

Millen Woods P.S. School Council

Minutes for October 21, 2015

Dan called the meeting to order @ 7:05pm

Attending:

Jill, Sarah, Jaime, Laura, Ashley, Vicky, James, Daniel, Melanie, Trish, Jana, Joanne, Dan, Jeff, Lisa

Special Guest: Colleen Cooper

Welcome to new attendees. Dan explained the role of council and of voting council members.

Jill moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Melanie.

Laura moved to approve the September 16, 2015 minutes, seconded by Jaime.

Administrative Report – Trish Starodub @ 7:13pm

School Travel Plan

Colleen Cooper, a retired public health nurse, is the school travel planning coordinator and visited Millen Woods on October 9th. School travel planning collects data, develops, implements and assesses a plan. Data collection for Millen Woods was completed. How children get to school and barriers to walking/riding to school were assessed. A walk about the neighbourhood was also performed. The report is now complete and will be forwarded to Ms. Starodub.

The initial data collection was funded by a previous grant. This year the grant is courtesy of the Canadian Automobile Recyclers. More children than ever are now driven to school, the school travel plan will help to encourage students to walk and decrease the traffic around the school. Both school boards support children walking, biking, etc. to school. There is evidence that children who get exercise before school are more ready to learn. The school can sign up for a weekly walking group and tips/facts can be sent out via Facebook and/or Twitter. In the spring, the Grade 5s will be trained with an instructor on how to safely ride on the road. There are a number of initiatives such as the Walking School Bus/Trotty Bus. Parents are encouraged to join the Active and Safe Routes to School committee to help develop the plan for Millen Woods. Children who are interested are also welcome to join. Those interested, please send an email to Dan.

EQAO

No EQAO results to report on this year, hopefully the test will take place in the spring and results will be available next fall.

Job Action

Communication has been a challenge without staff meetings. Being visible and face to face meetings have been crucial. This has allowed for an opportunity to develop stronger relationships and staff is working collectively and collaboratively for the benefit of the school. There are some efforts to continue certain activities (Terry Fox/Octoberfest). Progress reports are still up in the air. There will likely be no commentary on the report. Teachers have been encouraged to make contact with parents of students that are having difficulty and parents are encouraged to contact teachers as required.

Spirit Day

Mme Ringwood's class did some data collection around school spirit days, with many ideas generated. Plan is to have a spirit day every month with a different theme. For the month of October children can dress up as their favourite story book character.

Little Red Theatre

Little Red Theatre will visit the school and perform 2 shows (one English and one French) – Thursday Nov 26th, 2015 and April 20th, 2016.

Possible fundraiser – Laced Lidz – information passed around

Finance Report – Jana Papke @7:50

Budget information has been analyzed. There appear to be some discrepancies and therefore the budget will require readjustment. New total balance forward of \$2875.86. WEFI account may not be accounted for and that information will have to be brought forward. Nancy Ford from Finance will have all of that information.

Current budget to be continued.

Continuing Business

PRO Grant Update – Joanne/Lisa @7:58

In a joint application with Lester B Pearson, we applied for PRO grant to bring a speaker to the community. This grant was approved for a total of \$2000. Lisa will be working with a representative from LBP. Barbara Colloraso is \$5000 + expenses and therefore out of our price range. Alyson Schafer speaks on encouraging independence, sibling rivalry and a number of other parenting topics and the plan is to pursue her. Costs will be \$2000 minimum, may require support from both councils. Open to other speaker suggestions, with next April as a possible date for the talk.

First Annual Director's Town Hall – Dan/Joanne @8:04

Director John Bryant has invited school council chairs and principals to attend this town hall on November 12th. Unfortunately, Dan and Joanne have previous commitments and are looking for volunteers to attend. Laura suggested that there

would be value in members from many councils to meet and discuss how other councils operate, this will be brought forward by Trish. Laura could possibly attend. Email Trish if you are planning to attend.

Fundraising Ideas @8:07

Magazines

This campaign is currently running and handing out of the forms by council went well.

Pizza

This seems to be going well so far this year. Lots of student volunteers, so many that children have been separated into two groups and will alternate on a monthly basis. Multiple reminders seem to have been successful in getting orders in in a timely manner.

Fundscrip

Having this fundraiser in the fall is more successful than the spring and therefore we may not run it again next spring. There may be similar issues with form distribution and council volunteers will be required. Collecting may also be problematic with the current job action, but there are options (i.e. forms could be dropped off at a certain drop point) Trish will follow-up with finance as to how to handle the situation if a cheque greater than \$50000 is required from the board. Sarah, Laura, Jana, Dan, Jill and Melanie have volunteered to help run this program.

Dan proposed the motion to run a Fundscrip campaign this fall, seconded by Jeff. Unanimous vote and motion approved.

Upcoming Actions

- Suggestion by Jana to keep a calendar of all fundraising activities to allow parents to access and evaluate – plan to keep the electronic school calendar on the Millen Woods site as up to date as possible
- Staff approached about moving the Dance a thon date to the week before March break to combine with a beach day
- Week of giving in the month of December
- Jump rope for Heart – May
- Suggestion by Vicky to have a copy of the electronic calendar available at all future council meetings

New Business

Re-establish Playground Committee – Dan @8:27

Playground committee existed for a few years to meet and provide extra research and to report back to council with recommendations.

Walking around the school yard there are a few things that require addressing. Dead trees, incorrect sand, expansion of ship climber, further development of other structures, future maintenance. James, Jaime and Melanie are also interested. Laura

has a wealth of knowledge that can be utilized. Information gathering from parents and students will be pursued.

Dan proposes a motion to create a playground committee of which he will chair, seconded by Daniel. All in favour – unanimously passed.

Planning for 2015-2016 – postponed until the next meeting

Assignment of Duties!

Secretary - Sarah

Newsletter – Joanne

Motion to adjourn by Jeff and seconded by Dan @8:40