

School Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 5th, 2018

6:30pm - J. F. Carmichael Library

Attendance: Anna Maste, Melissa Yarascavitch, Sarah Kennedy, Stephanie Brubacher, T. Scott (VP), Brian Burnley (Principal), Charity Friesen, Sandra Orton

Welcome and Greetings

Updates and Business

1. Finances + Fundraising Summary - Great Job JFC!

Chocolate Bar Fundraising: **We raised approximately \$11500.**

Only 4 boxes of chocolate have not been collected (and likely won't be), this is quite good historically for us.

2. Proposed budget - Discussion & Vote

Meet the teacher night - only spent \$100, but budgeted \$300, made the change to the proposed budget to \$100.

There are no PRO grant anymore, which affects our budgeting for Math nights

Last year's special expenses were: Basketball tournament, Kodaly choir, bikes in the classrooms, basketball nets, line painting

We won't have as much extra this year because of all last year's big expenditures.

Brian informed us that due to the new PSAC guidelines around retirement gifts, and teacher appreciation, retirement gifts are not allowed.

So we must remove the retirement gifts line from our budget (\$100)

JFC was audited last year and did very well, and during this time Penny learned how we could show our appreciation to the teachers without breaking the rules. If we use our own money, or if parents bake things and bring them in, those activities are fine, and do not cross the line.

Action: Anna will talk to Penny to get ideas for how we can show our appreciation to the teachers.

No other additions, comments, concerns on the proposed budget.

Last year's Kodaly music cost was roughly \$400, and the same is expected to be spent this year.

Added into the budget \$400.

Our total budget is now \$11,600

Unanimous vote to adopt the updated budget.

3. Event planning:

Book Swap, next Tuesday, November 13th, at 3:20pm until after school

Action: Stephanie will make a poster

Action: Brian will add this event to School Day and send it out on Twitter

We have lots of books this year

Melissa has a couple of bins of books to drop off

We do not have tables coming for next week at this time. The school owns 10 tables, but we need about 20-26.

Action: Brian/the school will source the tables.

Looking for volunteers to help on the day, to show up at 2:20pm. Melissa will be there with Anna, Stephanie, and Sarah.

Festive Lunch:

Brian/T have been working on it for a couple of weeks: Conestoga College is out, KCI is in, 100%

The head of the culinary program, in their fast forward class, has agreed to provide the lunch.

December 20th is the day that works best for them. The lunch will probably be pasta and salad, something Halal. The grade 11s will make it, then come and serve it.

We do not have enough tables yet, 30 tables coming from the board. Our paperwork got missed when it was submitted last year. They'll get it worked out, but the lunch may have to go in 2 waves, but that would not be the end of the world.

In the past council has volunteered to help serve, do they want/need us?

No, not yet, but they will let us know.

Only issue with pasta is the gluten free kids. We are sure KCI will take that into consideration.

4. Committee updates:

Home reading

Kids are putting their own books away now.

There's more tidying needed now, but it's not too bad.

The volunteers are spending about the same time, but it's more predictable now. They do a general clean up, and then focus on their own area.

Are books disappearing? The volunteers did an inventory at the end of the year last year, and they will count again at the end of the school year. They don't have a baseline yet, so they can't compare, but they will get one this year.

5. Principal's Report:

A lot going on since last meeting!

Hometown Hockey, a shout out on the CBC, Brian had a picture taken with Mo Burg, lead singer of the band The Pursuit of Happiness, the week after that was the Beat Breakfast.

Recognition assemblies are ongoing, as are the Everyday 5 (meetings in the classroom between the teacher and students as a group), pride ballots turned into WITS ballots which are getting colour-house points. That has generated tangible competition

Cycling into the future was a big hit!

There are ongoing library workshops

The grade 5 kids are raising money with selling popcorn, every other Friday, for Me to We fundraising.

The bake sale was a big hit!

The Leadership kids are doing so much - did you see Brian's tweet from a couple of weeks ago?

Only 2 kids have quit out of 50. This shows how well the program is going.

Leadership kids are very busy. Brian feels they need a little reward, like a Saturday hide and seek game in the school, perhaps?

Mrs. Hill is back today, and Mrs. Draus is back from mat leave.

Mme. McDonough is off for a month for knee surgery. Posting for her position closed today, and they will interview tomorrow. Probably the strategy will be to have Mme. Orchard take up the slack, but all options will be considered.

Facility improvements: Schools are asked to generate a top 5 list every year, Facilities will often grant one item from the list.

This year's list:

1. Paving outside, where the parents wait for their kids and it is all muddy
2. Signs in the stairwells(big ugly paintings) updated
3. Staff room reno
4. Stairwells, don't like the rubber coating on the stairwells, worn out, in the winter they are unsafe, but they are \$300 per tread.

(Room 19 is still leaking, even after fixing the brick, it is probably a problem in the ceiling.)

What's on your Mind?

EQAO scores

They are not where we want them to be

Our school has many kids not working at grade level, but are assessed at grade level. Some kids have been known to misbehave just so they wouldn't have to write the test, because it's too stressful.

The teachers have mostly worked on the attitudinal surveys: to achieve level 3s, instead of level 2s as this provides more opportunities for teachers, more concrete items they can work on with the students.

A few years we ended up getting special funding because our scores were so low.

That is not the case anymore.

Perhaps we need special teachers to teach math, it is more like a language test than a math test unfortunately.

Most teachers at this school are very motivated, and have developed into a risk taking group, which is positive

What is the % of special needs in the school? Last year grade 3s, 32% or 33% which is high

We see a lot of test anxiety for sure.

Also our demographic has a lot of kids with home lives who don't get much support around test writing

What about the idea of a sign for the back of the school - is this still on the table?

We can look at it, later in the year.

Melissa will send her research paperwork to Anna, just for info.

Report cards are coming out on Monday.

T & Brian have been reading progress reports. They take about 1 hour and 15 minutes a set.

They are well written and they are very personal.

Are they still written in Edu-speak? Unfortunately, yes, as it addresses the curriculum. This report is the progress report, correct? Yes, the three column report. There seems to be a disconnect between what the teacher meant, and what the parents understand sometimes. This is the time to schedule a conversation with the teacher. Assessing = no marks given, describing where the students levels are currently. Evaluation = giving out a mark. Most students will get “progressing well” instead of “progressing very well”, because they are only part way through the year and this can be hard to predict.

We have 16 teachers participating in a book study at 8am before classes.

Friday is Remembrance Day ceremony. Parents are welcome to come. The school will lay out the lost and found items for parents to review.

We appreciate the emails coming from the school. We’ve never had so much communication from school administration before, and we appreciate it. The teachers are working on junior grades using the planners for communication. Primary grades already use them fairly well.