

Minutes for Millen Woods Public School Parent Council Meeting October 18, 2017

7:03pm

- Attendance sheet and welcome to new members
- Request for printed minutes made - Richia will print off for future meetings
- No concerns around September's minutes

Administration Report (Trish)

- Condolences to teacher Sari Williams-Beattie - father passed away suddenly. Some staff schedules shifting Friday so they staff members are able to attend funeral
- October 31 - message will be sent home. Option of dressing in costume, orange and black or no costume. Some activities may happen in individual classrooms near end of day but no treats or parties.
- First **Crew Day** took place - mixed student groups from K-6 english and FI. Groups came up with crew names. Will have approximately 7 official Crew days this year with goal of building community and character education. One staff member attached to each crew plus a steering committee of teachers and Trish.
- Anti-bullying days November, Feb & May
 - Safe Caring and Inclusive Schools data will be explored. Data was collected from parents and staff. Grade 4, 5, 7, 8, 10 surveyed as well. Less than 40 families have completed surveys in the past and more required for realistic results so when next round goes out we should encourage more families to respond
- Trish would like to provide detailed EQAO results at November meeting
- Jungle Sport booked for February
- After school programs: Tuesdays Mad Science - great response. Enough registered for four classrooms. Thursday - Art Shine

Finance Report (Rozy)

- No major additions/changes this month.

Clothing Drive (Richia)

- Jana asked about organizing a clothing drive for students in other schools who need winter clothing
- Trish explained that in the past lost and found items have been donated to Rockwood and Howard Robertson
- Box will be placed in front entry from Monday October 23 to October 31 and notice will be sent to parents
- Whatever is left in Lost and Found on October 31st will be added to donation box

Communication (Richia)

- Primary mode is School-Day. Include Parent Council update/news in Trish's Sunday evening Weekly Update
- Millen Woods Parent's Connect group already exists on Facebook (community created)

- Millen Woods Parent Council Group being created by Richia on Facebook to provide more parent council specific info
- Concerns raised over too many modes of communication (twitter, school-day, facebook etc). Use school-day as main source and then social media to back up.

PRO Grant (Dan)

- Parents Reaching Out grant approved for this year.
- \$1000 from Ministry must be used by June (or it expires) to increase parent engagement in child's educational experience in school.
- Grant was written up requesting money for further robotics workshop/experience.
- Discussion around using money later in the year after the in-school Brick Works program takes place so that children can teach parents what they know and explore further
- November agenda item added - staff input around what is needed for robotics in the classroom/tech club (primary and junior). This will help us decide how to use money in the budget set aside for Robotics

Fundscrip (Dan)

- Parents order gift cards. Pay face value for cards and school receives a percentage of card value. Typically receive around \$1700 in proceeds.
- Forms sent home in November, returned, council volunteers input orders, cards delivered in December
- Organizers: Renee & Ashley. Renee will send email to group and will get back to us with timelines/details.
- Volunteers will be required to input orders and distribute cards

Dance-a-thon (Amy)

- January 25th. Earlier than previous years to spread out fundraising
- 3 volunteers needed for the actual day to assist with photo booth in library
- Discussion around when to hand out envelope. Waiting until January avoids asking for more in the busy holiday season but Renee suggested handing out before Christmas and telling parents that some of funds will be given to another school. Amy & Renee will discuss possible options and present at next meeting.

Playground (Dan)

Document was sent to council describing history of playground - link to past quotes and plans in document sent by Dan

Build will take place in summer 2018.

Budget is negotiable - board will loan money with low interest rate.

Last amount agreed upon by council was \$18000 plus loan from board

*Council moved on to discuss Community Outreach (notes below) and then returned to playground discussion as follows:

- Discussed location - cannot build around boundary of path due to drainage

- Dan showed four options from last year. Averaged around \$25000-\$40000
- Question: what were vendors asked
 - PARCS design was sent to PlayPower and Henderson to request a similar design and quote. New designs by Jambette on the table now - very recent
- What were children shown?
 - PARCS hand-drawing & pictures of individual elements.
- Parents were shown options that had not yet been given the okay by the board
- Question is whether we should go with something typical or something more innovative and general feel is for something more innovative being sure to include pieces the children want e.g. slide
- Richia concerned that we communicate well with parents to gain more support and avoid questions/concerns after the fact
- Jambette circuit design shown - appx \$25000 without prep.
- Newer Jambette design shown which includes bridge and slides as well as less traditional ladders and monkey bars.
- Sarah will continue communication with Jambette and request further designs and ask about timeline
- Richia will send Sarah space measurements.
- November - council will decide on designs to present to board.
- Once board signs off on the designs we select we will present small, medium, large options to students/staff/parents

Community Outreach (Richia)

- Winter Social event - open house to school community to provide opportunity for families to explore, mix and mingle.
- Suggested that this be paired with caroling evening.

8:47 Adjournment - Next meeting is November 15, 2017