**Franklin Public School – Parent Council Meeting Minutes**

**February 26, 2014**

**7-8 pm New Staff Lounge**

**Facilitators: Heather Lee & Jenn Wilson**

**Attendees:**

Heather Lee, Jenn Wilson, Eva van den Brink, Cindy Martin, Theresa Barrick, Paul Milne, Anessa Selcage, Janice Scherer, Ebenezer Rajeevan, Deborah Hughes, Hilary Toller, Ann Wong-Lettenbauer, Trish Morgan

**Welcome to Diane McGregor – KW Counselling Services**

* Theresa welcomed Diane McGregor from KW Counselling Services
* As a group, we’ve decided to pick “Positive Discipline, Co-operative Kids”. Diane is happy that we picked this seminar as it’s a good one! The program will emphasize parent-child relationship.
* KWCS will come with handouts and a Powerpoint presentation, they just need a screen and projector and the physical space….possibly the library. Whatever the turnout, whether we get 10 parents or 85, KWCS will run the seminar
* Diane would like to know the number of parents attending, approximately one week ahead of time, so that they can prepare the appropriate number of handouts for the group
* Diane totally understands the complications surrounding the offer to provide childcare, but in her experience, attendance is increased at those schools who do offer childcare.
* Date that was picked – Thursday, May 22nd – 6:30 – 8:30 (2 hour window)
* Diane will send us a little poster with some advertising that we can modify for our school.

**Adoption of Minutes**

A motion was made by Jenn Wilson to accept the minutes from the meeting on January 15, 2014.

The motion was seconded by Cindy Martin.

All members were in favour and the motion passed.

**Principals Comments: Paul / Dan**

* Paul – we continue to focus on learning – refining our instructional practice surrounding teaching math through problem solving
* Math – “Dreambox” is online math program that all kids at Franklin have access to. It is being reported that students who spend more time on Dreambox are showing some gains in their learning. We’re a pilot school and we’re hoping that we’ll be able to use it again next year
* In early Fall we had a KidsLink rep here to speak to us and she continues to work with the students to develop a school-wide language to help them to solve problems themselves. The 2nd part of the program is to actually refer some students for more group sessions. Paul thinks it’s going well as he hears the language being used throughout the school.
* Math night – will be April 1st
* The Dance-a-thon was a big hit with the students. They all seemed to have a great time. The little finger flash lights were also a big hit.
* Carnaval – thank goodness Mother Nature co-operated and gave us a beautiful day. The students all had a wonderful day, too. The kindies had a shortened version the next morning.
* Since we met in January some minor staffing changes:
  + Mme Karashialis has returned from her Maternity leave and Mr. Rajtar has moved on to another school
  + Mrs. Burkhardt is back from her Maternity leave and Miss Schrader is still here
* Kindergarten registration has taken place in school and online. The problem is that online registration makes it hard to figure out how many we’ll actually have in September.
* Some people may have noticed that outside the gym an Automated External defibrillator (AED) has been installed.
* Ongoing clubs – Dreambox Club (Mrs. Stacey), Mrs. Schoneveld has the Kodaly choir rehearsing, gymnastics is ongoing in the gym, Coin Club, French Club, the Loom Club,
* BYOD – “bring your own device” policy guideline – there is a draft in place (sent around for comments). This would be put in place if the homeroom teacher thought it would be fit for students to bring in their own devices. They would be the ones to send home the forms and they would keep the forms on file in the classroom. Teachers wouldn’t initiate this until they have a safe and secure place to store the devices.

**Chair’s Comments: Heather / Jenn**

Discussion Topics:

* **Update from WRAPSC and Steering Committee (Jenn):**
  + Through the parent involvement committee (PIC) they’re doing a seminar called “Rise to Success – Supporting Your Child in School”. The keynote speaker is Michael Reist who is the author of “What every parent should know about school”. This free seminar takes place on April 12, 2014 at Bluevale Collegiate from 9:00am – 2:45pm. Online registration at [www.wrdsb.ca/pic](http://www.wrdsb.ca/pic)
  + The board is still trying to reduce the budget, but beyond the bussing, nothing concrete has been put in place
  + There is a lady going around to the schools to try to implement a mental health program by May or June so that it will be in place by September
  + If anyone is interested in the WRAPC committee e-mails, just give Jenn your e-mail and she’ll forward them to you
  + We are also welcome to attend any meetings with her
  + We received a form to rate our principal – heather will send it out for any feedback and she’ll fill it out and send it in on our behalf
* **Safe, Caring and Inclusive schools (Deborah):**
  + There was a meeting back in November and 2 since then
  + People involved – Mrs. Mclean, Shelley Strubb, Paul, Deborah, and two Gr.6 students
  + They’re trying to focus on just a few projects rather than a multitude of items in order to actually get things implemented
  + They’re working towards using gender neutral bathrooms signs
  + They’re working on a questionnaire for beginning of the year – a “know your child” kind of thing
  + They’re working on finding a fasting or prayer room for students
  + April 9th is their next meeting
  + Q – What were the feelings of the 2 Gr. 6 boys who sit on the committee regarding making changes around the school?
  + A – they were quite engaged in the discussions, but there were times when some conversation points were clearly over their heads
  + Round table discussion resulted from some of these points
* **Dance-a-thon update (Heather):**
  + Huge success – kids had fun!
  + We have a rough estimate of $4,200.00 profit, but 20% of that goes to Prof. Jamz
  + We’ll have a final total for next meeting as there is still some money still coming in.
  + Finger lights were a success
  + We’re happy the teachers got so involved in dancing with their students
  + Just a few issues that Heather will take up with Prof Jamz – bags and pledge forms, unprepared kick-off assembly, light baton prize is not great and the lack of a sample at the kick-off assembly
* **Volunteers for Greening Committee (Heather):**
  + Looking for committee members to liaise between staff and school council
  + Barb Marchand called Jenn Wilson because she joined the Eco-schools Committee with Jenn and she needs council’s help. She will come in March to talk to us. Jenn read an e-mail that Mme. Marchand sent along. She wants our help with a rain barrel project – see [www.rainbarrel.ca](http://www.rainbarrel.ca)
  + We need to be careful to try to keep things simple – rocks & trees so that we don’t need to maintain it
  + Looking for someone who can look into the details of the Toyota greening grant
  + We’ve been hearing for years that Franklin is lacking some shade so some more trees would be good
  + Paul said we need to have a vision first before we go forward otherwise it’s a waste of everyone’s time.
  + Denis Wendland (Board consultant for greening projects) – Cindy could contact him to come in and talk to us and walk us through a grant proposal – give us ideas on what the board deems acceptable
* **Volunteers for Spirit Wear t-shirts committee for Walk-a-thon:**
  + We had talked about having t-shirts available for students and families to order for the June Sunnyside walk-a-thon.
  + We need someone to take this on – are there any families at Franklin who work in this field?
  + Paul will get some contacts from other principals and pass along to Heather
  + Heather will have some design and pricing options ready for next meeting

**Treasurer’s Report: Eva**

* See treasurer’s report attached
* Update from Fran – she has spent money - $3,200.00 which leaves $400 of Book Fair money remaining
* New Book Fair scheduled for 3rd week in May, the profits for the May Book Fair will have to be spent in September as the deadline for ordering new books is in March
  + March 6 – Michael Wade – parent note will be sent out this Friday.
* Q – Has nutrition for learning ever approached us for funding?
* A – They do the poinsettia fundraiser at Christmas time. Paul seems to think they’re okay for a bit.
* Discussion regarding the Zehrs tapes & Campbell’s labels fundraisers – we need to update the bulletin board outside the office.
* Elmira poultry fundraiser – date set for delivery of poultry for May 15th

**Additional business:**

* Questions, comments, concerns?
  + Skate night was fun – not a bad turn-out given snowstorm – may be our last one given the new policy regarding helmets ☹

Adjourn: 8:40pm

Next meeting: March 26, 2014