

School Council Meeting Minutes – May 18, 2016

Motion to approve agenda for May 18 - Kim, 2nd by Ashley

Administration Report presented by Darv / Trish Starodub

- Darv complimented the kids and staff of our school – filling in for 2 weeks for Trish
- Darv will research the payment for Alyson Schafer on April 19. Parent school council should receive \$1000 back.
- Possible Electronic vote after Trish clarifies the Grade6 Graduation gift purchases of locks.
- See Attached Report Below:

Principal's Report : May 18, 2016

Reminder: Friday, June 3, 2016 is a Professional Development Day – no classes

Upcoming Events at Millen Woods:

- **EQAO** – this will be happening between the days of May 26 through until June 2; Grades 3 and 6 classes will be writing the tests at the same time; Grade 3 classes will be going to the Groundwater Festival on May 30th and will resume writing on May 31st
- **Groundwater Festival** – this is a festival which highlights the ways in which we use and conserve water; many activities geared for Grades 2 through 5; students will be going to the festival with their class, teacher and volunteers for the day and return before 3:30pm for dismissal.
- **Enrolment and Staffing update** – we are currently sitting at approx. 380 students for next year. We continue to have 2 FDK classes sitting at 29 and 30 students respectively. Our organization has changed to 7 classes of French Immersion (up from 6) and 7 classes of English (down from 8) for 2016-2017. We have reduced our enrolment by one class, and as a result have reduced staff by one teacher. Seniority is what determines staffing. As a result, (as noted in our May newsletter) Emily Upshaw was declared 'Enrolment Transfer'; Emily applied for a primary lead position with the new school Vista Hills (opening in September) and is the successful candidate for this position! We are very sad to see Emily leave Millen Woods, yet, we know that Vista Hills is very fortunate is receiving such a dedicated and compassionate educator. We will certainly be acknowledging all of Emily's contributions to Millen Woods over the past 4 years at our year end assembly with all staff, students and community members.
- **Kindergarten Information Night** – registration for FDK was on-line for the first time this year in the WRDSB. If you know of anyone in the community who has yet to register, please encourage them to do so in the very near future. We have similar growth in our numbers at present, as to last year, yet we are aware that there may be more out in our community who will wish to

attend here at Millen, so we need to encourage the families to register at their earliest convenience. We will continue to send out reminder messages through School Day. Kindergarten Information Night will be held on **Thursday, May 19th at 6:15pm**

- **Home Reading Carousel Activity Day** – the primary teachers involved in the Home Reading Program continue to recognize the success of our primary readers in each of our classrooms as well as at mini Home Reading Assemblies in our school library. Just recently, we acknowledged many who have reached both the 150 and 200 Nights of Reading already, with Ann Moore being our guest reader for the opening. During April we had a few guest readers visit with our primary classes both inside their individual classrooms and as a large group. Ms. Gwen McCutcheon visited and engaged in some magical storytelling, and our Superintendent, Mr. Graham Shantz also came and read *The Giving Tree* as a kick-off to our Earth Day activities. Our primary teachers will be organizing a celebratory event for both parents and students to celebrate the program in promoting the love of reading! The event will be held on **Thursday, June 9, 2016** during the school day, there will be many activities to celebrate the love of reading where students can participate with their parents and family members. There will be a “Reader’s Snack Picnic” as a culminating event at the end (we hope for sunshine on this day!)
- **Grade 6 Graduation** – the Grade 6 Graduation ceremony will be held on Tuesday, June 28th during the day at Millen Woods in our school gymnasium. Grade 6 teachers are finalizing the details and a notice will be coming home soon. The teachers would like to request from School Council monetary support for purchasing each graduate a combination lock as a parting gift from Council as they move on to Grade 7 (where they will have a locker!).
- **Mathematics Additional Qualifications Course- Ministry of Education** – 7 of our staff, including admin. are partaking in the Math AQ course this year together. As part of our School Success Plan for this year and into the next, we are collectively collaborating and working together to enhance and grow in our understanding of the teaching of mathematics within the elementary classroom. This course, along with working together as a staff, is giving us the opportunity to enhance our growing skill set in the area of mathematics and in turn increasing our effectiveness as educator within the learning environment.
- **Report Cards** – first term reports will be coming home on Monday, June 27th with your child. We will be sending home the school organization, the classroom #, the grade placement and the name of your child’s homeroom teacher for the 2016-2017 along with the report card. As always, school organization can be altered due to either an increase or decrease in enrolment, and that re-organization (if deemed necessary) always occurs within the final week of September. All necessary information explaining the school organization process will be contained in the letter that will come home with the final report card.

Finance Report - Jana

- Reviewed and discussed budget for 2016-2017 school year
- Basic budget amounts left similar to previous year; Jana will forward final budget
- Note: Scientist in the School budget last year was up from \$3500 to \$5000. We should talk to Trish to make sure spending is reigned in for this year
- Sentiment was that we need to have some caution regarding our budgetary balance
- Jana showed interest in having goals for fundraising. Darv noted that it may be better to discuss these issues at the beginning of the school year so that current needs are met.
- There was mention of a school sign
- Funfair will be addressed in the June meeting or at beginning of next school year
- Darv indicated that the Alyson Schafer info needed to be completed by June 3rd

Continuing Business

- Movie Night
 - o 300 bags of popcorn ordered (\$1 per bag / cost is ~\$0.50)
 - o June 2nd at 6:30pm doors open – 7pm movie – Joanne will confirm
- PRO Grant 2016-2017
 - o Sarah's idea – Brickworks will tailor an event to meet PRO Grant specs., Joanne will do application
- Playground – briefly discussed email regarding a meeting with Rob Seely. Dan, Trish and Jim to meet with Rob asap.

Hello Dan and James,

I met with Rob Seely and put in print the following requests:

- we would like to request the following supplies to enhance our playground area:
- a load of new mulch to top up the butterfly area (cost to Board)

I've been advised to refer to the product by its technical name: "engineered wood fibre". Apparently the reason is that it is not actually just any old mulch, but rather a product that has been designed and tested to be resilient enough to create a safety surface. Hopefully Rob knows all about this and will actually bring the right stuff.

- a load of fine play sand to top up the horse trough sandboxes (3) near the butterfly area (cost to Board)
- a load of safety sand dumped into the Ship Climber area (cost to the Board -please)
- a load of stone dust dumped in the Compass Rose area (cost to us)
- a big load of mulch dumped in two areas of yard so that we can spread it around the base of all of our trees (cost to us)

Sounds good.

The other big question was around the drainage for the Ship Climber area and the pathway nearby - a big puddle of water gathers there in various seasons and there was discussion about ripping up the pathway and installing a drainage pipe underneath the area. Also, if we designed an area as a Jump Pit and installed it on the other side of the tarmac path from the Ship Climber, the thought was that the "fine sand" could be removed from the base of the Ship Climber and put in the new Jump Pit and the Ship Climber base area be filled with a more coarse sand (much like what was originally placed in the horse troughs)

This is almost right. Jim pointed out that we should probably not re-use the fine sand from the Ship Climber in the Jump Pit, because a coarser sand is normally used for that purpose (likely the same coarse sand that Rob provides for all the playground areas.) I do not know anything about what sort of sand is appropriate in a Jump Pit, so I'd be inclined to go with Jim's suggestion, or you could also check with whoever teaches Track & Field at the school.

I also sent Rob the plans for the additions of the various activity centres and he would like an opportunity to meet with

us sometime in June to have a discussion and look at the proposed plans together. Perhaps, the second week of June would work well - let me know and we can plan from there. Thanks again for all your input and recommendations! :)

- o Yes, I could meet with Rob in June. I imagine he may wish to point out certain safety concerns... ;-)
- **Dan, Trish and Jim to meet with Rob to check feasibility of playground plans**
- **Jana initiated discussion on junior soccer field; raised the possibility of some structured field placed between the Kindie area and the main fields to get the kids off the tarmac.**

New Business

- Pizza Planning
 - o **We need new volunteers to take over the Pizza Program**
 - o **Joanne suggested emailing the community to find a pizza coordinator as the present volunteers are planning to step down. As well Jana suggested getting a community list of people available to generally volunteer to assist with ongoing activities (ie – pizza helpers, dancethon etc.)**
- **Meet the Teacher Night for September 2016**
 - o **Discussion ensued with the group about options for the Meet the Teacher night and no final decisions were made.**
 - o **Darv indicated that we may wait to discuss with Trish as there may be or not be a meet the teacher night this coming year.**
 - o **Possibly have a pizza order for the event**
 - o

Next meeting – June 16

Secretary will Be Dan.

Adjournment: Darv, seconded by Daniel