

Forest Hill School Council Minutes
October 13, 2015

Attendance – Fiona, Laurie, Laura, Kelly, Napur, Asha, Andrea, Mr. Berndt, Mr. Hughes

Welcome and introductions

Council Positions

- Chair – Kelly
- Co-Chair – Laura
- Secretary – Andrea
- Treasurer – Laurie
- Communications Rep – Fiona
- WRAPSC Rep – open
- Agreed upon unanimously by all present.

Financial report - Laurie

- Available amount in main account \$5608.28
- Balance in TreeGeneration account \$4393.93
- Some of the money in the WEFI account was to go to the Learning Grounds, but this 2nd phase will not be happening for now.

WRAPSC report

- There will be a Directors' Townhall (discussion) for Principals and Council Chairs on Nov. 12 (Eastwood), Nov. 19 (Bluevale) or Nov. 26 (Galt) (attend one of them).
- WRAPSC received a PRO grant to provide parent training in **safeTALK** (program that trains people to recognize the signs that someone may be considering self-harm). They will start training some parents as safeTALK trainers, who in turn would train other parents; will be looking for volunteers.
- The school website should be the hub of communication with our parents. The PIC (Parent Involvement Committee) website should be the hub of communication with all parents in the board.
- You can get information and website updates by email if you go to the website of WRDBS, PIC, SCIS, subscribe to email updates at the bottom of the webpage (need to do it for each website separately).
- Human Library (workshops) on Wed. Oct. 21, 7 – 9 pm at Eastwood
- Laura Morelli, Public Health Nurse, talked about alcohol use among youth. See minutes from Oct. WRAPSC meeting for more info and websites.
- Graham Shantz, Ian Mann and Deepa Ahluwalia from the Board talked about The Revised Health & Physical Education Curriculum (H&PEC). Google "Ontario Health and Physical Education Curriculum" for grades 1-12. They emphasize parent involvement in the curriculum, recognize parent as the primary educator. Page 19 gives curriculum expectations; page 21 tells you how to read the document, overall vs. specific expectations.
 - o Ministry of Education website has parent guides, resource documents; some documents in additional languages
 - o EduGains website – curriculum document and resources; overview of changes
 - o Faith and religious accommodations – see Board page "About".
 - o They want to make accommodations, not exemptions, with alternative lessons that can still be graded and still be part of the curriculum.
- Any time there are questions or concerns about any part of the curriculum, the first conversation should be with the teacher. If further dialogue is needed, talk with the principal.
- See minutes from Oct. WRAPSC meeting for more info and websites.

Fundraising goals – postponed this discussion till next meeting

School update – Mr. Berndt and Mr. Hughes

- Website subscribers is now up to 47. General discussion: parents probably don't know about subscribing to website -> put info in a flyer/newsletter, on the sign in front of school, posters at entrances. Subscribing is a 2-step process: you also need to confirm when you're sent an email.
- Hallowe'en notice should include info about clothing giveaway (talk to C. Scharlach)
- Winter closing policy: school will not close if it's very cold, but buses might not pick up students and there might not be crossing guards. Recess: indoor if -20 or colder (stays the same)
- Snack pack program going really well. Now have protein, fruit/veg, grain options. School would like 1 or 2 parents to volunteer about 15 minutes every morning: after announcements, each class sends 1 child to receive new bin, bring yesterday's bin. Then need to empty bins if necessary.
- Safety and Bus Patrol running (at Stonybrook and on 3 bus routes)
- Secretarial and custodian work-to-rule (OSSTF and CAMA): secretaries are not answering door buzzer to let people in. Need to cancel all weekend rentals eg. gym, as custodians aren't always available, when a custodian is absent they are not covered completely for the work that was not completed
- Progress reports and Kindergarten observation days will be delayed until labour dispute is settled. You can always go to the teacher if you are concerned about child's progress.

Treasure books – sold about 233 @ \$10 each, about 60 outstanding

Update: as of Oct. 27 only 24 outstanding.

Hallowe'en party Oct. 30 6:30 – 7:30pm

- Proposal: will need \$200 for food, drinks, decorations (pumpkin to take home). Approved unanimously.
- Music on iPod, on side of gym with lights out; food and drink on other side

Nutrition Lady – Oct. 14

- Have prizes, snacks; childcare provided

Teacher Luncheon on Nov. 13

Movie night Nov. 20

Council still has approx. \$300 from the PRO Grant available

Snack schedule – everyone signed up for bringing snacks to a future council meeting

Meeting adjourned 8:15pm