

Franklin Public School – Parent Council Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2016

7-8:30 pm Library

Facilitators: Mark Eys

Attendees: Mark Eys, Jenn Wilson, Anessa Selcage, Eva van den Brink, Paul Milne, Ann Wong-Lettenbauer, Kaitlyn Pfaff, Trish Morgan, Janice Scherer, Robyn Harrison, Monica Chopra, Kimberley Janzen, Gwen Lloyd

Regrets: James Vanderlaan, Maria Turner, Hilary Toller, Ebenezer Rajeevan, Pauline Tomlinson.

Welcome

Adoption of Minutes

MOTION: A motion was made by Jenn Wilson to accept the minutes from the meeting on Jan 12 2016.

The motion was seconded by Ann Wong-Lettenbauer

The motion passed

Adoption of Agenda

Principal's Comments: Paul Milne/Martha Knowlton

- Paul presented a slide show created by a Franklin teacher that showed the first couple of days for the Syrian refugees
- 40 newcomers came to Franklin in a very short time frame and about 4 or 5 have settled into our community while remaining families have moved on from Franklin
- A few families are still at the Howard Johnson (numbers are unknown)
- A second group is coming in now – about 19 kids to Franklin in total and we might only host them for a couple of weeks if they too find housing elsewhere in the community as the first group did.
- Our local community group has been successful in finding longer term accommodation
- Wilson Avenue PS – has a 2nd wave of students and is a larger number.

- We expect if there is a 3rd wave of families, the students will come to Franklin and it's anticipated that the numbers will continue to be on the smaller side.
- Staff going to presentation on PA day (Friday Feb 26th) – Expert is discussing how to support students who have been through trauma. Some horrific stories have been shared by these new students which has been challenging...but also rewarding to work with the students. Both teachers and students have been great in their support. Some students have even been upset that not all classes have had new students to welcome as all wanted to participate
- Additionally the community was offering more support than needed – which is fantastic...
- Impact on existing needs is unknown. We did get some additional support from the school board but has been challenging at times depending on number of students the quick turnaround based on housing
- We are more effective now
- Language barriers are also present and quite a learning experience for all
- Franklin PS added a 3rd portable as we were unsure of classroom space, and our numbers are growing. It would have been needed anyway in the Fall. Mrs. Schoneveld is utilizing this space currently (Music & Dance teacher)
- Kindergarten registration is currently slightly ahead based on last year's numbers
- Math night...coming up
- Communication regarding the Refugee families – there seemed to be a lack of it coming home to Franklin families (parent comment). Response: More could have been said. Perhaps regular updates could have been provided. As the situation was rapidly evolving and very unique, the best was done at the time. Perhaps more updates could have done
- Addressing the rumour was there was TB outbreak among the Refugees (parent comment). Response: Please note that Immigration Canada heavily screened the new families and many weren't allowed in the country because of these concerns. Any family admitted, when they arrived at Reception house, received the required immunization in a timely manner. It's important to note that within the Canadian population, many aren't up to date and possibly won't be (religious beliefs etc.). Families were also offered other support like dental screening
- Some struggles finding room for Syrian newcomers in Grade 7/8– some not attending currently. High schools are having an easier time for room for all students. Franklin PS didn't take any JK/SK students because of the physical size of the actual classrooms and the number of kids already in there
- Dance a thon – kick off was last week...went well.

- Jenn Wilson – approached by parent that thought that no fundraising means they are not allowed to come based on information conveyed at assembly. Response: need to raise money to get a special ring...reassured that all students will be able to attend.
- Please note that the fancy ring is incentive...maybe wording should have « special ring ». Will continue to examine the wording for this fundraiser.

Treasurer's Report: Eva

See attached.

Expenses to add to expense report:

- \$300 for Susan Watt
- \$300 for popcorn night

Library (Fran) – would like to order \$3000 from the \$4447 some for home reading, but we aren't sure as to where this stands – Eva will follow up

Coin club money – Mr. Boyer is still away.

Greening committee - Dance a thon funds will support.

Submission to Evergreen for Grant. We requested \$2500 and were given \$1000. This money was given and must be used just for trees.

Also – we have submitted a S'kool Life grant – we asked for \$2200 – for playground improvement

Kindergarten area – School Council committed \$5k and then the school matched it...all expenses accounted for and nothing else expected to come out of school council account....

Breakfast club – Eva will update the records to reflect the \$500 in (WLU donation) and \$1000 out (to Breakfast Club) for accuracy.

Trish – already approved for IT expenses – will double check in the minutes for maintenance – adaptors – fixes etc. This is part of rolling budget and Eva will update the budget so this is more obvious

Trish – The Grade 3s would like to give some money to the refugee families...can share money, time, experience, services... To talk with Paul – what are the needs of the new families...

Chair's Comments: Mark

Discussion Topics:

- **Syrian Refugee status updates** (Paul; or covered in Principal comments)
 - Any other discussions?

- **Dance a thon (Anessa)**
 - Kick off Thursday past – well received
 - Got posters up
 - Extra pledge forms in the office
 - The schedule for dancing (e.g., which grades when) was given to Martha and will be sent out when have it approved
 - Finger beams...ordered two months ago – still not there – s/b shipped and received next week...warehouse company online...there is a physical address in Mississauga. Possible delay due to Chinese New Year.
 - Have a box – 100 leftover from previous years.
 - Other rings (fundraising ring) – will be given to teacher to hand out at end of day...with the list of who got them
 - Hilary, Pauline, Ann, Anessa, Jenn Wilson (?), Kaitlyn, and Gwen

- **Movie Night debrief (Anessa, Eva, Gwen, Ann)**
 - RSVPs – 200/225
 - Weather wasn't great
 - Good turnout
 - Popcorn was a huge hit – no leftovers.
 - The gym was double booked. We only learned this later in the day on the day of the movie night. Was a real challenge but ended well.
 - Idea was brought forward to have apples for backup food (vs. multiple bags of apples)
 - Good choice of movie, "Free Birds", was well received.

- **Popcorn Fundraiser (Ann)**
 - There is definite support for this
 - Need to get volunteers to help with this committee
 - Ann to send out email

- **Elmira Poultry fundraiser – will revisit in March**

- **Math night.**

- There is a date change – from April 12 to April 26 now.
- Please note that the Parent council meeting will also change – to the 19th – a week earlier.
- **Social Media Literacy Speaker (Trish): Susan Watt (Thursday February 25th)**
 - 25 adults and 7 children
 - Could we have some refreshments? Gavin Bee will bring drinks.
 - Popcorn from Popcorn Patch sampler given to Ann for potential fundraiser will also be shared.
 - Possibility of a storm this evening...if school is cancelled, this would be too.
- **Greening (Gwen, Jenn, Robyn, Heather R., Heather L., Katelin, James)**
 - Evergreen grant received Feb. 3 2016 (\$1000; \$2451 requested for 3 medium sized trees)
 - TD Friends of the Environment grant successful (\$1980) for kindergarten area.
 - S’Cool Life Grant submitted Jan 23 (\$2190)
- **Campbell’s Labels (Kimberly)**
 - New box from Ann received.
 - 4000 points cashed in...14 items coming...let’s see what the quality is
 - 4 hacky sack
 - 7’ skipping rope x 3
 - 9” sponge ball x 3
 - Hockey ball x 2
 - 6.5” rubber ball x 1
 - Super safe baseball x 1
- **Breakfast club (Mark/Robyn)**
 - There were questions re the money being Transferred – this has been confirmed by Paul Milne

New Business:

- **BBQ – June**
 - Attendance is lower than other events...and seems to get lower each year
 - Idea of having a Food truck frenzy (vs. us bbq’ing) – could get a profit of the sales...
 - Local food truck
 - Let’s look into it...
 - 23rd of June....
 - Ministry of education guidelines – Thursday...
 - Bring some ideas for next meeting for the BBQ

- **Jenn Wilson – Menchies – Frozen Yogurt fundraiser**
 - Pick a day...provide people to support or not – posters...Franklin PS day...something to think about for next meeting...keep in mind for June or something...

Adjourned: 8:39 pm

Next meeting is Tuesday March 29 2016 at 7pm.

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