

**Chalmers Street Public School  
School Council Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, March 28, 2018  
6:30 PM in Library**

**Meeting Chair:** Heather Samuel

**Attendance**

- **Present:** Rob Rebellato; Danielle Downing; Jennifer Boyer; Norene Miller; Heather Samuel; Jessica Allen; Kim Koolen; Shashonnah Shea; Michelle Mehring (until 6:35pm); Amy Slack (Kinbridge Community Association)
- **Absent:** Sue Davis; Theresa Tabinski-Hurst; Karis Burgess; Samuel David; Diane David; Gary Treasure; Natalie Treasure; Nagina Rabbani; Sarah Furtado

**1. Welcoming Remarks**

- Meeting called to order at approx. 6:30PM
- Roundtable Introductions, including Amy Slack from Kinbridge Community Association - she indicated she is hoping to have an association member sit on the council to keep connection with the community; the association is in the Chalmers catchment area, with the goal to build bridges

**2. Spring Fair – Part 1 (Michelle Mehring):**

- June 8 2018 proposed as night for spring fair
- Drum group (Spirit Vision) and dancers are available that day – national aboriginal day is Jun 21
- Quote of \$1500 for 5 ppl so far (include travel, tear-down); will add to number of people if they can but will not add to the cost – fair could start ahead of time, drums/dancers at 5pm
  - o Per Danielle Downing, an \$800 grant is available for this;
  - o Rob offered to cover additional \$700
- The Kinbridge Community Association would like to be involved in the Spring Fair as well, with games or similar activities, etc.

**3. Principal's Report (Rob Rebellato)**

- Rob is being transferred mid-April to another school (Country Hills in Kitchener)
  - o His last day at Chalmers will be Apr 13 2018 – reorganization is due to needs of other schools in the region
  - o A new full-time principal will be starting on Apr 16 2018 – Jeff Johnson – he is a current VP in Peel Region, newly hired to WRDSB – he will be around in the coming weeks for a tour, introductions, etc.
  - o As for the reorganization, letter going home on March 29 2018– parents can discuss with their children during the long weekend; Rob will visit classrooms during his last week to say goodbyes
- Other Updates:
  - o It was mentioned that the board trustees recently communicated they were pleased with the current student engagement, focus, etc. at Chalmers
  - o Guests / Guest Speakers have included basketball training (QMac); anti-bullying presentation (January); another presenter is being worked on for the near future (next couple weeks); John Howard working with the kids; tutors in the classrooms have started; Roots of Empathy still ongoing; floor hockey is running; juniors have basketball now; Mandala Club; Olympics Events; Knitting Club; Games Club; Coding Club; Math Group; Drama Club....always things on the Go!
  - o Nominated team for Safe Caring Award – Jessica Allen involved in that group, will be receiving acknowledgment which is well-deserved!

- Lots of teacher professional development – self-regulation, reading, math, etc. – a bit of a pause on it due to supply teachers hard to get, but working on it.
- Need numbers in next week (first week of April) for kindergarten registrations in order to determine numbers of teachers for 2018 / 2019 – helps to plan for class sizes next school year, etc. (late registrations can impact reporting which is in at end of first week of school; prevents funding for more teachers, etc.) -- if anyone is aware of kids coming up the ranks, encourage them to register.
  - Kinbridge Community Association indicated willingness to help push the registration (through materials, StrongStart Program, newsletters, etc.)

#### **4. Kinbridge Presentation (Danielle Downing, Amy Slack)**

- Discussed 2 Programs that the Kinbridge Community Association would like to facilitate in school
  - Incredible Kids (iKids)
    - Program for boys and girls – partnered with FACS - run 3 programs per year - for 6-8 and 9-11 year olds; varied age ranges; some flexibility with age ranges (developmental considerations taken into account)
    - Focus on coping skills, communication, recognizing feelings, etc. helps to lower aggression in homes, schools, etc. and with problem-solving, great experience for Kinbridge organization
    - After-school program that runs 3:40PM facilitated in Kinbridge Community Centre (in the past was at community room on Elgin St townhouse complex) – have had full capacity registration in the past but ran program with only a handful of children
    - Proposal: would like to facilitate right in the school so kids don't have to leave the premises – games, activities, reading, art, friendships, etc. in a fun way geared-toward age range – 9 week program; once per week – runs about 1.5hrs but can be flexible to meet the needs of the school – funding funnelled through Family and Children Services, but child does not need to be with FACS to be involved in the program; looking at possible ½ day summer camp idea as well
  - Girls Life of Wellness (GLOW)
    - In partnership with YWCA of Cambridge – 12 weeks, once per week; girls age 8-14
    - Focus on healthy self-esteem, body image, self-confidence – strong focus on girl-led programming, able to connect interests of the girls that join the group – holistic wellness approach – focus on physical, social, emotional, spiritual, environmental
    - 3 year grant (Trillium) to focus on Christopher-Champlain neighbourhood – will run out of a few schools and community centres, want to run in Chalmers as well – would like to run a focus group to assess the interest, needs, etc.
  - Just need the space – programs are fully funded; offer own facilitators
  - Once families are familiar with Kinbridge, it is easier for them to connect people with resources; referrals, support, etc.
  - Out of respect for the new principal the ideas will be presented to him before confirming / proceeding with any plans – Danielle Downing will act as liaison and will follow-up after new principal has transitioned into his role at Chalmers
  - Association runs other initiatives / workshops, too – e.g. Islamaphobia Brown Bag Lunch & Share on Mar 29, with special guest speakers / panel discussion, etc.

#### **5. Fundraising (Heather Samuel)**

- Theresa has been trying to contact the plants / seeds people to no avail (Sheridan Nurseries)
- Any back-up ideas for spring fundraiser?
  - Not much has changed, we probably have enough funds to run the Spring Fair without having to run more events - approx \$14,000 now; Fair costs approx. \$2,500; will go into next year with about \$10,000
  - Consensus is that we will wait until September 2018 for next fundraiser

- May want to consider Dance-a-thon for next year (suggested by Rob) – there are companies that will DJ; offer trinkets; etc – kids get sponsors (e.g. \$25 min) – very lucrative

#### **6. Other Items (Jennifer Boyer; Shashonnah Shea):**

- Per Jennifer, recorders have been ordered – cost was slightly higher than anticipated – Rob has offered to pay the cost (which amounts to just over \$200)
- Shashonnah Shea has suggested a staff appreciation lunch – preference was that it be held on April 13 2018 at 12:00PM (which is a PD day) – budget of \$1,000 agreed upon; communication to staff not to bring breakfast / lunch that day - Danielle will send out schedule and include this news
  - o It was discussed that something separate will be done for the six ECEs who won't be there

#### **7. Spring Fair – Part 2 (Heather Samuel):**

- Sue will look after the food trucks again
- Theresa says to create FB event to advertise; tweet out as well;
  - o Stamps instead of wristbands (which ran out last time) – Jen Boyer will look into this
  - o Asking high school aged kids to volunteer
  - o Background games to play
  - o Passport – prize at the end for passports submitted
  - o Food – not an option – cannot guarantee nut free
  - o Work in shifts – send out information to parents requesting who is willing to volunteer for an hour or so the night of the fair and/or sign
- Shashonnah offered to talk to classrooms – she will contact fire department / police who can usually come unless they have a call
- Rides and games – some mixed opinions on the rides – Heather will look into the rides and games as she has info from the past events; Jessica Allen has offered to help coordinate
- There will be the indigenous performers
- Other potential options - candy floss machine; face-painting
- Lots to think about and plan...

#### **8. Adjournment:**

- Meeting concluded at approx. 7:48 PM
- April Meeting – cannot be 11<sup>th</sup> due to PD Day on the 13<sup>th</sup>; staff meeting moved to April 4 so the new principal is up to speed; formal meeting will be on Apr 25 2018 so that the new principal can attend; informal meeting on April 17 @ 31 Taylor Avenue (Shashonnah's House)
- The following meeting will be May 9 2018 – has to happen that day due to special presenter scheduled