

Millen Woods P. S. School Council

Minutes for November 18, 2015

Welcome and Introductions

Attendance:

Dan, Joanne, Daniel, Trish, Mrs. Kate Webber, Sarah T, James, Sarah B., Jill, Vicky, Ashley, Jana, Kim

Call to order and approval of agenda and past minutes.

Joanne called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Motion to approve agenda: James, seconded by Jill

Motion to approve October Minutes: Sarah T, seconded by Daniel

News:

Administration Report

Update regarding the walk to school initiative presented by Colleen Cooper at October's meeting: There a short survey for Millen Woods Families regarding walking to school, walking school busses, and volunteers for the committee at Millen Woods. This survey will be sent out by Friday. There is encouragement for schools to keep promoting walking to school, and to keep it at the forefront of people's minds.

Trish presented the information on the professional carpet steam cleaner. Currently, Mr. Kavanaugh is required to request the equipment from Bluevale as needed. He would like to have one at the school so that he can keep the carpets cleaner. There may be some funding from the board to assist in this purchase. Perhaps we could split the cost with LBP. Trish will talk to the site supervisor about it.

Kate Webber made a presentation about Chromebooks and iPads. The staff has had training and is interested in having more technology available to use in the classrooms. Staff would like Council to consider a contribution to the purchase of more technology for the school. The initial request has changed to include more Chromebooks and fewer iPads. Some students prefer iPads, so they should be available.

Benefits of using Chromebooks/iPads include:

- Possibility of going paperless in the classroom, and resulting savings in paper, copying, etc.

- The kids are interested in working with technology and using technology prepares them for the future.
- GAFE (Google Apps For Education) which the board has purchased for each student until graduation. The students work is stored in one place, they can share it with one another and their teachers. Students can comment and discuss each other's work and teachers can comment live on the work that students are doing. There are many useful features including a speech to text tool, and a built in research tool. Information is stored in the cloud, so students can log in at home to work on projects, and parents can see the work that their children are doing. The work from previous years is all stored in the student account, which creates a portfolio of their work.
- Primary and Junior students can all benefit from this technology. It is a whole school program.

Students collaborate more effectively when they can each work on their own device. Ultimately staff would like to have a class set of Chromebooks to be shared between 2 classrooms, so that the technology is available when teachers need it. Students will continue to use pencils, notebooks, etc. alongside the technology. Students can take photos of whiteboards, art, written work, etc. and add it to their drive.

The wifi was a problem last year, but so far this year, there have been no problems. There is a lot of discussion with the students about digital citizenship, and there is a board firewall to make it a secure format.

Jana questioned if we could get a better price if we pool an order with other school (volume). Trish explained that we must purchase through the board supplier.

Chromebooks cost approx. \$300 each, and kids are welcome to bring their own devices. If they do, the device comes in on Monday, and stays until Friday when it's sent home. Staff is looking to purchase 60 Chromebooks for the school. There is currently no plan in place to replace them in the future once they no longer work or become obsolete. There is the opportunity to replace damaged Chromebooks through the board for a minimal fee.

Finance Report

October opened with a balance of \$3392.38. A cheque for \$4000 for JungleSport came out, as well as \$370 for Scientists in the School leaving us \$593.92 in the red. This is part of one big account with other school funds, so we aren't in overdraft. Nancy Forgues can be contacted regarding the amount that we have in the WEFI account. The secretaries are still work to rule, and IT may shut down if an agreement isn't reached soon. QSP, and pizza money is due. QSP cheque should come in November and Pizza cheques in December, March, and June. Jana will add a line to reflect Council's funds in the WEFI account once she is able to determine how much that is. Action: Make sure cheques we are owed come in, and find out the amount that we have in WEFI.

Continuing Business:

Fundraising Updates

Magazines

Joanne reported that the magazine campaign ran again this fall. The numbers were down from last year, and the revenue is expected to be approximately \$1500. Thoughts on the reason for decreased sales included not doing prizes this year, more people getting online subscriptions, and people replying to the renewals that are sent in the mail.

Fundscrip

Sarah B reported that forms have been distributed, and a few have been returned for the fall Fundscrip campaign. She is seeking volunteers to come and help input the orders. Trish, Ashley, Dan, Jana, Jill, Sarah, Sarah, Daniel, Vicky have volunteered to meet to input the orders on Monday Nov. 23rd at 6:30 in the school library. Volunteers will also be needed for order pick up.

Book Fair Update

The book fair was a huge success with increased sales over last year. The result was approximately \$1500 in cash to buy resources for the library. Thank you to the volunteers who helped.

Movie Night, Dance-a-thon Date Setting

Amy is happy to do the dance-a-thon when the teachers would like to do it. We should be aware of other fundraising efforts at that time. Trish will ask staff if they would like to move the dance-a-thon to March to alleviate that.

Movie Night – a Thursday before PD day works best. Will decide a date in January

New Business:

Steam Cleaner Purchase Proposal

This was addressed in the administration report. Trish to find out more information

Playground Committee Initial Findings

The playground committee met for a walk around the school yard, and made up a document with their initial findings. Much of what is needed is maintenance.

What aligns with the students vision is an extension of the ship climber on the non-ladder side. A slide wouldn't meet regulations. We could contact Earthscape about options – perhaps logs at different angles for climbing. There are some concerns about risk of falling, and the compacted sand. Dan will follow up with a possibilities for enhancing the ship climber.

Protecting the trees – the roots at the base of trees without fencing have been exposed. This makes the trees vulnerable. Dan will follow up with Laura about who put up the fences originally so that we can look into replacing the fences to protect the trees.

There was discussion about adding flags to indicate the location of playground elements to keep them from getting damaged by the snow plows. Trish will speak the people responsible for snow removal.

James came across a grant through the region, and a neighbourhood grant. The application has to be ready by Nov. 30, and must have a fitness component to it. Perhaps we could add small fitness stations along perimeter of the yard near the path. James will look into this more.

Trish would prefer to add a separate pit for long jump rather than doing the long jump in the sand around the ship climber, which is the current set up.

Trish will ask the company who paints the tarmac to price painting the goal posts.

Regarding the gardens, Trish said that it's often volunteers who work on the gardens. We can ask for volunteers in the new year. Some planter boxes might be nice by the office window at the school entrance.

The plaque for Gwen has been scratched, dented, and pulled off of the rock by the story tree. Playground committee to consider options.

Open Discussion (Ideas & Goals)

Carnival fun fair (Trish) – Spring or Fall activity put on by teacher and council together. Ideas include carnival games, face painting, raffle, silent auction, bake sale, freezies, etc. Each class could have a theme and make up a gift basket around that theme for auction. Community resources could be invited to attend.

Ski/Skate exchange (Jana) – Thurs and Fri night to collect, and have the sale on Friday. People would take home what isn't purchased. Parents would set the price. A % of the sale would come to the school. Could contact a sporting goods store (play it again sports) to set up and give percentage to school. Too late this year, but perhaps next year.

Book Sale (Jana)

Parent Night Out (Jana) – before Christmas, and parents can go shop. \$10/kid hotdog and a movie. Would need to look into legalities (first aid, ratio, etc.)

Halloween Party (Jana)

Plant Swap (Jana)

BBQ's at events (Jana) – Parent volunteers to bbq

Pinnies for regional sports (Sarah) – Pinnies would make our students look like a cohesive team, and help teachers keep track of our students at sporting events held away from the our school. Kim can price out the pinnies with new company for spiritwear.

Spiritwear (Kim) –Kim would volunteer to do it again. There were issues with the company from last year, so looking for a new company who could do it all online.

Next Month's Secretary and Newsletter Update

Next Meeting Jan 20th.

Trish will volunteer to be secretary.

Sarah B will do December and January newsletter updates.

Adjournment

Joanne adjourned meeting at 8:58 pm