

# Millen Woods PS Council

## Minutes for April 19, 2017

Dan opened the meeting

Agenda approved by Jana, seconded by Jill

Minutes approved by Jana, seconded by Dan

Administration report was given by Dan as Trish was absent

The text of the report was provided by Trish:

- Currently in the midst of staffing for next September 2017
- We have some modest growth due to an **additional** French Immersion class being added to Millen Woods which will invite families from the Lexington and Bridgeport school areas to attend MW
- Our current school organization will have **8 classes of French Immersion and 7 classes of English and two sections of Kindergarten with 27/28 students in each class respectively**
- As the staffing process unfolds over the next 5-6 weeks, there will be more to share at the future council meeting in May as far as school organization for next September
- We are preparing for the upcoming year end events:
  1. **EQAO** Grade 3 and Grade 6 Testing which will take place between May 23 and June 9 ;
  2. **Music Monday** Assembly May 1
  3. **Kodaly Choir Festival Concert** – May 2; Centre in the Square 7pm
  4. **Silk Road Music** presentation; May 8<sup>th</sup>
  5. May 12<sup>th</sup> – **Sports Jersey Day** – Spirit Day
  6. Home Reading Celebration “**Reading Carousel**” event Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup> in the a.m.
  7. **Track and Field** – Millen Woods June 6 (Rain Date: June 7); Area Track Meet: June 15<sup>th</sup>
  8. **Fun Fair** – June 14<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm – 7:30pm approx.
  9. Grade 6 trip to **JUMP** (Laurier Campus) June 21 -21
  10. **Volunteer Tea** – 8:15am library June 23
  11. Report Cards go home **Term 2** – June 26
  12. Grade 6 **Graduation** celebration @ 12noon June 27<sup>th</sup>
  13. **Air Bands** – June 27 and June 28
  14. Recognition and **Year End** Assembly June 29
- We have another on-site club up and running at Millen Woods this term; **Coding Club**. This club is facilitated by Ms. Ellesse Schoppel where we have junior students teaching primary students in the areas of Tynker, Jr. Scratch and HTML . This club will run until the end of June.
- Our **Running Club** has started this week. During nutrition breaks our students are participating in the running course around our school in preparation for some of the upcoming running events such as the Mud Puppy Race happening in May.
- Our **ECO Club** alongside all of the students here at Millen Woods who participated in the “great planting” of tulip bulbs this fall are eagerly awaiting the many tulips (the green leaves have surfaced so far) to urst forth and display their red and white blooms! If you take a moment to look around at the gardens you will see many tulips that were very carefully planted by each student at Millen Woods – the colours are in honour of our 150 Years Canada Celebration!
- **Safe, Caring and Inclusive Schools Survey** is now active! We have posted the letter and link through School Day and hope that a number of our families will participate in the survey this year. It is anonymous. The feedback from the survey is provided to each individual school, and we use the results to help us determine, create, continue with goals we have in place through the School

Improvement Planning Team in the effort to create a safe, caring and inclusive learning environment for all. Please take a moment to go to the survey site and complete the survey at a time convenient to you. Many thanks for your help in this request and to advocating it to other families in our neighbourhood!

- **Math professional development** continues to be the greater learning focus for our staff this year. We have been engaging in learning professional activities that are designed to bring greater focus and understanding of the concepts of inquiry and the recursive math approach in planning and instruction. The WRDSB is committed to providing and supporting the ongoing learning opportunities being offered to our educators and we at Millen Woods have over 14 staff participating in both on-site and Board offered opportunities. On April 25<sup>th</sup> we also have 3 of our staff who will be attending the annual **Digital Symposium** being held at the Board Office wherein staff move through a series of workshops that are designed and run by peer educators that embrace the inquiry model, new technologies with a focus in Mathematics, Science and the Arts.

#### Finance Report

- Jana reviewed the finance report. We are a little bit above the amount of funds we expected for this time of year; will still have a deposit, some expenses to come.

#### Fun Fair Planning (text provided by Trish)

- Currently, we have approximately 15 games/activity centers that will be run by our staff at the event.
- We will be sending home a package to all of our families next week which will include an overview of the event, a map of where the activities are located, information on Silent Auction, Auction Theme Baskets, food orders, and Fun Fair Pass and Family Pass purchases.
- We will be sending home a letter next week in which we will be asking for donations of either items or services from our community that can be auctioned or raffled off on June 14, 2017 (ex. Sports item like a football/soccer ball/ skateboard. Services: Oil Change/ Salon visit/ Restaurant Gift Certificates). If you know of establishments in the community that we can approach, please let us know. A few of the staff and myself will be going out into our community to share information about the upcoming Fun Fair and to ask if the managers/owners would like to donate something to the event; we will also promote their establishment in the process!
- Along with the games and activities and **Silent Auction/Raffle** there will also be the following:
- **Bake Sale** table (goods for sale with ingredients marked and baker's name included)
- **Books/Games/DVDs/** sale table (gently used items donated for sale)
- If there are any parents who would like to volunteer in helping with the setting up and organizing we will be having a meeting in late May to discuss the process – we appreciate the support

#### Playground proposal discussion

- Committee was put together by council and options were looked at. Survey went out to families. Different organizations/businesses locally and across Canada were looked at for the playground equipment. Jeff Philip sent out a teacher and student survey to prioritize the options; both were heavily weighted to a pre-fabricated system. About 60 of 80 parents also voted for a pre-fab system. The current proposal developed uses a vendor licensed by the board; they have some discounted items available (purchased from a vendor going out of business). \$15 000 was initially put forward, another \$10 000 was added to the total cost. The system involves climbing, slides,..best option possible was put together and presented. This proposal (Option 1) is from PARCS and there is some time pressure as this discounted equipment is available now, and the school community wants something as soon as possible.
- Slides were also popular in the first plan
- Drainage tile work may be paid for by board

- This process has to go through the Board's tender process so what we currently have is an estimate. There is a modular component to this; if a part "fails" it is serviceable and there could be mix and match from different manufacturers.
- Question about the uniqueness of the equipment in this proposal, as some of this is available in the community
- Option 2 was reviewed; it is more expensive (\$40 000) and although it does look more modern, it actually includes the same elements and may need more added to it. Does not seem to be as good value for money.
- Committee would be requesting the Board to review this for approval/safety; PARCS also certifies and warranties their work
- Discussion that teachers and students are very keen to get something soon
- A vote would be to put this proposal through the tender process, obtain bids, then we would get to choose which bid is taken or Trish and Rob decide. We would expect PARCS to win as others wouldn't have discounted items.
- With this cost there wouldn't be any more fundraising to do as we currently have this approximate amount in the budget. It was confirmed that a small loan from the board would not be a problem.
- Motion to put this current proposal to the tender process with the current estimated cost of 29 000 (less than this as get tax back and some help from the board to fund drainage tile). Jason will propose the motion for the playground as presented and to approve this amount of money for the system. Andrea seconded the motion.
- 9 voting members were present: 8 voted in favour; 1 abstained from voting therefore the motion was passed
- Jason will follow up with Trish and Rob Seeley about tender process, safety, drainage etc.

#### Dance-a-thon summary

- Funds raised reported in finance report; photo booth was a little rushed but kids continued to go around
- Perhaps a future update will come

#### Movie Night summary

- Received feedback to bring back some previous flavours (e.g. Dill Pickle). Had too much Kettle Corn flavour.
- Movie was "Trolls"; music was catchy and there was a spontaneous dance party at the end
- No AV drama!

#### Brickworks update

- Dates are May 8 (Gr. 5 & 6). 20 children and parents can come in for programming and coding (MindStorm); to get parents/children comfortable with coding and for parent engagement. May 10 (Dash and Dot – simpler robots) Gr. 1-4. If there is a huge demand a lottery may be done. Another night could be added if enough interest. Sign up likely to be done through School Day.

#### Other

- There was some concern about the slipperiness of the butterfly; Rob S went to Earthscape and proposed rumble strips but Earthscape proposed more grips on the butterfly; now looking at whether there is a "grippy" paint that can be applied.
- Question about the perspective from a parent – it is not clear what all the fundraising throughout the year is for. Could there be a statement at the beginning of each year about what is being targeted. A

comment that the Board could potentially take money back if accounts too high. Should each fundraiser be designated for an event/project/materials/equipment. Helpful to have a statement that certain amount of funding will go to curriculum support. Some feel there is always something that is needed or that teachers are asking for so ongoing fundraising is necessary. Perhaps a running list of items could be created. Transparency is important in the fundraising process.

Sarah volunteered to be secretary for next month on Wed May 17

Meeting adjourned at 8:30.