

Minutes for School Council Meeting November 16, 2016

7:00pm

- Welcome and asking for questions or comments on minutes from last meeting
- Motion to approve the agenda: Jana P. motions and Jill seconds it
- \$45 expense for the stone dust purchased by Jim Smuck – not in last month's minutes; enter in for tonight – approved expense and Jim S will be re-imbursed – receipt into Ann Moore
- Motion to approve minutes from last month's meeting – Sue motioned
- Susan Butler brought for the information about Fundscrip – information has been sent out on emails from School Day; we have enough volunteers for Nov. 21st to process the orders; some have inquired about paying with Credit Cards – we looked into it and there are different options however, we felt it is too late to go forth with this process this year, but we can consider it for next year – although with the credit card purchases it does have a 'cost fee' and we won't make as much profit on these transactions; Susan thanked everyone for all of their help and for lending support with the process and understanding the tech side of things

Principal's Report

- Trish shared some updates about the upcoming events happening at Millen Woods; Q-Mack, an motivational speaker with a positive and powerful message has been booked for our school Monday, January 16th at 9:30am, and Tribal Vision Dance Troupe will also be performing and delivering their message on equity and diversity on Monday, February 6th at 10:00am , both are in the school gym and all of our community are invited to attend.
- School staff will be making the effort to streamline the output of information from the school's end of things: messages on School Day from the office will go out with the Week At Millen Woods on Monday, messages from staff and classrooms will be posted on the Wednesday of the week; these messages will be highlighted with headings such as 'ACTION REQUIRED/ FIELD TRIP/PERMISSION FORM/ etc. so that the receiver is made aware that there is further follow up needed upon reading the sent message. This approach is being made in the effort to stream the outgoing information into one portion of the week, rather than our community receiving a bombardment of messages throughout the week. Of course, it is noted that if there is an important or timely message required to be sent out to our community it will take precedence and be sent immediately.
- Anti-bullying Awareness Week takes place in the end of November and each class is taking time within their community circles to highlight the various strategies that can be used to address bullying both inside and outside the school environment. We will continue to re-visit these messages and as well, promote healthy relationships and positive conflict resolution practices in and amongst our student and staff body as the year progresses.
- Trish S., Kate W. and Stephanie N., attended a launching of HIVE network at the KPL last week. It is a group which promotes the positive use of technology within the community and within schools in our region, specifically focusing on coding. Many of our students at Millen Woods are interested in and willing to learn more about coding. Some of our classes are readily engaged in this development and others are in the emerging state of the process. We are hoping to create a

Coding Club/Technology Teach kind of approach to be launched in the new year, which will allow students who are interested to explore and learn more about coding, whilst at the same time give opportunity to those who are well versed in the field of coding to share and to co-teach with their peers in an exploratory and welcoming setting (more to follow/update as we move into January 2017)

- Our goal of 1:1 Chromebook to junior student is almost met. We wish to keep this as a focus for our learning agenda at Millen Woods and respectfully request our School Council to consider future significant funding for only one more year. From that point forward, the school will manage the upkeep and replacement of devices as needed. In short, we are asking the School Council to consider ‘front-loading’ the learning environment needs request for reaching the 1:1 Chromebook device between 2016 – 2017 and upon reaching that goal, the school will then take over the financing needs to help upkeep the service and maintenance required for the devices.

Finance Report from Jana P. (read over the excel spreadsheet prepared)

- Dance A Thon – Amy B. has said she would organize the event; discussed running it the Wednesday of the week before March Break (March 8th) – unanimous approval to have the event run on March 8th – photo booth to run in the library as last year.
- Movie Night: Joanne McKinley – has offered to run the event and purchase the popcorn for the event; looking at April 6th (Thursday before the PD Day on April 7th) – we will review this at January’s meeting and make a decision
- PRO Grant – we applied for a grant to engage in a local academy that will provided either through coding/ programming/ robotics – have initiated discussion with Brickworks and will follow up; there are some other possibilities to explore other alternatives or a program that can offer such a possibility on a greater volume to meet the needs of 150 or more students and parents who would participate together; perhaps ask questions of Hackademy (Joanna) – Trish will follow up with this contact and Jana P. will contact Cam Turner from Tinker Truck and see what he could provide to our vision of providing this opportunity to our community.
- Discussion around creating a playground committee: Jana P/Kendra Breen, James Smuck/Ashley V/Jason P/ Dan.C/ Trish will assist with committee needs and inquiries
- Jason P. brought forth some concerns about the upkeep and logic around some of the items built on the playground (Butterfly and Ship) – discussion around keeping these spaces in good repair as they are made of natural product (wood); Trish mentioned getting ‘grip strips’ installed on the butterfly so that there is a better grip for the students in their various forms of footwear.
- Trish mentioned that many of our students play team sports; soccer, football, etc.
- Co-chairs of the Playground Committee will be Jim S and Kendra B. and will help to lead the discussion and planning for the committee members; Kendra asked for clarification of ‘ next steps’ that the committee would possibly be taking regarding the future plans for the playground; Trish will call the Board about the \$\$ that can be borrowed from the Board and will get that information to the committee; there was a motion from Jana P. to have those who are interested in discussing further about setting some direction for the playground committee to stay after the meeting and go from there; those staying are Jason, Jim, Jana, Ashley, Kendra, Dan and Trish
- Fun Fair; looking at this becoming more of an event that will largely be driven by the staff and assisted by our council – Janette Lake (EA with Millen) has volunteered to help with the

organization of this; we will ask of the Council to help mostly with advocating for donations for the Silent Auction and for the Raffle Drive

- Dan has volunteered for the secretary role for the meeting in January 2017; open to any other member to take on this role at the January meeting
 - Eastbridge Association has invited our Jr. and Kodaly Choir to come and perform at the December 3rd tree Lighting ceremony. Trish will be taking the available performing choir member to the event. N. Kazemzadeh will be continuing with the Kodaly choir, and will be turning over the reins for the junior choir to staff members to continue with practices and possible performances throughout the year
 - Meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm
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- **Playground Committee Meeting;** discussed the need to look at repairs and the need to move forward; asking questions about how much money can we borrow from the Board and set the stage and strategies from there. Grants for 'greening' projects are sometimes easier to acquire. Jim said he is meeting with our MP Bardish Chagger and will also ask how we might secure some funds from the city to help with our goals.
 - Kendra re-capped; Jim looking at funding from other outside sources; Trish will ask what we can get from the Board and the space that is available on which structures can be built. Kendra also mentioned that we need to get an idea of the scope of budget so that we can determine the goals that we can set and over what time frame period (1 year – 5 years etc.)
 - Dan relayed that when they first explored the various options the 'natural products' were less expensive; Jason P. affirmed that the questions coming forward are all
 - and we want to make sure that whatever we put in we should not have to be putting in \$\$\$ to maintain the product/item etc. The costs should be manageable over a number of years.
 - We would like to explore the options about the "ship" and what we could do to make it more of a play area that is used for physical play rather than 'a sitting area" – there is a lack of flow with this structure that needs to be addressed
 - Kendra has volunteered to call Earthscape and voice the concern about the Ship structure and to see if we can go ahead and find some options about 'fixing' the concerns – will get a price point and how we can proceed
 - Jason P. will also call someone at Waterloo and Laurier to see if we can partner with a graduate program and see where we could explore from there.
 - Dan shared that we partnered with the U of Guelph landscape program with the past playground development; Jason offered that we look at looking at programs that are vested in the psychology of play and look at design process from that lens
 - Jim suggested we have some set basic benchmarks that we know we want for our playground – looking at forms of play etc. and build from there
 - Dan reminded us about how the Board will set some parameters about what can be built etc.
 - Trish recommended that another meeting of the committee be set and that we invite Rob Seely to come to the meeting