



Country Hills Parent Community Meeting

November 25, 2020

Call to Order – Karina Gumz Carpenter at 6:05

In attendance: Bethany Leis, Ming-Hui Huang, Tarra Strumpf, Laura, Karina G. Carpenter, Joanna Kneale, Rob Rebellato, Ben Lee, Janeth Williams, Keiko App, Jenn Boyer, Terri Holand

Approval of October minutes: Janeth Williams

Approval of Agenda: Bethany Leis

Principal's Report - Rob Rebellato

- Nothing really new, school is just running best as it can, nothing extra being done
- Nice Remembrance Day
- Had a Spirit Day
- Kids getting out, weather has been great
- Things much like described in October
- Making sure school is disinfected and safe and clean
- 10-15 absent a day, typically in past years it would have been more
- Mainly kids sent home due to stomach ache, head ache; was a couple days where a cold went through.
- 3.5 weeks left of this year, we will pick up again in January
- Thank you to Bethany for notes and coffee and treats on PD Day Monday, it was all greatly appreciated!
- Nothing official for holiday season (re: stuff a cruiser or food drive); didn't want to speak about it right now, will send information at another date – if it happens it will be to help support families in our community
- Magician virtual presentation in December, as a gift from Rob
- Virtual celebration has been discussed

Teacher's Report - Joanna Kneale

- Thank you to parent council for teacher book money; students were excited for silent reading time; new books will be beneficial if we do the read-a-thon
- Reiterated thanks for coffee and snacks

Treasurer's Report – Tarra Stumpf

- Balance \$8868.89 as of September 2020

- \$800 donated to the Terry Fox Run *notes in email conducted business section below
- \$3000 donated for books *notes in email conducted business section below
- current about \$5068.89 - going to put a hold on spending

Sub-Committee Reports

- WRAPC Meeting Report - Meeting was November 3rd
- Karina didn't attend last meeting, if anyone is interested you can find information on their Facebook group page, all they ask is to know what school you have children in

New Business

- PIC Grant – TBD
- PRO Grant – follow up with Karin Sonnenberg
- No new news to report here

Discussion Items

Read-a-thon fundraiser scheduled for winter 2021

- rep followed up with Karina, if able to follow through we are planning on starting leading into March break
What are Country Hills Parent Community's fundraising goals?
- has been somewhat set aside with covid, but open to ideas, we need to realign
- Janeth – outdoor learning area, natural play area, armor stones in learning circles; liked all of Tarra's ideas, natural play scape maybe throughout the yard?
- Janeth – would be great to have another gaga pit *Joanna notes her class uses with her class and her class has come up with their own covid friendly rules (ie, only a couple kids in there and using feet not hands)
- Earthscapes mentioned on WRAPC meeting facebook
- Instead of dedicated outdoor classrooms, make them ourselves with armor stones, designed ourselves *Rob notes we need a vision and proposal for the board, working with board contractors
- Rob: there is a company who make simulated logs and scapes, much different and engineered as opposed to just a log in the school yard
- Bethany – raised a question of playground shelf life, will we need to replace at some point soon? *Rob notes Guelph is pulling out lots of playgrounds due to being too old, those are about 30 years old, PARCs comes in and assesses the equipment and removes if they are not appropriate, we can certainly ask PARCs next time they are in
- Janeth – we have talked about maintenance and painting existing structures, mentions other schools have bought playground paint and it just breathes new life into it, when we are able, we could get together and paint it
- Janeth – we should prioritize things we could use now and could afford right away as we continue to fundraise; people seeing things happen quicker rather than saving and it takes a while to see anything (ie #1 gaga pit #2

armor stone and so on), generally just have a plan and pick away at it as we can afford items

- Karina – wonders if anyone is into doing some research into some items we might like, Bethany volunteers, companies Blue Imp (name of contact is possibly Mary, school still has invoice for information *Rob), Earthscapes

How to plan CH Parent Community event for 2021 under current safety protocols

- Bethany wonders about a virtual art night, could this be a possibility? Should we wait and see in coming months if things change
- A holiday celebration that is being planned will be a prototype to this, if it goes well it will open the door to doing more things. No logistics from Rob at this point, recommends we sit and wait to see how this plays out, and maybe something in late winter/early spring.
- Joanna – last week of school before holidays, google meet for all teachers and students to participate, class video slide show, hopeful for a live meet for pre-recorded viewing, like an assembly but virtual winter celebration
- Tarra – example of craft kits dropped off and a specific date to log on to a youtube video to do the craft
- Karina – maybe a Mad Science night, with science kit drop off and sign on video
- Rob – delivery would need quarantine and then distribution, distribution within the school can take weeks, most items are still school items stay at school, a lot of extra clerical work for front office staff regarding protocols due to covid – is open to any of these ideas that will get the kids involved will just take some work with getting people connected and getting this off the ground
- Bethany – maybe we try to find things we could do with items around the house and give parents the list ahead of time

School website Parent Community section update – Bethany Leis

- This is being looked at, will include minutes and fundraising information
- Is a link on the Country Hills website, school hasn't been posting much on twitter, just another way of getting word out outside of school day, just about making less work – streamlining how we put out our information
- Tarra – should include upcoming events (ie greening dates, meeting dates)
- Rob – information on website is uni-directional, lots of restrictions about personal information, great idea to have information on meetings and dates and upcoming items – meetings still need to start with a contact email to Rob and he will add your email to the meeting link – no way for multi way information portal
- Bethany – some schools in board have a school council facebook group – wondered others thoughts on this
- Karina (and Rob) – school office needs to approve all content on that page
- Rob – Birgit was over Twitter, she has gone to distance learning (a couple weeks ago) and he has not yet gotten on there; there are work arounds to having a facebook page for not having to have approval from administration (ie naming Country Hill Community, not mentioning school)

- Karina – Jenn will help get website up once we have content ready
- Rob – school now being run with just Principal, instead of Principal and Vice Principal

School sign's update for December – positive messaging

- Karina looking for any ideas for future messages, this also includes school staff – email her with ideas
- Karina and Laura can update
- Country Hills School greening and weeding – SKIPPED

Other Business

Spirit days

- Bethany – spirit day ideas – formal wear/funny sock, other schools do every Friday
- Joanna – a small group of teachers are the planners of spirit day, typically there would be one before holidays instead of pajama maybe red and green day?
- Rob – we did recently have school spirit day, Mrs Helmke was in recent discussions about coming up with spirit day ideas that are equitable to all, but no that Sydney is leaving the school and this task falls to another teacher or Rob; covid has made things hard, but teachers are starting to want to plan somethings, but hard part still getting staff to volunteer or want to do these extra things on top of all the other covid protocols
- Janeth – lots of discussions of equability, and trying to find spirit days that can be done (formal wear may not allow for all to join in)
- Joanna – pajama day can lead to feelings of being left out (maybe not having the cutest/newest Christmas pajamas)
- Rob – spirit day has equability restrictions and it is becoming hard to find ok ideas, traditional items are not as easy and clear cut as in the past, the whole planning is a lot more work than it seems, very complicated – Spirit days are nice but not nice if we aren't including EVERYONE
- Ben – creating something specifically for a spirit day (ie crazy hat day, and in art that week they make a crazy hat that they can then wear)
- Keiko – girls enjoy mismatched sock day
- Joanna – school is divided into color blocks, a set day they have color house day and those days you wear your class color, keeps it simple with basic colors
- Janeth – another discussion is just doing something that builds community, read-a-thon working together fits into this

Distance learning/in class switch

- Keiko asked about when the switch from in-class to online learning will happen
- Rob - sign up in Jan, switch to online learning or in-class in Feb

Business Conducted Through Email – November

\$3,000 for new classroom books, November 6:

- Joanna put in request with Council for \$200 per classroom over 13 classes = \$2,800
- Joanna revised to include new French books (another \$200) for a new total of \$3,000
- Karina emailed out to Council, was approved by Laura, Bethany, Keiko, Tarra, Terri and Ming

\$800 donated for Terri Fox Run, September 24:

- Rob emailed Karina about Council possibly wanting to make a donation in the school's name as we could not participate in fundraising this year
- Karina forwarded to council
- Janeth noted that last year our school raised \$800
- Approved by Terri, Tarra, Laura, Bethany, Keiko

NEXT MEETING: January 27th 2021

(Tentative dates for future meetings: 6:00pm. February 24, April 28, May 26, June 23. Fourth Wednesday of each month, except June (third Wednesday). There are no meetings in December and March)