

## **School Council Meeting:**

Monday, December 2nd, 2019

6:30pm – J.F. Carmichael Library

### **Minutes**

Attendance: Anna Maste, Sandra Orton, Christine, Jen van Overbeeke, Nancy Loewen (teacher, staff representative), Marcus Hoare (VP), Leah Pullen (Principal)

Regrets: Charity Friesen, Sarah Kennedy, Ula Matusik

Welcome and Greetings

### **Updates and Business:**

#### **1. Finances Summary:**

Official numbers: Hoverboard -\$180, we have \$23,298 from fundraising + \$6,128 from last year. We have budgeted \$14,519 from last month's minutes, so there may be more money for the upstairs water fountain.

The school's water fountains tested positive for lead, and they are tested and updated frequently (often). Some of the current fountains have filters and some don't. There would be more maintenance costs involved if the fountains have filters, so they are probably putting in the fountains that don't have filters. There is daily flushing going on at the school as a response to testing positive for lead.

The school has been exploring water fountain options, and they're at the stage now where the board's person that makes these decisions needs to come out and see if the selected location has enough hydro going to it. The cost will be about \$3,000 or \$2,500 for the unit plus installation.

Council will wait for the school to come back with the information about which fountain we will get, and how much the board will give us, then we can commit the proper amount in the budget.

Gaga ball court – facilities manager indicated that this is up to the school and not the board. It's up to the school to search for quotes. Where will it go in? That depends on the size of the octagon. 1st choice, up on top of the primary hill, or 2nd choice is over by the basketball courts. Anna volunteered to get some quotes. School said that the labour doesn't have to go through the school board in this case. School will confirm this, just in case.

Anna will talk to other schools to see what sizes they have installed, and she will find quotes.

We will have more money that we will need to spend, around \$4,000 that we should spend before the end of the year. We are asking for the school for ideas, and needs. They will put this out to the teachers and will get back to us.

#### **2. Event planning:**

- a. Book Swap - We had a book swap scheduled for next week, but Talize has not had books for us, so this needs to be rescheduled for next year some time. What dates work for us? We will need tables, so the school will reschedule those. How is the 18<sup>th</sup> of February? The 17<sup>th</sup> is Family Day. For a 3:20 – 4pm event? Yes. Decided. Sarah has agreed to go get the books. Volunteers to meet at 2:20 to get the books set out. School offered students to help set up the tables at this time.
- b. Movie Night – We often do this in April due to weather concerns. Usually done on Friday, doors open at 6:15, movie starts at 6:30. Ends by 8:30. We encourage the kids to bring re-usable water bottles, pillows and blankets to sit on. We try to get a pre-release movie, but can go with whatever is available. Easter is April 10<sup>th</sup> (Good Friday). Date will be the April 17<sup>th</sup>. Council picks up bushels of

popcorn, and we give out free popcorn to the students. The supplier is Carmahdy's in Waterloo, Purple Crow popcorn. We usually get 8 bushels.

### **3. Committee Updates:**

None at this time.

Home Reading – they don't need any books, so we have that money to fold into the budget. Oldest kids at this school that use the English home reading books are the grade 4s in Ms. Loewens class.

### **4. Teacher work action:**

Our union is the ETFO elementary level teacher's union. They are in phase 1 of job action, which should not affect our kids yet. If it continues, there would not be written report cards in the spring, and if goes longer, it will mean that EQAO will not happen. However, OSSTF, secondary teachers' union, also includes support and facilities people, IT people, supervision monitors, administrative staff and maintenance people. So because safety trumps learning, if Wednesday's strike is a go, if we don't have secretaries, custodians or other people at the board level to support the teachers, the school will be closed. Because there will be no one to respond to unforeseen emergencies, and those other pieces, the school cannot open. The school does not know any more than the public at this time as the talks are going on behind closed doors.

Similar to QUPE earlier this year, it can be a go or it can be called off at the last moment. We are all waiting and watching the news. The board will communicate the message as soon as they know via twitter or SchoolDay.

The plan for the moment is that if there is a walk-out on Wednesday, all the regular staff that are not OSSTF union people, the teachers, have to report for work on Wednesday morning and work their regular day. However it will not be safe for students, so students will not be allowed at the school.

If there is a walk-out on Wednesday, pizza will be served on Thursday, not on Wednesday.

The EA association, OSSTF and ETFO are the three unions that affect our schools.

The Catholic school board also has a sister-clause that whatever OSSTF and ETFO get (if it's greater) they also get that.

Once the government works out a contract with the unions, then the board negotiates with the unions afterwards. These negotiations tend to go faster and better, but that is just historical, not a guarantee.

We need to be prepared for Wednesday, and for this to happen again, or happen again for longer.

Middle schools fall under the Elementary schools.

### **Principal's message:**

Candy grams started today. Students are excited and can bring in money for the next 2 weeks.

Currently gearing up for some fun before we hit the holidays.

Job action might change what we can do.

Concert, Wednesday, December 18th, 9:30 and 12:00, first block and middle block.

Hope to do something as a community, similar to the festive lunch on December 19th. KCI (high school) has been lined up to prepare the meal. If job action happens, this may not go through. Looking at simplifying the menu just in case, and because the timelines are getting so short.

If KCI have to withdraw their services, could they do a snack and some time together in the gym, instead?

Recognizing that many in our community do not feel that the week before the winter break is a festive time, it helps us be able to move this if needed, to another time before a different significant time, like right before Family Day or before March break.

The school doesn't want to promise something to our students and have to take it away.

Council offered that if the school would like to play a festive movie with popcorn, Anna offered to get the popcorn.

The hope is to do something that will be fun and is a break and a treat for the students.

Still looking at prizes, gifts, donations etc. to go along for this time. Looking at gift cards or food from the local businesses along Highland Road. Christine suggested that CTV has done a toy mountain tree this year, and if the school talks to them, they may be able to source something for our families in need.

Mrs. Steep is back now.

Mrs. Sabhir is in for Mrs. Maleck because her contract finished. We have a few staff that are expecting as well, and may be leaving depending on their timelines.

**What is on your mind:**

No comments.

Next meetings:

**No meeting in January**

Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>

Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>

Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>

Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>