

Franklin Public School – Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Sept 20, 2016

7-8:45 pm Library

Facilitators: Mark Eys

Attendees: Paul Milne, Hilary Toller, Eva vandenBrink, Ann Wong-Lettenbauer, Katelin Pfaff, Mike Bittle, Penny Miller, Robyn Harrison, Monica Chopra, Jewelle Wyatt, James Vanderlaan, Diana Moore, Diana Bowe, Greg Wren, Erin Thomas, Maria Turner, Mark Eys, and Gwen Lloyd

Regrets: Pauline Tomlinson, Kimberly Janzen, Anessa Selcage

Welcome – 7:08 pm

Adoption of Minutes

MOTION: A motion was made by Eva vandenBrink to accept the minutes from the meeting on June 20, 2016.

The motion was seconded by James Vanderlaan

The motion passed

Adoption of Agenda

Principal and Vice-Principal Comments: Paul Milne/Penny Miller

Staffing Update

- We have a new Kindergarten teacher in Room 19 – Kelly Verlinden
- There are 2 extended day programs now (we have only had 1 in the past) - One in room 19 and the other room 27
- Our ESL Program has 10 students learning English for the first time – Teacher is Kim Young with an EA
- We have two FT secretaries at Franklin – with another individual that works 7 hours per week (Monday and Fridays half days)
- Some changes in classroom. Shawn Collins is moving to the portable
- James McCormick – Junior core French covering for Sharon Witson on mat leave
- Kindergarten classes - first thing in September the class sizes are evaluated and considered against the board class size caps. (Soft cap at 20, and hard cap at 23). These caps must be obeyed. Due to enrollment, we are adding a ½ Kindergarten class – Teacher only (still to be hired) without an ECE. This will be in room 16.

- Rest of school will remain the same - though some kids will move to keep with caps. For example – if we have two classes of 21, we need to move one student to ensure one class of 20, and then we'd have a class of 22
- Due to change in portable, Mrs. Schoneveld will return to her “Music on Wheels” program
- Mrs. Falagitis – was one of our Special Ed Teachers last year. This program now only has 1 and Mrs. Falagitis is teaching Kindergarten now
- PA day on Friday Sept 23 – main areas of focus – learning assessment, math, and well-being (of child & teacher). Big push this year is on math. Two Math leads have been identified – Mme. PH, and Mme. K
- Ministry of Education website – Focus is a renewed math strategy. Soon (tomorrow) we'll hear about the EQAO results. The schools have had the results for a bit and have been planning accordingly
- Math isn't as high as hoped – so need to look at what we are doing – from the ministry down to the school level...ministry already putting thoughts into it with the renewed math strategy...will talk about this as the school year progresses...
- Cathy Dowsling – Franklin Breakfast Club – we have received a letter in which she mentions that she is reflecting on numbers at the start of year. By the end of the week, she is up to 75 children from many walks of life. She has 35 volunteers. She is asking for support, from the school council and the Optimist Club. (Note – we have supported this program in the past, but we haven't made this a running line item budget to budget).
- Trish Morgan was the teacher at Franklin heading technology. She has moved onto a new position elsewhere. There is a lot of interest from teachers to learn/use technology. A “Computers across the curriculum committee” has been created – Mrs. McLean is the contact person this. If support is needed for this – please send in a request to the school council
- One request - Music – a new microphone is needed. Please submit a value
- Parent engagement committee – supports new Canadian (3 to 4 years here). Topics are those to support parents. The committee is still in the planning stages and the goal is to create a group that can support one another. Sunnyside has a similar group and the attendance is about 75 women. They have speakers, give info re health and dental, benefits, workplace information etc. The 1st hour is informative and then it's a social gathering. We are looking for someone from council to come out to the Franklin committee. They are also looking for some financial support. Paul/Penny will confirm – but thoughts are that \$300 would be more than sufficient.
- School Buses? Buses have often been late...if you are experiencing issues, the recommendation is to call the bus line – the School has also been following up...
- Parking – before/after school on side streets. Some confrontations between home and parents have been encountered/witnessed. Please be respectful of the time, neighbourhood, and our neighbours and deal with parking in a safe and courteous manner. By-laws officers can be requested to be present, but are not always available.

- Parking in school parking lot or at front of school at bell times is not allowed – please park at Church or on side street where allowed.
- Please obey new signs around school for speed and no stopping/no parking zones.

Treasurer Report (Eva)

See sheet

Discussed \$2000 out for the stump stools

Discussed \$791 for the bench.

Discussion Topics:

- Executive and council positions
 - School Day blast will be sent asking people if they want to join council. They can email Mark and he will explain how things work including about voting members. This will satisfy the by-law of needing to let the school know 14 days prior to voting. We can have 20 voting members, including the executive. We normally have about 17/18 interested, but if we do have more, we will have to formalize the process. We just ask that if you intend on being a voting member, please intend on coming to all meetings as we need a quorum when voting on motions (1/2 the voting members)
 - Executive positions – there are officially 3: Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. All 3 positions are vacant for the 2016/2017 school year. You must be on council for at least 1 year as a voting member before putting your name forward. Currently the following voting members are interested:
 - Chair – Gwen Lloyd
 - Treasurer – Robyn Harrison
 - Secretary – Hilary Toller
 - Others can still run – Mark will also put that out to the membership
 - Suggestion to lower the voting members to avoid needing so many, regardless of how many are voting members – we still need 50%, so if have 14 instead of 20, we need 7 at each meeting vs. 10. Plus we like to encourage voices from as many as we can – and want to try and avoid limiting those.
 - Please note that sometimes we vote via email – depending on the situation...
- Greening committee (Gwen, Jenn, Robyn, Heather R., Heather L., Katelin, James)

- Log stools are the focus for the Kindergarten area.
 - Friendship bench is done but needs to have the arms replaced. The location of where it's going still TBD – Penny/Paul to discuss with the school
 - Mulching – lots of mulching is needed around the school – opportunities come up via email – please help if you can – many hands make it a much easier job 😊
 - Rocks in kindie area – we didn't put down landscaping cloth before the rocks when in so many weeds – it's a project to remove the rocks and then put the cloth in place etc.
- Safe, Caring, and Inclusive Schools (Gwen/Mark): (1) Volunteer, (2) Buddy Bench update.
 - Bench – as above
 - Penny request – volunteer for the committee – deals with issues like bullying...making the school a better place ... hours could be around school hours...
 - If interested – speak with Penny – would try and make time work for committee...
 - Teacher rep for this parent committee – School Council – Penny/Paul will ask for volunteer
- Fundraising committee (Anessa/Gwen/Hilary/Eva) – QSP/Treasures/Dance-a-thon/general request letter
 - One meeting was held over the summer...and hoping for another one before October 4 if interested / able
 - Discussed what activities we are interested doing ... QSP is a bit concerning due to the workload involved. Also Dance a Thon – we need to pick a date.
 - Discussed gift cards for Christmas time
 - Also discussed a general letter requesting for direct donation. This letter – two versions are available to review – has the discussion regarding possible tax receipts through the WEFI account and then also directly to council
 - If we allow online giving – 3rd party takes a % - that's their fee. But it's very convenient and allows for a wider audience (e.g. out of town relatives etc.)
 - There are challenges with WEFI account due to the demand on teachers to collect cash/cheques...Paul to get an answer regarding if the amount stays in WEFI or if it can come back to school council
- Tennis courts (Mark)
 - No one plays on them....in conjunction with school board and the city – owned by both – so no one is taking on the up keep

- Letter to Maple Leafs Sports & Entertainment (MLSE) – they offer some grants towards the tennis courts being revamped into a sports court – received word – that letter has progressed to the next level – so good news...city is willing to work with us if grant is given...
 - Thru city – trillium grant – for 150 Canada celebration – for 10 areas in the city – might include us...trying hard to do something
- Campbell’s labels (Kimberly)
 - Box in school (by library)...where labels are donated...gym equipment etc.
 - Would love help – can be time consuming counting all of the labels
- Breakfast Club (Mark)
 - Deferred to next meeting allowing the new council to decide.
 - We have budgeted various amounts each year.
 - Volunteers from Laurier – interested in doing that again this year.
 - Straight donation were obtained last year by Robyn – Received blender, gift card, and griddle 2015/2016 from last year – Sears, Wal-Mart Canadian Tire.
- Meeting dates (Mark): poll
 - Will Tuesdays work? Another date?
 - Will put out a poll
- New business:
 - Front area by Grade 1 is a bit hazardous and unsafe during bell times. People walk through garden, and trip etc.
 - Is there a history to this area?
 - Will push potential fixes (sign? Fence?) to the green committee
 - Will need to loop in Rob Sealey (WRDSB employee)
 - Milk program – will it be returning? RMI was the vendor. Paul to follow-up
 - Reminder – Please sign up for “School Days” – main page of Franklin website – fra.wrdsb.ca. Folks who are registered here will get notices from school sent to them about things like inclement weather, School Closures etc.
- Adjourn – 8:43

Next meeting: October 4, 2016

Enter through front doors. The library is to the left and down the hall.