**N.A.MacEachern School Council Meeting Minutes – December 13, 2016**

**DETAILS**

The meeting was held at N A MacEachern Public School on **Tuesday, December 13, 2016.** The meeting started at: 7:00pm and finished at 8:30 pm. The meeting was followed by a holiday potluck.

**Attendees:**

Josalyn Radcliffe

Justin Small

Mark Darling

Marty Raymond

Meredith Skogstad

Francois Sfigakis

Michelle Vollick

Laura Wasilewski

Allison Weinstein

Laurel Imeson

Kevin Sexton

Amanda Muzak

Michelle Rabideau

Wendy Brubacher

Tonya White

Casey Gilbert

Regrets: Candace Barnes

1. **Science Presentation: Cam Turner**

Owner of Maker Space for kids: Tinker Truck; See [proposal](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwmM7BVRRN4zbG92WFVoZmJJRkxsSzZRdGVKOHE3S2dUTmpJ/view?usp=sharing)

Purpose: Get kids excited about science and engineering, provide opportunities to play with tools that aren’t usually accessible to kids, be creative, explore, learn.

-Attended 17 festivals this summer, helped to organize free event, Maker Expo (8000 ppl fall, Sept 10 this year)

Program options:

**Toy hacking;** grades 3-6, break and put them back together into something new (hot glue guns, cordless drills, pliers, no saws/hammers in a festival setting), invent, repurpose/repair (broken toys as materials) Ms. Raymond not comfortable with this option; **Rocketry program;** example pipe insulation with duct tape launched using air pressure; focus on learning about strength, integrity, weight/height impact. Materials= scissors, duct tape; **Portable River** (outdoors, all ages; spring/fall): recirculates water, kids design boats with goal of getting item on boat to the end of the river without flipping over; can redesign, learn & retry; **3D printing and modeling,** learn about 3D printing and create a design that can be printed on community printers in libraries scanning; **Electrified artwork,** grades 1-6; install LEDS and copper tape into artwork with battery; Doodle Jar (alla ges) light jar from inside, lights the art outside

**Flexibility with cost-** can provide volunteers to reduce number of staff, can choose number of stations at any event. For 300 kids, expect 225 and Cam recommended 3 stations (each kid would do 2 stations). With more stations, cost may be reduced.

**Need to book early (pref January), often fully booked by February.**

**Discussion-** council members can review the info package before the next meeting; consider use of grant money, doing this program n lieu of Science fair alternating years, this would be a parent-child collaborating event; would need it booked for 2 hrs

**ACTION ITEM:** Casey to send out the Tinker Truck proposal to the group, Place this on the agenda for January 10, 2017 to make an informed decision on whether to do it and how. Casey will plan a meeting or email forum to discuss in advance of the January 10, 2017 meeting. Marty to scan other principal’s for any other experiences with Tinker Trunk.

**2. Reminder of Future Dates- Chair, Justin (in Candace’s absent)**

**Next meeting January 10, 2017 (Meredith regrets; at WRAPSC)**

* February 14
* March 21
* April 11
* May 9

June 13

**3. Approval of Last Months Minutes (November)- Chair, Justin (in Candace’s absence)**

Many members not able to review before meeting (sent out yesterday), will review over the next week and have an opportunity to provide feedback before official approval

**4. Principals Report- Ms. Raymond**

The fall certainly didn’t turn out as I expected but I am now feeling well and am glad to be back at school. I have recovered from my lung infection and my knee is also recovering well following the surgery. Even though I was fortunate to have two excellent retired administrators covering for me in my absence, here are a lot of things that can’t be managed by someone who is not in the role on a

permanent basis so I am just now starting to feel like I am getting caught up on things.

In the two weeks since I have been back we had Kindergarten vision screening, visits from the KW Humane Society who delivered presentations about animal and pet safety to our primary classes, and our grade 5/6 classes had a special visit from a veteran employee of Waterloo North Hydro talking about electricity. We also had our annual Bus Evacuation Drills last week which teaches our students what to do in the event of a bus emergency. I’m sure this is just the start of the events and presentations that will be planned for the New Year so stay tuned!

I can also report that teachers and students have been working very hard preparing for this year’s Seasonal Concert. We are very pleased that our Kindergarten friends will be joining us at the main concert again this year. It was so great to have everyone together for the performances last year. However, it does mean that in order to ensure everyone’s safety and to not exceed our occupancy limits under the Fire Code, we are somewhat restricted as to how many people we are able to accommodate in our single gym. I sent home a letter today outlining the process for this year. Last year was the first time we had added the Kindergarten classes to the main concert presentation and we

were concerned about how many people we could accommodate. It was for that reason that we offered two performances of the concert and handed out tickets to the event. Tickets were restricted to two per family. We have once again decided to go with offering the performances on two different days in order to spread out the volume of people, and also to provide some choice about which day works best for parents. What we found last year is that there was a pretty even distribution of attendance on both days of the performance. Preparing the tickets and distributing them was a lot of extra work at this busy time of year so we have decided to once again ask that the number of attendees per family be limited to two, but we will be using the honor system rather than handing out tickets. We are very excited about the concert and recognize that many families would happily bring large groups of relatives to take in the show, but in the interest of all, we would ask that our request be honored. If we find that people are not able to respect our request then we will have to move back to a ticketed

system in the years to come. Confirming the holiday concerts are the 21st and 22nd; not doing tickets this year as the tickets were quite resource-intensive to implement. Have tried to combine some classes to shorten the concert. Request that everyone enter the gym doors. Need signage to direct parents to correct entry door. Parents should not park in the school lot, unless they have mobility issues. Stage and chairs will be here from this Friday to next Friday. Need assistance for set-up on Monday, the 19th.

**5. Teacher’s Update- Mr. Darling**

-Grade 6 volunteer patrols went to free movie, Saturday or Sunday.

-This Friday is the hat and mittie day (can wear hats and mitts inside)

-Thursday before PD day (in January 27) will be “crazy sock day”

-Gift cards for draws for patrol students from J & J have been received

-Challenging to sort out timing (when each class performs) for the assembly, a lot of variables to consider

**6. WRAPSC Update – Michelle**

-October mtg update- still looking for a WRAPC and PIC member, info about digital citizenship conference, presentation on school travel planning, board staff member has been hired (and funded by multiple boards and sources) to work on student transportation and encourage walking/exercise; encouraging parents to get on school day.

November mtg update- Superintendents, Director Bryant were in addentance; formal meeting at at St. Jacob’s learning centre. Presentation on strategic plan (details on [www.wrdsb.ca/learning](http://www.wrdsb.ca/learning)), goal to increase math scores by 8% annually for next three years. 20% of grade 9 students at risk of not graduating, want to increase graduation rate. Another focus was student and staffwell-being (looking at measuring well-being); students have been involved as a focus group brainstorming ideas- now social media campaign, purpose statement survey.

PIC has a meeting on December 17, 2016; open invite for parents.

April 8, 2017 will be the parent’s event (PIC).

No December meeting was held.

Discussion: Math- Board sets direction then individual schools direct specific actions. NAM is being proactive with math, with math kits and engagement of parents. Volunteer base makes a significant difference for enriching kids’ math.

Laurel noted that middle schools also discussing how to achieve and new concept of spiral/recursive math where concepts are considered.

Digital Citizenship- Many speakers incl. Jennifer Moss- happiness and kids (<https://www.nsb.com/speakers/jennifer-moss/>) and info about app to give 360 of room, spiros- ball, can code a map and ball will follow the map (programming the movements of the ball), scratch program

**7. Events/Fundraising/Volunteer Update – Casey/Wendy**

Chocolate Bar Campaign: Approx. $7100 profit; separate donations $2000. Sent back 18% of product. Usually 20-30% is sent back. Very successful campaign. Total losses is the worth of one case ($90). Ms. Gowing and Ms. Kuhn-Scime had participation of 96%, had pizza party. Many volunteer hours (150 hours). Marty noted that office staff appreciated the hard work and the efforts to minimize disruption to normal school activities.

Events volunteers had discussion with many school parents about all of the things that school council funds, helped parents understand where their $ goes

EVENTS SCHEDULE

-Only Art Night currently conflicts with school schedule (teacher meeting)

-Considering sending out a Save-the-Date for the movie date before the holiday break; event early in the new year. More details in new year. Hope to bbq and sell hot dogs, hoping to provide fresh popcorn.

**ACTION:** Michele to email event dates and details

SPIRITWEAR: goal to make spiritwear available, not profit-driven initiative. significant profit. Received by students before the holiday break. R&S Screenprinting on Weber doing spiritwear.

**8. Finance Update - Francois**

$22,000 currently in account but many changes to balance coming (approx 12,000 received and approx 2500 more expected from pizza orders)

$13,370 required to fulfill budget needs

No other significant fundraisers planned, may have some small sales of food at next events

**ACTION ITEM:** Consider other possible use of funds for surplus $

**9. Academic Coordinator Update- Laura**

Math kits: first term for grade 1s, seem to really enjoy them

Struggling to coordinate a time that works for both teachers and volunteers; plan to move to assigning kits instead of kids choosing kits

Considering library-style bag for the math kits; kits come back in bags and new kits replaced into the bags; kits have been spilled in hallways and some kids have trouble fitting them in their backpacks. Clear bags might be helpful, consider options at Wholesale club. Bags would be required every year- should fit into council budget.

-No math kits in December; before starting in January, will work on printing and organizing to restart for grade 2 and 3s in February

Additional Items:

Discussion re: online resource storage

**ACTION ITEM:** Josalyn to look at a process for storing all resources internally for this council and future councils on the nam google drive;

**November ACTION ITEMS**

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| November Action Items  **ACTION: Kevin to send out information to Parent Email list (WRDSB media event)**  **ACTION – request made by council to notify parents via paper communication to ensure parents understand the campaign and the importance of being clear to parents that their child will be coming home with chocolate box unless you opt out**  **Wendy and Kevin to complete a note to send home to parents on Wednesday, November 2nd**  **Assembly will address event programs that fundraiser will support**  **ACTION- Bring treats to December meeting!**  **ACTION: Laura- ideas about storage of our information** | NOTES (to be reviewed in December 2016)  -Digital Citizenship Email received by subscribed parent  -clarified questions with individual parents  -notes sent home to parents, 18% opted out  Kickoff assembly held in October  Completed and delicious.  Discussed at December meeting, Josalyn to consider google drive |

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| December Action Items (review in January 2017) | NOTES |
| **ACTION:** Michele to email event dates and details (for rest of the year if known) |  |
| **ACTION:** Confirm receipt of November minutes, approve |  |
| **ACTION ITEM:** Casey to send out the Tinker Truck proposal to the group, Place this on the agenda for January 10, 2017 to make an informed decision on whether to do it and how. Casey will plan a meeting or email forum to discuss in advance of the January 10, 2017 meeting. Marty to scan other principal’s for any other experiences with Tinker Trunk. |  |
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