

Franklin Public School – Parent Council Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2015

7-8:30 pm Library

Facilitators: Mark Eys

Attendees:

Mark Eys, Eva van den Brink, Janice Scherer, Anessa Selcage, Paul Milne, Dan Enns, Jenn Wilson, Ann Wong-Lettenbauer, Pauline Tomlinson, Hilary Toller, Deborah Hughes, Trish Morgan, James VanderLaan

Welcome

- Thank you all for coming out tonight
- Thanks for braving the snow & welcome to James VanderLaan

Adoption of Minutes

Errors & Omissions:

- none

A motion was made by Anessa Selcage to accept the minutes from the meeting on January 21, 2015.

The motion was seconded by Deborah Hughes.

All members were in favour and the motion passed.

Principals Comments: Paul / Dan

- Paul:
 - Carnival went well yesterday. A big thank you to all the parents who helped out. The kids had fun and it promoted our French culture
 - Dance a thon was a great success and thanks for everyone's involvement
 - Staffing update – our Core French teacher, Mr. Perron, was filling in for Mme Widsten who was on Maternity Leave. She has returned now but only part time so we need to hire for her additional hours
 - Inclement weather policy in place for extreme cold weather if the temperature (including wind chill) gets to -35 or colder as of 7am. There is a system decision to be made around 5am for what's forecasted for 7am. They use the Environment Canada website to make the decision. We're not sure who makes the final decision regarding school closures, but this information matters because of the temperatures that will be occurring over the next few days.
 - Q – Why are there some indoor / outdoor recesses?

- A – When it gets too cold, we exercise caution. -20 (including wind chill) is the guideline (not a hardline based on where your school is situated). Admin does their best to make a decision regarding the safety of our children.
- Q – Is School Day set up to communicate this info?
- A – Yes and Paul just might try it out this week.
- School Improvement Focus – We are focused on learning goals. We want to make sure the kids know what is expected of them, what their goals are and also focus on teaching math through problem solving. Paul attended a workshop and showed us an example of something they worked on: "modes of communication"
 - oral communication VS written communication
 - symbolic / pictorial / graphic communication VS physical communication
 - If one mode of communication is overemphasized, students may not be able to clearly demonstrate their thinking
- Report cards are coming home on Friday, February 20th
- No formal dates have been set up for interviews, teachers will be in touch with you regarding interview dates

Treasurer's Report: Eva

- See attached summary
 - January account balance was \$12,509.00 – not much different from December
 - Major expenses – book order went through
 - Still \$952.00 literacy carry-forward from Book Fair fundraisers
 - Expenses - \$292.00 for volunteer breakfast
 - Expenses - \$460.00 for drums presentation
 - Q – Just need some clarification on the 2014 annual budget box on summary
 - A – Reviewed the budget
 - Q – How do we decide how much of the carry forward balance is spent and invested back into the school?
 - A – We usually decide as the requests come in from teachers and we also look forward to future products (greening project) that may need a bit more funding.
 - Q – We as parent council come up with ideas or do we go on suggestions from teachers?
 - A – Both
 - Round table discussion regarding how money is spent

Chair's Comments: Mark

Discussion Topics:

- **Dance-a-Thon (Professor Jamz) – Anessa**
 - Update from Friday February 13th
 - Prof Jamz did a good job, he made an effort to play the songs requested by the students during their time slots.
 - He did a good job of cleaning up the lyrics of some of the songs.

- We made approximately \$4,913. With the commission sent to Prof Jamz, our net profit should be approximately \$3,800.00, which is an increase of about \$200.00 over last year
- No mishaps like vomit, etc. but Paul told a funny story regarding a kindie student who was “dirty dancing”
- Kids who hit their fundraising goal received their prize but Anessa has some leftover finger flashlights – what should we do with them? It was decided that we would donate them to Math Night for prizes
- Thanks to everyone for helping out with the dance-a-thon
- Round table discussion regarding how much money could be spent on gym equipment after piano money is spent
 - o Discussion regarding what type of equipment is required – \$2,290.00 for snow sleds, volley balls, foot football, skipping ropes, flag football flag belts, fitness resistance tubing, tennis balls, plastic cones, soccer balls, floor curl starter kids agility ladder
 - o question regarding gymnastics program & equipment – Paul and Dan explained the liability and insurability for why the program is now limited
- A motion was made by Jenn Wilson to set aside \$200.00 to purchase wheels for the newly purchased piano.
The motion was seconded by Ann Wong-Lettenbauer
All members were in favour and the motion passed.
- A motion was made by Eva van den Brink that we take the remaining portion of dance-a-thon money equal to \$1,300.00, plus the annual budget of \$1,000.00 and apply it towards the purchase of gym equipment.
The motion was seconded by Jenn Wilson
All members were in favour and the motion passed.

Comment – some parents had concerns regarding whether their child got to participate in the dance-a-thon if they didn’t donate due to the comment on the bottom of the form “this is your admission to the dance-a-thon”

- **Grant opportunities**

- Email attachment of grant opportunities (Mark)
 - o We will probably hold off on the grants at this time with all the other things we’ve got going on right now
- Kitchener Grand River Rotary Club (Mark)
 - o Jenn passed along what came through WRAPSC – grants from schools who have large numbers of students in need – the Rotary club may provide Epipens, etc.
 - **Action Item: Mark will send Paul the link for him to look into.**
 - o Someone approached Jenn to see if parent council funds the breakfast club, do we fund hats, mitts, extra clothes. This parent noticed that some students are going out without mitts, hats, have a lack of food in their lunches. There was a round table discussion regarding the possible need at our school.
 - Round table discussion regarding our funding of the breakfast club as some families are taking advantage of the program due to the later bell

times. The Breakfast club is important as a community outreach program and a church outreach – it benefits all students if those who are really hungry get fed and are not disruptive in class

- **Action Item:** Mark offered to work with Paul to get the ball rolling on the Rotary Club grant
 - **Action Item:** James offered to look into possible funding with the Stanley park Community Centre
- **Lackner Woods Partnership/Coordination (Anessa)**
 - Anessa responded to Aimee Wyman at Lackner Woods PS
 - She wanted to get together with other schools in the area to find out what worked for us and what didn't with regards to events / fundraising
 - If contacted again, Anessa will let us know
 - **Student Birthday Book program (Dan)**
 - Fran wanted to start this program, but it would require some sort of funding or donations from parents of previously read books
 - Trish recommended a change of name as there are many students who don't celebrate their birthdays
 - No dollar amount has been given from Fran
 - **Action Item:** Dan will go back to Fran for more information
 - Some other ideas were discussed about a reading night or book exchange
 - Trish suggested end of year prize be a book not a treat
 - **Action Item:** Possibly invite Fran to the March meeting to discuss some ideas
 - **Campbell's Labels – Kimberly**
 - No update
 - **Franklin Greening Program Committee update (Heather, Gwen, Cindy)**
 - No update from group
 - Paul mentioned that we couldn't really do anything until springtime anyway
 - Paul mentioned that something will be happening this year to address the drainage issue.
 - **WRAPSC and Steering Committee: Representative needed**
 - No update

New Business:

- WRDSB Parent Involvement Committee Family Event
 - <http://www.wrdsb.ca/pic/2015/02/05/registration-now-for-the-pic-family-event/>
 - Check out the website listed above – Sat April 18th “building skills to navigate the school years” seminar. There will be free food, free childcare....we just need to register

- Other

- Jenn was curious about an update regarding our Safe Caring & Inclusive schools committee – Franklin has been attending the workshops. We haven't made any decisions on how to update the school, but Paul will give an update after they meet next time
- Eva mentioned Math Night (March 31st) – let us know if the teachers need any help from parent council. Please also keep extensive copies of receipts and expenses so that she can submit the expenses.
- Year End BBQ & Cabaret – June 18th
- Jenn wants to propose an agenda item for next meeting – possible airband competition – something fun or a possible special event to replace the family skate night

Adjourn: 8:44pm

Next meeting: March 25, 2015

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