

School Council Meeting:

Monday, September 17th, 2018

6:30pm – J.F. Carmichael Library

Minutes

Attendance: Anna Maste, Stephanie Brubacher, Sarah Kennedy, Charity Friesen, Sandra Orton, Brian Burnley, T Scott

Regrets: Aimee Polevoy

Welcome and Greetings

Business:

Chocolate bars coming on Wednesday, Sept. 19th, in the morning, if they are on time, if the company does not think it is too hot. We'll be storing them in the change room.

Anna requested some gr.6s to help unload the cases from the truck. Brian agreed.

Thursday, Sept. 20th, Stephanie and Anna will label them in the morning. Charity volunteered to help as well.

The chocolate bar assembly will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 25th in the afternoon due to chocolate bar Rep's schedule (otherwise it would have been held in the morning).

Anna will send out a schedule to the teachers for the classes to come pick up the chocolate bars, class by class, giving each class 15 minutes each.

The council (Anna) needs help on Tuesday, Sept. 25th in the morning to help hand out the chocolate bars.

Sarah will help Anna on Tuesday morning. Stephanie will come in the afternoon. Charity will be on call for the afternoon, if more help is needed.

Starting Wednesday, Sept. 26th, volunteers will be in the change room to collect chocolate bar funds.

Prizes have already been purchased. They are:

A decently rated drone with remote control, on-board camera.

Google home (full sized).

Sphero, BB8 themed.

Half-way prizes: Walkie-talkies with excellent range.

Prizes for selling a single box: the school had some wrist bands made, they glow in the dark! They say JF Carmichael and Cougar Pride.

Some of last year's prizes are left over, and can be used for those who sell a second box.

Cost of the prizes: just under \$600 that has been spent so far.

Budget overview:

Need a real idea of how much money we bring in from this year's fundraiser before this can be accurate.

As it stands:

\$4468.16 in the bank currently

+\$4000.00 in legacy account, savings to be used in the future if/when new playground equipment is needed.

All last year's bussing money was spent, hooray!

All English and French home reading books were purchased, as discussed last year.

All silent stationary bikes were bought for the classrooms as promised last year.

All the money was spent, allocated as we had discussed from last year.

Council Positions Elections:

Stephanie nominated Anna as Chair. Charity seconded.

Anna nominated Sandra for Secretary. Sarah seconded.

Penny is our Treasurer (for the minor items we'll need throughout the year).

Principal Brian is putting out a weekly message on School Day. He will put our messages into his updates, instead of needing a Council Corner volunteer.

He will include a link to our meeting minutes.

An aside:

Stephanie has heard from parents that they don't know what they should be paying attention to, Twitter vs. School Day.

Brian stated that School Day is the official messaging medium, per the board. Twitter was only used before Brian was given his account for J.F Carmichael's School Day.

Brian says they try to coordinate with the teachers so all the messages go together on School Day, once, instead of the parents getting 9 School Day messages.

Event planning:

Fall Book Swap

Need tables to be there - School will provide the tables.

Need books to be picked up from Talize. - Stephanie volunteered to do the books.

Date chosen: Tuesday November 13th.

Community Updates:

Home reading:

Home reading started today. Not all teachers have been informed this is available, and it is early compared to years past.

Any teachers that are ready to do so, can start now.

There are 5 volunteers already, but we could use 1 more.

Ms. Bennet and Ms. Quart had the idea that they would like the students to re-shelve their own books.

This is something the home reading group is willing to try this year.

Teachers will have to show the kids how to do this.

There's no card system anymore, they got rid of that, which makes it easier.

Aimee is planning to take over the home reading program after Stephanie leaves at the end of this year.

The teachers would like some volunteers to read with students either as part of Strong Start or not. Strong Start is a rewarding program. There are 2 hours of training given, then you would help kids learn to read.

We also need volunteers for **Nutrition for Learning** this year.

For this Friday's Principal's message, Brian plans to check in with Anna, and they will put out a message similar to: Volunteers needed for X, Y, Z.

Brian's (Principal's) message:

Some improvements:

Great start to the year, up until today, there were no behaviour issues at all (no one sent to the Principal's office).

The school has some new little ones (younger students) that are fairly needy, in grade 1 mostly.

The school has worked on tightening up procedures. The line painting on the pavement, paid for by the school council last year, was part of that.

They have practiced several times going in and out of the school.

Other Procedures practiced: sides of the stairways, the lunch flip (nutrition break): last year after the outside time when the kids were eating. After the flips, there have been zero conflicts reported this year.

Class meetings are happening daily. These are structured meetings where for 10 minutes each day the class talks together and gets "grounded". The teacher starts the meeting with: what's on your mind, or what happened outside, is there anything I can help with? This is time to read the kids and react to what they hear. They are gauging the socio-emotional needs of the kids.

The Principal and VP check in themselves, with at least 15 different kids each day.

Every Monday during the announcements, they do a "land acknowledgement", which means they give homage to the First Nations people whose land we're being allowed to learn on today.

Student Leadership is up and rolling really well. There are more than 30 kids in the program.

The kids provide leadership in: PALS, as lunch helpers, as bus helpers, etc. They have about 60 kids who are interested in leadership opportunities.

They've instituted a Colour House idea/system, in which student leaders will guide the younger kids.

There will be 6 colour houses, based on the 6 different characteristics they want to instill. (For example, Honest, Kindness, Integrity, etc.)

Pride ballots have been replaced with the WITS ballots.
They found that the PRIDE acronym wasn't being used or enforced, but WITS is.

The Boot Room is fantastically organized now, Mallory Bennett spent 6 of her spare periods organizing it.

Thank you to Anna for organizing the bar-b-q. It was pretty smooth.
Brian bar-b-q'd the wieners ahead of time, so they could get "bunned" before the parents showed up.
Then the teachers handed out the hot dogs from trays.
Next year they want to do the bar-b-q the first week of school, the Thursday of the first week. We need a 30 day lead time in order to get the halal hot dogs on time.

Feedback from the parents: The t-shirts with the staff's names on the back were really helpful.
Feedback: The structure of the meet-the-teacher night wasn't communicated well. There were a lot of questions from parents.

Upcoming: We Day (Me to We), picture day Sept. 27th, Terry Fox Sept. 28th, Oct. 9th Kitchener Rangers coming in to read, Oct. 22nd the school is acting as a polling station (during the day and evening), what to do about parking that day?

Basically the school has a super staff and the tightening procedures they're doing are working really well.

What is on your mind:

Anna/Aimee: School Day complaint, the standard one. It's not easy to use. We've only had 70% of the parents sign up.

Brian: It's not the school's decision, it's the board's decision. And yes, it's not an ideal system.

Who will replace Mme. Colaiezzi?

Brian: They're working on it. The posting is internal and external to the board, so hopefully someone amazing will apply.

Anna/Aimee: Did we talk about the sex ed curriculum? Is that a thing?

T: There was a document that came out today from the board, outlining the responsibilities of the board. It's a difference of 3 expectations.

Is there board guidance on how to teach it?

Brian: There will be. The new doc is guidance, and there will be other support too.