

Millen Woods P.S. School Council

Minutes for June 15, 2016

7:03pm: Joanne called the meeting to order

Attending: Daniel, Ashley, Joanne, Dan, Jamie, James, Sarah, Lisa, Jana, Trish, Melanie, Amy, Laura, Kim, and special guest Janette Lake.

Jana moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Amy.

James moved to approve the May minutes, seconded by Ashley.

7:05pm: Jana presented the proposed budget

No one knows what to expect for fundraising from a Fun Fair so we will leave it out of the budget for now.

Laura suggested that repeating JungleSport each year may be unnecessary, as the novelty may be wearing off. She suggested possibly doing JungleSport every other year for example, and considering a different activity. Trish suggested this money could be directed to playground improvements. Melanie supported this idea. It was also proposed that we might do Scientists in the School only for some grades (e.g. up to Grade 3) to reduce costs. Dan pointed out that since fundraising comes from the entire school population, we should spend it on programs for all grades.

Council agreed to omit JungleSport for the next year's budget, and see what the feedback from parents is.

Trish indicated a larger budget for extracurricular activities is desirable (e.g. \$1000), and also for guest speakers or similar activities to be approved on a case by case basis (e.g. \$1000).

A lively discussion ensued about costs of various programs like Family Math Night (approx. \$600), JungleSport, etc.

It was suggested that we run a SurveyMonkey survey of the parent community to assess the interest level in various programs, particularly to make parents aware of the relative cost of these different programs.

After a variety of changes to the budget, James moved to approve the budget, seconded by Melanie. The motion passed unanimously.

7:45pm: Meet the Teacher night

Meet the Teacher night will be September 14th, 2016. Lisa will organize some sort of food, be it food trucks or pizza or similar. Anyone who wishes to help should get in touch with Lisa. Jana and Sarah may help too.

A discussion occurred about pizza vendors (Maestro's, and Tito's) and that some of them may be more full-service (including packaging per room and sending a person to distribute the pizza). Next year's council will need to revisit this issue.

7:55pm: Goodbye to teachers at assembly

We need a volunteer and a plan for organizing a farewell gift and card for the teachers who are leaving the school this year. There are 7 staff members leaving. Amy will do the cards, and Jana will get the flowers/plants.

7:59pm: Joanne gave quick updates

The magazine program will run again next year. We have applied for a PRO grant for a Brickworks event.

8:00pm: Janette Lake gave a presentation on the Fun Fair

At Sheppard P.S., they run an annual Fun Fair with a BBQ (this year will be a food truck). They used to use Remember Me but cannot anymore. The whole community is invited. There are games and activities, with small prizes provided.

They charge \$5 per family for a Fun Fair Pass which allows access to all games.

There's a silent auction and a raffle. Items are purchased or donated. The silent auction is a big money maker. Local businesses donate goods and services for the silent auction.

There are "classroom baskets" where volunteers go out to buy items using donated funds and then these are raffled off.

There's a bake table with donated baked goods, including some from Norris Bakery.

They typically raise approximately \$5000.

Staff run the games. Students who graduated in the past return to volunteer for their volunteer hours.

Council volunteers staff the admissions table, bake table, etc.

They have a used book and DVD table with donated items from the community.

There is face painting, and cookies and popcorn for sale. They are adding a photo booth this year.

Janette has a variety of equipment and materials that can be reused.

Typically the fair is run in mid-June.

At least 7 or 8 people are on the organizing committee. There is a significant time investment.

To support this, Janette recommends keeping a list of volunteers in the community who can be called upon beyond those who attend council meetings.

Janette used to lead the organization of the Sheppard P.S. event, but no longer does so, and is available to do so for Millen Woods.

Janette and Trish will provide a more detailed written description of the Fun Fair structure for us to review in the Fall.

If the weather is poor, the fair moves indoors.

Jana suggested that the survey mentioned earlier can be used to solicit a list of volunteers who can be called upon for various activities.

8:20pm: Trish gave the administration report

Fun Fair funds would be allocated to more Chromebooks/iPads.

The kindergarten classes are now each 31 students.

Trish recapped the communications about end of year events, report cards, school organization, etc. which have been posted in newsletters and to School Day.

8:29pm: Final thoughts, year in review

James asked about mulch for the trees. Laura explained how it worked in past years. We will defer to the fall.

Joanne asked everyone to consider what roles they may be interested in for the fall. She will not be able to return as co-chair, but will continue to volunteer for specific tasks.

8:43pm: Meeting adjourned