**Council Meeting Minutes – Feb 10, 2021**

Start time: 6:30pm

Adjourned: 7:50pm

Attendees: Tammy Webster, Dominika Nelson, Trish Duckett, Alyssa Bingeman, Tracy Camacho, Liz Siddorn, Michelle Schmid, Sherry Lawlor Alexander, Sandy Nelson, Carmin Lakhanpal, Melissa Couburn, Kristy Smith

**Principle & Staff Update**

Michelle introduced new Vice Principle, Sherry Lawlor Alexander. Sherry introduced herself to the parent council.

Michelle expressed the staff “thanks” to the families and non-parent council families. It has been a challenging time.

During the lockdown 115 devices were deployed to families for distance learning. From Kindergarten through to grade 8. All devices except 2 were returned back to the school for daily class use. All in good condition.

Financial Report:

Account balance is $16,597.77

Nothing has been purchased since the last parent council meeting in 2020.

Teachers wish list for consideration:

-A second Gaga ball pit. The last pit was $2500 from Fred’s fencing. Michelle would need to also consult with Grounds as to where it would be best placed. Potential to put AstroTurf underneath and around the pit to avoid mud and injury. This will give it more use in muddy seasons. Sonya suggests trying a pilot with the AstroTurf.

-Enhancements to the outdoor classroom area near the pathway leading to Shields street. There are presently a few items there, but it could be enhanced. This area is very well used by the younger students. Michelle will come back to us with more specific details as to what items are needed.

-New logs for the courtyard. The existing logs were purchased and installed by Earthscapes. Melissa will do some digging and see what she can dig up from the previous purchase. Would Earthscapes help do some planning? Yes, they would. They were very collaborative but also open to ideas. Initial logs were installed in Fall of 2014. Maybe we should evaluate other vendors for longer lifespan?

-Literacy room in intermediate hallway. Presently the teachers store a lot of resources in that room. There is some interest in turning the room into a drop-in space for intermediate students. Cozy furniture. A little workspace. Post-COVID this resource would be a great asset to the school for student collaboration, or a quiet space for reflection etc. Furniture is the primary request. Michelle will look into costs/suppliers etc.

Changes in Mode to Learning update:

15 students are moving to Distance Learning as of March 8. 5 Students moving back to in class as of March 4. Some families are still studying from home now as they wait for the transition.

BPS currently has 543 in person learners. 143 distance learners. The classes did not need to be restructured as a result to the transition of distance and in class learners.

Staff Recognition

-Video was very much appreciated. January has been very challenging for staff. If there is an opportunity for Council to do something else that is something to consider.

**Council Update**

Financial Report: Account balance $16,597.77

Nothing has been purchased since the last parent council meeting in 2020.

Grad Committee Update – Melissa Cowburn

-One meeting has taken place. Feb 22 is next meeting. Kidney donation drive was canceled for Jan, but a second date was pre-booked for Feb 24.

-There are 84 grade 8 students (65 in class, 19 distance learners)

-Potential to do a chocolate fundraiser in March timeframe

-Did a survey to grade 8s and asked them what they wanted. 90% of them wanted a yearbook. They were interested in swag or hoodies. 75% wanted swag. 85% wanted a sweatshirt. They will explore a theme/design in their next meeting.

-Is there potentially an opportunity for some funding, given that COVID has diminished the ability for the Grade 8s to fundraise? Could we possibly subsidize the yearbook? If so, can we set a budget so they can plan? Banking on a virtual graduation.

-Alyssa plans for a pink-shirt sale for the anti-bullying day in May. She suggested that we could do the pink shirt day as a fundraiser for the Grade 8 grads. Last year BPS earned $3 per shirt. We sold ~125 last year (down from 3-400 previous years). Cost is up $1 to $14. Without pizza sales or craft show/clothing drive/ it’s really challenging to do fundraising.

-In the past we assigned a certain dollar amount per grad.

-Trish – maybe the Grad parents could all make a donation.

-Michelle – Council has money in the bank, but she agrees that recognizing our grade 8s is critical. She would recommend forgoing something on the wish list to support the Grade 8s.

-One other idea that came up is about asking for advertising

-Melissa will double check the cost of year books. She recalls it to be around $10.50. She will update Parent Council in the next meeting.

Anti-Bullying Day

-Pink shirt – International anti-bullying day – April 14th  and May 4th is the UN anti-bullying day. Ayissa will pick up the delivery of shirts and and sort them if needed. The shirts would have to be quarantined for 7 days on site in order to be handed out to the kids. This means the order should be in by early March. Ayissa will prepare a School Day message and Social Media for the end of Feb.

-Intended to use the same design as in the past so that we don’t have to pay a set up fee. We could open it up to a design competition with the grade 8s. Alyssa will check into the cost of the new design/set up, and we will discuss at the next meeting if we want to go that route.

Bylaw Discussion – Tammy Webster

-The bylaws were based on the current board bylaws etc. Michelle will go through them in more detail for terminology etc. At a high level they are very thorough. Michelle will commit to getting back on the details by the next March meeting.

-Will this be the guiding document or Playbook for our Council? As a council we are mandated to have by-laws in place. This is meant to be a Playbook that all school councils are being asked to implement.

-Who nominates who? Are we talking about when votes are going to take place? Where should that additional detail be found?

-There was additional discuss around the roles of council members and if they are mandated to support the decisions of school council publicly.

-Michelle will share a document for feedback from all parent council members.

-Michelle will locate the Board statement and add that to the Google doc as a consideration.

Virtual Book Fair – Feb 22- March 3

-20% of what we sell will go back to the school in product

-shipping fees will apply this year. All orders will go directly to people’s homes.

ProGrant

-Dom applied for a ProGrant to have a mental health speaker do a virtual presentation for our families for the school.

Teacher Recognition

Many items were discussed for teacher appreciation but no concensus was reached due to restrictions on spending money etc. We will discuss further in the next Parent Council Meeting.

7:50 – meeting adjourned.