

Franklin Public School – Parent Council Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2015

7-8:30 pm Library

Facilitators: Mark Eys

Attendees:

Mark Eys, Eva van den Brink, Anessa Selcage, Janice Scherer, Jenn Wilson, Paul Milne, Jo-Anne Soye, James VanderLaan, Ebenezer Rajeevan, Deborah Hughes, Ann Wong – Lettenbauer, Pauline Tomlinson, Trish Morgan, Gwen Lloyd, Heather Reidel, Mike Bittle, Robyn Harrison, Monica Chopra, Katelin Pfaff, Shalini Sooraj, Govind Kulty, Rohini Padmavathyamma, Miroslav Hubert, Maria Turner

Regretts: Heather Lee, Cindy Martin, Kimberly Janzen, Carmela Gentile-Faure, Hilary Toller

Welcome

- Thank you all for coming out tonight
- Introductions were made round the table
- Quick explanation of how the council and executive works

Adoption of Minutes

Errors & Omissions:

- Hilary's last name needs to be added as well as Anessa needs to be added as an attendee

A motion was made by Eva van den Brink to accept the minutes from the meeting on June 24, 2015.

The motion was seconded by Jenn Wilson.

All members were in favour and the motion passed.

Principal's Comments: Paul / Jo-Anne

- Paul was impressed by the large turn out tonight. It makes him curious as to what worked? Was it the school sign out front or perhaps SCHOOL DAY? Please stop Paul in the hall and let him know what worked
- Enrollment is slightly up. We have approximately 610 students. The Kindergarten numbers are up – we have 5 full sections now. With 4 ½ sections in the spring, it allowed us the chance to balance out the numbers a little

- Board improvement plan for student achievement is posted on the Board website. This plan is in place to improve the students ability to problem solve and their ability to think and improve instructional practice
- The Kindergarten play area looks fabulous and will be an ongoing project this year. Thanks to all the support from school council
- Paul has a letter from the Breakfast Program asking for financial support. He will bring the letter to Mark / Eva and talk about it a bit more once the budget has been set. There are 50+ kids are using the program already this year
- Safe caring & inclusive schools initiative – Paul & Jo-Anne are looking for a parent to be part of that committee (one workshop in the fall, followed by a meeting to get organized as a team to make positive changes within the school) The group would meet a couple of times throughout the school year
- QSP – will come up in the fundraising discussion later in the meeting
- Jo-Anne has a Library report from Fran Brenneman:
 - It's been a busy start to the new school year. Fran had all the new books out for display. She has started a celebration book program. The Forest of reading program will be launched in the late Fall, she will need \$650 for her wish list for that program. Two Book Fairs have been scheduled – one for December 2-4 and the other for June 1-3. Fran has had 2 volunteers to help out with different jobs in the library – one painted a new mural painted and the other fixed a rocking chair. She would like to purchase each of them a \$50 gift card.
- Parent Reaching Out grant was approved from last year and is approved for this school year as well to support our Math Night
- Code(Council of Ontario Directors of Education) materials are available to take home if desired. It talks about building healthy relationships regarding parent involvement in their child's education
- Community Representative – Cindy Martin is not able to attend Tuesday night meetings so if we choose to continue with Tuesday evening meetings, we'll need to think about a new community rep
- SCHOOL DAY App – please sign up for it, it's beneficial for communication purposes
- Grade 6 camps not running at beginning of October. We're hoping to have an alternate date in the Spring

Treasurer's Report: Eva

- Please see attached for details
- Total fundraising = 9600. Total spent = 15650.
- Book fair monies that come in are kept in a separate account for library use
- \$9,827.00 – was account balance at year end, which means \$6,980.00 for council use this year
- Fundraising this year:
 - There was a round table discussion regarding the collection of funds and handing out of forms as the teachers are not able to participate due to the current job action
 - Fundraising ideas:

- Treasure books – discussion regarding how to advertise – school day, front sign, website etc. Gwen & Eva will look into the Treasure books
- QSP Magazines – supplies are here if we want to proceed with it – Janice, Anessa, Eva, Deborah to organize the distribution. We'll e-mail to arrange a meeting day with Administration
- Pizza Day?? – Mrs. McLean's grade 6 class took it on last year....will wait until the labour unrest is resolved
 - o Milk program?? – Paul will look into why it's not running
- Please come next month with ideas for fundraising and we'll discuss other possibilities – also come with ideas on how to spend the money raised
- Q – Is there a specific amount we're looking to raise?
- A – No – let's think about a goal, set it, raise it and spend it
- A discussion took place regarding what our past goals have been (i.e., gym equipment, electric piano)

Chair's Comments: Mark

Discussion Topics:

- **Executive and council positions**
 - If you were a member of council last year, you are more than welcome to run for Executive positions. The Executive positions include Chair or Co-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. To date, Mark indicated a willingness to remain on as Chair with Anessa as co-chair/Member at Large and Eva has volunteered to be Treasurer again. Janice is stepping down as Secretary, so that position is open. Gwen has offered to step in to fill that role.
 - Mark described what a voting member is and what the expectations are with that position. As per the By-laws, we can only have 20 voting members per council, therefore if you commit to becoming a voting member we will need you to attend as many meetings as possible in order to fulfill a quorum for voting purposes
 - All voting for Executive and council positions will take place at the October meeting
- **Franklin Greening Program (Mark)**
 - o Background – it started as a drainage problem, as well as an opportunity to offer more shade for the kindergarten area and a chance to become a greener Franklin
 - The Board did commit to fixing the draining problem and it would appear that the issue has been resolved. The project also included edging, 2 large trees, cedars in the far end, river stone in the bridge area and mulch. The cost for the project was \$10,000.00 with Council contributed approximately \$5,000. There is still a decent amount of things to be added
 - Greening program sub-committee (Heather, Gwen, Cindy)
 - Evergreen – is a program that helps you with greening projects and design – we'll be going to them for support on donations for trees this year. We will leave it in the capable hands of the greening committee to attend Evergreen's workshops this school year

- New committee members – Jenn, Robyn, Heather & Katelin – should touch base with Paul regarding ideas and what needs to be done yet
- Funding (WEFI, Council, SPCA, TD, others?)
 - Mark will be going after additional funding from TD that will be somewhere in the range of \$1,500.00 to help with payment
- **Public Tennis courts (Cindy)**
 - Possibility for a letter to the city
 - Cindy had concerns with the maintenance of the courts – she’s willing to draft the letter
 - It was suggested that we cc Mayor Berry Vrbanovic, Councillors Dave Schnider & Scott Davey, and SPCA
- **Strong Start**
 - Strong Start is an organization that promotes early literacy for SK and Gr1 students
 - Last year there weren’t many volunteers to help run the program
 - Shelley Strubb is in charge of the program here at Franklin
 - **Action item:** Paul to chat with Shelley and let her know that we have interest within the parent community
- **Internet policy at Franklin (Gwen)**
 - There was an article in the Record about a Cambridge father who pulled his kids from public school because of access to porn within the computer lab. This made Gwen curious about what our policy is within the public board – are there safe guards on the computers?
 - Paul – we are certainly firewalled. It’s not 100% perfect, but it’s a pretty strong firewall that it sometimes causes grief for Paul and other Admin. Every once in a while teachers come across a website kids shouldn’t see and they send a note about it to be blocked. It’s a board....not Franklin firewall. This is why we focus so strongly on social / digital citizenship. Jo-Anne will send Janice a link to add to the minutes.
 - **Note:** Please see attached Adobe files from Jo-Anne regarding Digital Citizenship.
 - Teachers can actually watch all 26 students within the computer lab at one time when they use a certain program for teaching
- **Safe, Caring & Inclusive School committee**
 - Buddy Benches (Maria)
 - As mentioned earlier in the meeting, Paul is looking for a volunteer to sit on this committee - Maria is interested. Anyone else is welcome to join as well.
 - A description was given of what a buddy bench is. It’s a bench that is placed in the schoolyard to encourage students to be a buddy not a bully
 - This was one of the projects that the SCIS teacher (McLean) had in mind from last year’s committee
 - There seems to be a lot of interest in this concept
 - **Action Item:** Maria to do the leg work to determine cost and we’ll leave this idea to be decided on by the SCIS committee
 - **Note:** Here are some links from Maria:
<https://www.gofundme.com/buddybenchforall>

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Buddy-Bench-1593791817546865/>

- **Sex education curriculum (James)**
 - James question – What is our role, as a parent council, if there are any concerns from the parents in the school community?
 - There is a lot of info on the Board website & FAQ for parents who might have questions
 - It was noted that “Physical & Health Education Program” is the new name for the “Sex Ed” program
 - It was mentioned that a Province-wide protest is being planned for October 1st. Paul suggested we please educate ourselves before deciding to participate in the protest
 - Q – Has the new curriculum been implemented yet?
 - A – Paul we have the new curriculum, but we haven’t had a chance to discuss it as a Board or as a staff, so staff aren’t rushing into teaching the new components. Staff will notify parents once they start communicating with students (notes go home)
 - **Note:** Please see the attached Word document from Jo-Anne regarding the new Health & PhysEd Communications.

- **Campbell’s Labels (Kimberly / Mark)**
 - Pushed forward to October

- **Family Night sub-committee (Anessa, Eva, Gwen)**
 - Pushed forward to October

- **Lackner Woods partnership (Anessa)**
 - Pushed forward to October

- **Speakers for this year**
 - Please come with ideas for any speakers you might want to offer to parents / students for the upcoming school year

- **Meeting dates for school council**
 - Tues, October 27

New Business:

- None

Adjourn: 8:40pm

Next meeting: October 27, 2015

** Enter through front doors. The Library is to the left and down the hall.