership role in this fundraising option.

Mayfair is an event that we want to be prepared for. We have asked council members to think about what committees they would like to participate in and begin their planning. We need support for the following areas: food, games, silent auction, bake sale, and marketing/communication. So far, Shawn and Jen Newton have volunteered to head the Silent Auction component. Please speak to Becky and Susan and consider how you would like to volunteer by next meeting.

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

Lice Checks begin soon. First meeting for the Lice Check volunteer group is Thursday, October 15th at 9am.

First lice check is October 19th.

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

Kelly requested volunteers to participate in a sub-committee to work out the banner’s graphic details. Banner was previously approved by a grant for council use, in the 2014-15 school year. Committee consists of Megan, Susan, Faye, and Becky. Cuyler volunteered that his wife Heather would help with the graphics portion as she has experience with that area.

**Boo Hoo/Yahoo Breakfast Information – *Becky Betts:***

Becky wanted to share that she was pleased with the ***Boo Hoo/Yahoo! Breakfast*** event held in September. The event had minimal turnout, but the council has decided that it would be a good event to retry next year, given the turnout at the Kindergarten Orientation event and general feedback. We will spend some time planning this event for next fall, with input from council members. Ideas ranged from extending the event to the afternoon, offering the event on the first couple of days of school and including all new students and their parents. Speak to Becky, if you have other ideas.

**Other Items/Q&A:**

Bike Trailer Safety - We have some community concerns about students around the school and bike trailer safety. Police have been notified, but there are no laws about children pulling small children in bike trailers. As a community, we must be vigilant and keep an eye out for students on their bikes.

Buddy Bench – This idea was well received by everyone at council, however, there are many rules around installing equipment on our school property including the approval and input of the facilities department. Installing something like a *Buddy Bench* has to be handled by the principal. We'll continue to plan for the purchase and installation of a Buddy Bench.

Safe Routes to School – saferoutestoschool.ca – Is this something as a school we would like to participate in? We will speak to Kate MacNaughton, who had shown previous interest.

Staff List wasn’t visible on our website. Mrs. Baechler agreed to look into the situation. (This has already been fixed.)

**Next Meeting:**

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 11th

**Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

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

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