

Forest Hill (FHL) School Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

School Library

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

In attendance:

K. Beitz, F. McAlister, A. von Weyhe, D. Benoit, M. Smith, P. Berndt & B. Hughes

OES E-Waste and Clothing Collection Update/Results (Andrea):

- Half of bin was filled with e-waste; not many clothing donations
- No issues with placement of bin on school property
- Bin used for storage of rain barrels prior to distribution.

ACTION ITEM: Andrea is awaiting receipt of report from OES; Item tabled for next year.

Financial Update (Andrea):

- Balance of main account is \$1,852.00. From this account, it is estimated that approximately \$500 will be spend on books for the summer reading kits; \$600 will go to “Birds of Prey” for their Fun Fair participation. Income from Fun Fair will come to this account

ACTION ITEM: Amount for “Tinker Truck” to be confirmed.

Tree Generation Update (Andrea):

- Current balance of Tree Generation account is \$7,256.00
- Vesey’s Bulbs fundraiser was a success. Over \$3,000 was raised of which FH TreeGeneration will receive half.
- Rain Barrel sale was also successful with over \$2,000 raised. Amount actually coming to TreeGeneration not yet determined.
- FHL will receive \$10 for every rain barrel sold (\$55/rain barrel).
- \$525 was spent on mulch for all trees. Mulch day was a success, students had fun!
- Two trees will be planted (Grade 6 “Graduation Way” tree & “Magic Tree”)
Update on “Graduation Way” tree:
- Estimated cost is \$500 (TBD). It is hoped that a stone or bench will also be included.
- Tree will be dug fresh and planted in May or June.
- It is hoped that the Grade 6 students will come to see tree planted but not on same day as graduation.
Update on “Magic Tree”:
- Because it will be a very big tree, (costing approximately \$1,200) this tree will be dug fresh and brought to FHL with a huge tree spade.
- Administration suggested an announcement be made to students as an opportunity to “gather in the round” as a school as long as safety is maintained.
- To be planted on the other side of the soccer field; in June (if that works with the school); otherwise in the summer.

ACTION ITEM: Andrea will confirm the length of time of procedure for tree placement.

Principals Go Public (Peter & Brad):

Update on Staffing (Peter):

- Next year (2017-18) FHL will lose a Kindergarten class as enrollment numbers are down.
- FHL will have 4 kindergarten classes for next year with 25 students/class (approximately).
- FHL is in the hiring position as we will gain 1 primary class and 2 junior classes
- ABLE students will be integrated into junior classes for a half day come September 2017; Approximately 15 "ABLE" students are enrolled at FHL.
- Ms. Rebecca Fay was accepted into the WRDSB Vice-Principal pool.
- Mr. Brad Hughes was accepted into the WRDSB Principal pool.

School Events Report (Brad):

- Grade Six students have been busy painting yellow fish on roads off Greenbrook.
- Upcoming Track & Field events include a Track meet on May 24 and a District meet on June 19.
- The soccer fields are currently off-limits as they are muddy due to the heavy downpour of rain. This is a student safety issue.
- The FHL Athletic Council has trained a team of referees that have offered to assist with supervising soccer games at nutrition breaks. This is a pilot project.
- Grade Six Orientation is underway with students attending open houses at Laurentian Sr. P.S. and Queensmount Sr. P.S.
- Playgrounds will be refreshed with new paint. New interactive stencil activities will be added to the paths leading to Village and Stonybrook. A designated line up stencil will be added as a focus on safety and safe line-up routines.
- A dividing line/stop bar will be painted
- Upcoming in-school visits from the Humane Society and Kitchener Public Library; Field Trips to Twin Valley Zoo for Grades 1 & 2 and Bingemans for the junior classes
- A delivery of books is expected for the Summer Reading Packet
- A Canada 150 celebration is being planned
- Kindergarten classes look forward to their Year-End picnics
- Upcoming Junior Soccer tour with Glencairn P.S. Tournament will take place near the Laurentian Sr. P.S. fields.

Summer Learning Program update (Peter):

- This is the second year that FHL will run this program. Program is offered to Senior Kindergarten and Grade 1 students as an opportunity to maintain academics for September.
- Program has a camp feel with a focus on numeracy and literacy. A few of FHL staff will be teaching in the program.
- 120 students are enrolled for July.

Upcoming Safety Drills:

- During the week of May 15-19th, FHL will have a fire drill and a bomb threat drill. The bomb threat drill is a new drill.

Staff Meeting (May 11):

- Focus will be on Transgender students and the social hurdles they might face
- Peter has forwarded a video on Transgender students to Kelly for distribution to School Council members

Staff Wellness Initiative:

- All staff members are being encouraged to walk 15 minutes/day for their own mental health and well-being.

Snack Pack Gala Update:

- Gala was held last month at The Museum. Over \$8,500 was raised. Great community connections were made with lots of support for the program.

Upcoming Community Event:

- The “Community of Christ Church” will hold their Fun Fair/BBQ on May 28th. All proceeds received will go directly to FHL. Peter has posted signage on school doors.

End of Year Projects:

- Locks for Grade Six students (Kelly):
 - This year approximately 65-70 Grade six students will be graduating. Kelly asked if Council will continue the tradition of purchasing locks for said grads. Peter mentioned that he would like FHL to emplyfy the graduation ceremony to a higher profile event. He also suggested it would be a nice gesture if someone from Council could be on hand at the grad ceremony to hand out the locks to students.
 - Fiona thinks that locks are approximately \$6/lock but wasn't sure.

ACTION ITEM: Kelly to touch base with Laurie Hunter regarding locks. Council will vote via e-mail.

Pro Grant Application (Fiona):

- Fiona will complete and submit this application on behalf of Council. We need to submit our application now to be eligible for next year. The grant will pertain to “curriculum nights”.

Games Night update (Fiona):

- This event was not well attended. The gym activities were the most popular.
- Denise suggested that Council draft and circulate a survey to FHL parents and students to see what events they would like to see.

Staff Appreciation Lunch:

- All members of Council voted to donate \$60 to Calvin Presbyterian Church for allowing Council to use their facilities to host this event.

Fun Fair update:

- Posters are forthcoming to advertise event.
- Time of event was incorrectly mentioned in newsletter.

ACTION ITEM: Kelly will help support Brad to draft a sign-up sheet for staff. Sheet will be posted in the Staff room.

Year in Review Debrief Session (Kelly):

Kelly had Council members participate in a “Start-Stop-Continue” activity. Members were asked for input regarding which activities they would like to see “start”, “stop” or “continue” for next year.

ACTION ITEM: Kelly will compile a list of suggestions and distribute to Council via e-mail

Treasure Books:

ACTION ITEM: Kelly will follow-up with Laurie Hunter.

June 2017 Meeting:

- Topics tabled for next meeting:
 - What should we include in our “Back to School” package.
 - Last Fun Fair updates

Please note: The June meeting will be a pot luck.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.