



CLEMENS MILL SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 10, 2021
Virtual Meeting held via Zoom

ATTENDEES (V=Voting member)

Vinay Tiwari (Principal)	Dawn Mills (V)	Linzi Dalton Schmidt(V)
Shemira Sheriff (Vice Principal)	Hayley Hamilton (V)	Zac Jones (V)
Cora Wilson (Teacher Rep.)	Jackie Fraser (Chair)	Kristen Jones
Kim Fowler (Community Rep.)	Jennifer Butler (V)	Olga Vigil Letang
Abby Pressman	Jennifer Hendry-Lynn (V)	Wendy Bowman (V)
Alanna Rand (V)	Jocelyn Jarvis (V)	
Amanda Strickland (V)	Shona Majuery (V)	

REGRETS

Bibi Corbeil (Teacher Representative)	Asra Baig (V)	Tina Beier (V)
Alana Bowering (V)	Jennifer Sime (V)	
	Morin Thavaesa (V)	

1. WELCOME – J. Fraser

- Meeting opened at 6pm.
- Jackie motioned to accept the October meeting minutes. Approved.
- Jackie reminded everyone that Meeting Slides and Minutes are posted each month on the school's website under the School Council tab.

2. FINANCIAL UPDATE – Z. Jones

- Few changes from last month
- Flipgive funds from last year were received in Cash account; two months of Bingo have been received totaling \$2,600
- ~\$29000 balance: 22 bingo, 6 cash, 1 WEFI
- Reminder that our goal is to spend all of the funds received in the school year they are received and that we must start spending the Bingo funds else we risk losing them

3. SCHOOL UPDATE – V. Tiwari, S. Sheriff

- No staff changes, no leaves to report
- COVID-19: had first case of the year last Friday; families are encouraged to continue to do daily screening
- HVAC is up and running
- STSWR, Board, City of Cambridge all in discussions to improve safety in the parking lot by introduction of speed bumps, signage, etc. and encouraging families to drop older children off on Saginaw and not in the parking lot
- Lockdown drill implemented
- Progress reports coming home Nov. 15th
- Nutrition breaks are starting to be spent outdoors

- Intermediate students adopting new dress code
- Whole-school bingo challenge was a success; another upcoming with next Spirit Day
- Remembrance day will be commemorated with education sessions and a moment of silence
- School photos scheduled for Jan 12th, 2022
- Teacher update slides can be accessed here:
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Y5efvmS9ye_y9BMUW6NaWfDfVlKWZ6gEeelV5FExsck/edit?usp=sharing
 - Principal Tiwari clarified that students are not necessarily delayed as a result of the pandemic, but that we're relearning how to adjust to the new normal, and getting used to being back in a classroom
 - Principal Tiwari and VP Sheriff were asked how their transition to Clemens has gone. Shemira shared that the community has been welcoming and kind, and that there is a noticeable change in students being more vocal and accustomed to being in school with all of the new pandemic-related restrictions. Principal Tiwari shared that his transition hasn't been without its challenges - he learned of the news in mid-August and had to quickly close up his role at his old school and acclimate to Clemens. It is also his first time in Cambridge. He also agreed with Shemira that the community has been welcoming.
 - What type of resources can parents use to get their kids up to speed? Advice is that globally, all children have been set back by the same pandemic. Parents are encouraged to read with their children, and not to worry about their kids being behind the curve because all students have been affected in the same way.

4. WRAPS-C MEETING UPDATE – A. Strickland

- Matt Gerard, Superintendent Business Service and Treasurer of the Board spoke about the PRO grant, intended to remove barriers to parent engagement. Aiming to have information out to schools next week with applications due in mid-December. Also discussed fundraising in the COVID-era. Parents were requesting a loosening of restrictions, but it was still advised to utilize virtual methods and to engage with school principals to approve any plans.
- Guest speaker from Carizon, Family Resource Coordinator Lead, discussed programs that families can access if needed. More information can be found here:
https://padlet.com/eyoung106/Carizon_Community_Services_Programs
- Group discussion on equity and inclusion. How can we as Councils promote equity and inclusion. Some ideas shared were: communications in multiple languages (we can use School-Day functionality to achieve this), welcome packages to new families with school info (ie, start times, etc.)
- Jackie asked for clarification of how the PRO grant will be managed - will it be a flat amount, or will it be awarded based on the cost of a specific item. Unknown at this stage. Also looking for clarity on how to qualify for the grant as the information that we have currently says that it can be used towards encouraging parent involvement and also promoting anti-racism/equity programs. Amanda advised that more information is to come.

5. PROJECTS & FUNDRAISING UPDATE – J. Fraser, A. Rand

- Unlearn program was not approved by Bingo, but we can still use cash, and there are a couple of grants available that could be used to cover the cost. Jennifer Hendry-Lynn will coordinate.
- HEPA filters were not approved by Procurement. Major concern was the ongoing maintenance and cost of the filters. Principal Tiwari confirmed that the HVAC system is functional and addressing air quality.
 - Kristen Jones has volunteered to manage the replacements. Mr. Tiwari will ask for approval.
 - Council has asked to get the reasoning shared in writing.
- Flipgive fundraising is ongoing. We will need to do a communication to let the school community know that it is live and ready.
 - Caution was given that many families are using Flipgive to raise money for team sports and other activities; we have set our fundraising goal low to account for this.
 - We'll pursue including a Flipgive flyer included in the report cards next week

- Linzi suggested that there is a program where you can earn money for watching advertisements. We will investigate whether it can be used for our school. Here is an example:
<https://www.savvynewcanadians.com/get-paid-to-watch-videos-ads/>
- Dawn suggested coordinating fundraising through the sales of reusable lunch containers (<https://www.colibricanada.com/pages/fundraising>). Jackie asked whether Council members are interested in hosting another Fundraiser.
 - Amanda advised that such initiatives have typically raised \$1500, so we need to balance the value with the effort
 - Dawn advised that the orders would be sent prepacked per child to the school, so there would be low effort or volunteers needed.
 - Kim encouraged us to promote Bingo as it's a good value for effort.
 - Olga shared that with so many other things going on right now, that perhaps spring would be a better time to consider a fundraiser
- New proposal to paint the tarmac and invest in a JUMP Math resource package have been approved by Bingo for total cost of \$14k (\$8k Math, \$6k Tarmac)
 - JUMP Math creator has written a book called All Things Being Equal
 - Program consists of two booklets for each grade, coincides with the curriculum, facilitated by teachers
 - Will help close gaps
- Sponsoring Grade 8 graduation would cost council ~\$5k vs. the planned \$1,500. If we want to approve sponsoring graduation, the tarmac, and the JUMP Math program, we would need to free up ~\$3k in planned investment.
 - Traverse wall plans are still not approved. We could consider postponing until COVID restrictions are made more clear. Mr. Tiwari will seek further advice from the Board.
 - We could cancel the Speaker Series (\$2,500) or seek a grant to cover the cost, and we could cancel the volunteer appreciation \$500 and ask the office to cover
 - Wendy advised that the graduation sweatshirts should get a few quotes to ensure that markup is minimized in the price. We require 3 quotes to consider.
- **MOTION: To approve the tarmac painting, JUMP Math program, and graduation sweatshirts, provided that the HEPA filters are not approved, we find grants to cover speaker series costs, and the office funds volunteer appreciation. APPROVED.**
- Pizza days are still not approved, but we are hoping to start soon. Linzi asked whether dairy-free pizza could be considered. We already offer gluten-free and halal options, so as long as our vendors can supply dairy-free it could be made available.
- Fundraising through Dominoes ongoing Wednesdays in November. \$5 from every large pizza will go back to our school.
- Bathroom update planning volunteers are Jocelyn, Hayley, Kristen, and Shona.

6. MEETING ADJOURNMENT – J. Fraser

- Meeting ended at 7:30pm

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, December 8, 6-7:30PM via Google Meet