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

**OCTOBER 8TH, 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, Gillian Ullhorn-Kudlik, Tony Albrighton, Michelle Albrighton, Tricia Fournier/Ford, Sheena Hahn, Fia Mohammed, Shawn Newton, Jenn Newton, Karen Cluett, Faye Zevenbergen

**AGENDA ITEMS**

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

Agenda was provided on school website in advance to meeting, forwarded to committee members in an email and was made available in print form at the meeting. The Chair clarified that after the meeting tonight and moving forward; the meeting minutes will be shared on our website (<http://ctr.wrdsb.ca/school-council/>) and also filed in a School Council binder held in the office at the school.

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

**P.A.C.K. Update -**

Mrs. Baechler provided an update about the new Central Wolf Pack “Pawsitive” Behaviour Code.

After looking at the results of our exercise at the previous meeting about what particular ‘I Statements’ applied to each component of the P-A-C-K core values it was found that the teachers and the parents generally agreed on which statements were most important.

In response to the efforts of students, teachers and parents a working or draft copy of the new poster was presented. It is the school’s plan to have the poster reviewed by a Marketing and Graphics resource and to eventually have the poster prepared for mass printing with a more friendly-looking wolf.

A student in Grade 6 named Shelby suggested that the Positive word would be best made into ‘Pawsitive’ in the poster in the spirit of the theme of the Code.

Eventually, the Code will be integrated into the day-to-day communication and accountability of Central staff and students. Copies will be sent home so families can use the common language with their children. Students will come to identify problems using the Code and ideally become accountable for behaviour in reference to the Code. As a school community we aim to have common values and behavior at school and at home.

In our next meeting, we should be seeing a copy of the final draft.

**Parental Involvement Committee**

Mrs. Baechler advised us that the Waterloo Region District School Board was inviting applicants to apply for positions on the Parental Involvement Committee. Please see Mrs. Baechler if you are interested in applying. Deadline for applicants is October 17th. This is a region wide committee that will likely meet 4 times or more per year.

The mandate for the WRDSB Parent Involvement Committee is to:

* Provide information and advice on parent engagement to the Waterloo Region District School Board;
* Communicate with and support school councils of the Board through the Waterloo Region Assembly of Public School Councils (WRAPSC);
* Undertake activities to help parents support their child’s learning at home and at school.

**EQAO Results – Collaborative Discussion**

Mrs. Baechler brought to the meeting a few documents from last year’s School Report. She asked parents to break into small groups to review the reports and to share with the group some of their findings and thoughts. The general feedback led to a discussion about how we can ‘support student achievement’ at home. At the school, they address some of the results in their ‘School Improvement Plan for Student Achievement 2014 -2015’.

**Collated Feedback from Parents:**

* Questions/comments boys and learning
  + - lack of self-esteem?
    - How do boys learn differently
    - How can we support this?
* Parental engagement – too many zeros
* Lots of comments around improving communication between home and school
* Survey answers so much higher than results…why?
* Boys – love of authentic learning to support motivation/self-confidence…leads to inquiry projects
* Parents aren’t sure about grading
* Make it visible to parents…one mother didn’t know what a rubric was
* Kids clearly get grading as they answered the survey, but not parents
* PARENTS WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT LEARNING GOALS AND SUCCESS CRITERIA
* Make sure wording of rubric/assignments/grading is student and parent friendly
* Communication home needs clarity!
* Parents aren’t seeing the learning
* No homework is good but parents don’t know what they’re learning
* Frame a question for parents about learning to talk to kids about at night
* Online options? Class Dojo, website, etc
* E-learning for elementary students – need to share info with community
* Comments made in class re: NFL - need to clarify that it is for anyone and shouldn’t be limited
* Parents are nervous about Math

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

A full report was not available for the meeting. Cheryl advised that in total the Council carried over $6636.42 from last year. She said that gross profit from September fundraising activities (Pizza & Milk sales) is $545.00.

Discussion about whether the council would like to continue to subsidize field trips and the Grade 6 End of Year Activity and Year Book. Last year the council provided $5/Student (K–5) and $12/Grade 6 Student. A motion to carry forward this action was recommended and seconded by Faye and Karen.

***Haunted House at May Fair – Susan Nixon***

Susan requested that the Council spend $100 dollars towards continuing to build (slowly) the inventory of props for the Haunted House at the May Fair Annual Fundraising Event. The motion was proposed by Tricia and carried by Karen & Shawn.

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

A request for volunteers sign-up form was distributed throughout the meeting.

Our first big fundraiser is the QSP Magazine Fundraiser and it finishes October 14th. People can still buy magazines all year. In the past, the funds raised from this annual fundraiser have allowed the school to purchase SMART boards and projectors.

Question was raised: ‘What does the council want to do with their monies raised this year’?

* + Resources for music
  + Math Manipulatives
  + Monies for busing and field trips
  + Library resources in the classroom
  + Headphones, etc.
  + Dry Erase Markers
  + Kindie Outdoor Equipment

Someone expressed concern about the latch on the ramp gate that to the lower school yard. Mrs. Baechler advised that she has a meeting set up next week with the Facilities department to have the safety issue resolved.

**Other Fundraising Events:**

***Baking Club*** – Dates provided and forms going home November 6th

1. Wednesday November 19
2. Thursday  November 20
3. Tuesday November 25
4. Wednesday November 26
5. Thursday November 27
6. Thursday December 4 (overflow day)

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

December 17th

Review of fundraising efforts from the QSP Fundraiser. In general, we can do an estimate to say that we earn approximately $10 per subscription. It does not differentiate between a renewal versus a new subscription. This is a very easy and lucrative fundraiser. Ongoing discussion as to whether we should continue this particular fundraising activity was tabled for future discussion.

* 2011 - 206 subscriptions - $2209.85 earnings
* 2012 – 224 subscriptions - $2233.36 earnings
* 2013 – 187 subscriptions - $1771.03 earnings

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

Fia shared that a new permission letter was created. Head checks will occur 4 times per year, with the first one on Oct. 20th. We do have some volunteers, but more are welcomed.

**NFL- Nutrition for Learning – *Tricia Fournier/Ford*:**

NFL is running really well. Mrs. Baechler shared that this is the best program that she’s been involved with. It’s been changed from a snack program to a breakfast program this year. Daily inventory and weekly ordering is part of the program.

**Other Business:**

***Math Kits - Mrs. Baechler***

Mrs. Baechler asked for some feedback on whether the council would support the purchase of Math Home Kits for the school. She brought in a few examples. There are a few schools in the region piloting a program that permits children to sign out a math kit for an evening/week, etc. Math Kits would be implemented in a similar fashion to the currently used Home Reading Kits. So far, the schools using the bins have had positive results. There would be one full bin per class. Individual bins might be $300/bin/class. The question was whether we would be willing to use some of our funds to purchase the bins – possibly one bin per year, since they are very expensive. Mrs. Baechler will proceed to investigate as the general consensus is that the council supported the idea.

**Next Meeting:**

Wednesday, November 12th – 6:00 pm

**Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

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

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