

## **School Council Meeting:**

Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019

6:30pm – J.F. Carmichael Library

### **Minutes**

Attendance: Anna Maste, Charity Friesen, Sarah Kennedy, Sandra Orton, Nancy Loewen (teacher, staff representative), Marcus Hoare (VP), Leah Pullen (Principal)

Welcome and Greetings

### **Updates and Business:**

#### **1. Fundraising:**

- a. Doing so well we ran out of chocolates today! This is the earliest we've run out. Anna ordered 10 cases more. If we sell all those, that's \$1,800 more of profit. Last year we had the fewest number of cases to chase down ever, which is great! This year, one family has already sold about 15 boxes. Wow!
- b. Volunteer Schedule:

We have a great team this year. There are lots of volunteers every morning, about 4 people every day, which is our max due to space in the change room.

#### **2. Budget overview:**

We typically don't do budgeting until after our fundraising is done.

But Anna brought us last year's budget, with a few changes

Total number of classes this year is 21, same as last year, so the bussing budget remains the same.

- a) Busses: Teachers were told Council budgets \$250/year per class which equals half of our budget.

Sometimes the teachers don't use the bussing money, but we really encourage them to do so.

- b) Family Workshops/Parent Engagement, we'll discuss further and ask for ideas.
- c) Greening of school ground is an item from last year's budget. Mr. Yantzi usually took this on, but is there someone else on staff who wants to be the point person on this (because Mr. Yantzi is not at our school this year)? This one item probably also includes the butterfly gardens.
- d) Insurance is an item on last year's budget. Council had been in the habit of buying insurance. This covered child care for the parent engagement nights, and child care at our monthly meetings, but we haven't done this for a while. We probably don't need additional insurance for these events anymore, but we probably want to take out a policy for our movie night.

Mrs. Pullen will ask other schools what they do, and will get back to Anna about what they do.

Confirmed, no insurance needed if it is an activity booked through the school as a school event.

- e) PALS Equipment – no one is running the PALS program right now. Mr. Hoare proposed that each classroom gets its own set of outside equipment to be used at nutrition breaks. Mrs. Loewen said that she can't get any of the teachers or ECEs to be responsible the one responsible for cleaning up the equipment or taking responsibility for it during the breaks. Mr. Hoare thinks the kids could do it themselves if it was classroom equipment. For example, it could be one of the student jobs in the class, or there could be a sign-out sheet in each class.
- f) Question was asked about getting another square of four square painted on the pavement? This is really popular at our school right now, with students lining up to play the next game each nutrition break. However, the response was that there isn't really any flat ground left in the school yard on which a new four square game could be painted.
- g) GaGa ball. It's played on a short (maximum waist height), octagonal court. It's a kinder, gentler variant of dodgeball, where to play, you hit/slap the ball with your hand and try to hit other people between the legs/feet (on or below the waist), and the ball has to stay within the court. The last person standing wins. Kids really seem to love it. Mrs. Pullen will look into the cost of one. This is a potential budget item.
- h) Meet the Teacher Night – last year managed to spend \$0 and have a great event.
- i) Graduation – locks for the kids who graduate, and snacks for the celebration.
- j) Legacy Fund – Council has been creating this fund for the last few years, for large expenditures that may creep up on us, by setting aside \$1,000 per year.

We may have as much as \$12,000 to spend this year.

Any other suggestions?

Council is not allowed to buy classroom curriculum books, or books for the literacy room. They fall into the category of items that the school board should provide, and therefore the school cannot accept fundraising funds for them. This is a school board rule.

- a) The third floor does not have a water fountain, where bottles can be filled, and that uses cooled water. The price range for a fountain like the school has on all the other levels is about \$4,000. Council can probably commit to half of the cost.
- b) The Caribou Math Club – Mrs. Colaiezzi runs it, and spoke to Anna about it. It occurs once a month and the students are issued a "test"/contest. The club is for grades 1-6. Grades 1 & 2 can participate free, and October is a free month for everyone. After that, Grades 3-6 need to pay to sign up to get access codes. Can Council cover half the bill? After October, Mrs. Colaiezzi will have a better idea of the number of kids who stay in the club for the year and therefore the cost. Best guestimate at this time is around \$200.
- c) Festive lunch? Can Council contribute? Yes, our funds can be used to support this item. Last year the Leadership group's bake sale money was used, but there are other causes that this fundraised money could go to and if Council can contribute to the Festive Lunch, the Leadership group's funds could be better spent elsewhere. Last year the Leadership group's fundraising was about \$500. Council can look at contributing this when the budget is discussed/formalized.

### **3. Committee Updates:**

Home reading: Charity had a question. Should we require police checks for our volunteers? If the volunteers aren't going to be alone with students, they don't need the police check. If it is needed, the school can provide a letter that will lower the cost and speed up the process. So if the librarian is in the room, the home reading volunteers aren't considered to be alone with the child/children.

This is much like a volunteer on a field trip; the assumption is that the staff will oversee them. We've had many volunteers for Home Reading help this year – it's been great!

Math Night – Mrs. Colaiezzi ran it last year but it's a big job to organize an event of this size. We could bring in a guest speaker and invite parents and community members as a different option. Things we've done in the past, we've had someone talk about online safety, and nutritionists talk to parents about options for kids' lunches.

We've noticed that when the kids come to events with the parents we get the best attendance.

Other ideas?

- a) Meet the teacher night in the fall is the only time we, as parents, get to go into the classrooms, so an open house would be nice in the evening or afterschool at another time in the school year. But would the teachers need to be here? Probably. We don't want to tax our teachers... but it sounds like a nice idea. A more casual night not structured around assessment times, would be a super idea. Could put out an invitation to the teachers and ask. Teachers can be invited to participate and would be free to say no.
- b) Another idea is to do a night like math night, but not necessarily focused on math.
- c) Hide and seek on a Saturday – was offered as a prize for something once upon a time, and seemed to get a good interest.

**NB: Parents get to come in in November for parent interviews during progress report season. There's a half day scheduled on a PD day in November, and teachers can opt to open up the evening before that day as well.**

Nutrition night has been organized a few times in the past. They were small, intimate and fun nights, held in the staff room kitchen. It was a chance to socialize over food with other parents. They were good events, but small in terms of attendance and space.

The point of these events are to draw the community in, to learn from each other and share with each other.

Mr. Hoare noted that there are groups that can be hired that schools can use to do the organizing for us, for the event, for a fee.

### **Principal's message:**

Mark and Leah are still here, and will be here all year!

Not a lot has changed since the last meeting. It has only been three weeks.

The school has had a few kids join in the last few weeks, and this week. So our class sizes have grown to close to the class size cap, but we've passed the time when the school board will reorganize the

classes, so we're pretty safe to assume that the classes may grow by 1 or 2 more kids, but we probably won't have huge changes. We're not full to capacity, we're only just hitting the caps now. The school is excited to have new students from everywhere in Canada and abroad.

The EQAO scores have come in, and the school has been celebrating some great numbers in math. Last year in grade 6 had something like 26% working at grade level in math, and on this past test, we scored 38%.

In Grade 3 historic scores were 34%, now at 38%. A slight increase, but something to be celebrated. Reading and writing are at par with board levels. Math can still grow, but seeing the upwards trend was celebrated, and we're looking forward to seeing it grow further.

There is a PD day at the end of October.

The school had heard rave reviews about the fundraiser from parents and students. The prizes this year seem to have generated some excitement. The students are selling really well.

Halloween is coming up. The students can dress up in costume or wear orange and black, but they cannot have masks, or weapons.

There will be a bake sale, for Me to We on Halloween. If parents or Council want to help, by bringing in baking it would be welcome. It will be put in the girl's change room, on tables. Please don't put things on the benches, or ants will be attracted and will show up.

Every 2 weeks there will be a spirit day – stay tuned for these.

This Friday is pajama and stuffy day. It's the reward for the students raising over \$1,000 for Terry Fox. They raised about \$1,200. Hooray!

### **What is on your mind:**

Strike action heard about on the radio, how will that affect us? CUPE is not part of the WDRSB. ETFO strike? Elementary teacher's union. They had a meeting today, which is what you heard about on the news.

What we know currently: All the employee groups are going through the actions they need to take in order to be in position to strike. However at this moment, there are no groups in a position to work to rule or to strike.

Work to rule seems like a first step. Is that the case? Or is there a progression that is legislated? Yes, there are steps and timelines that are legislated, but the development of job action is not one of those things. If a union group does the paperwork to start a job action, the other group (the school board) has a deadline to respond. So there will be a short period between the 2 stages. Job action is usually a progression, but last week's announcement from CUPE was a surprise. They jumped a few steps, so clearly it's possible to go that route.

Unions at our school:

DECES, (Designated Early Childhood Educators) are part of ETFO, (Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario), like the teachers.

Secretaries are part of OSSTF, (Ontario Secondary School Teacher's Federation), the secondary school union.

Custodians are part of CAMA, (Custodial and Maintenance Association).

Often, if and when we see job action, parents ask if they can step in and fill some of those holes, i.e. coach the basket ball team so they don't miss any practice time. The answer is typically, "No". For liability reasons for one, and in recognition of the fact that there are a lot of responsibilities that teachers take on outside of the classroom, it's out of respect, for two.

Next meetings:

Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>

Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>

No meeting in January

Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>

Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>

Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>

Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>