



**New Dundee Public School Council**

**519-696-2297**

**“working together for our kids”**

## **Minutes – Wednesday October 22, 2014**

### 1. Attendees:

- Brandy Cameron, Megan Hall, Andrea Michelutti, Dave Moore, Karen Kokkelink, Jen O’Connor, Barb Eddy, Greg Hallman, Lynn Rieck, Iris Styanislou, Theresia Smith, Natalie Barnard, Kelly Blier

### 2. Review & acceptance of minutes from previous meeting (Sept 16, 2014)

- motion to approve by Lynn Rieck, seconded by Dave Moore, vote passed.

### 3. Principal’s report

- EQAO Results from June 2014
  - Very positive results for both grades 3 & 6
  - Above provincial averages in all areas for grade 3 and one area in grade 6
  - Because of our small population, each student represents 3-5% in scores – therefore only a couple of students are actually struggling and we’ve got plans in place to assist those students
  - We did compare the results of the grade 3 classrooms – one of which had a lot of tech in the classroom and one did not – the results were comparable so tech seems to have little impact on EQAO results
  - Grade 6 results were relatively low, however 3 students ended the test early and did not finish, representing at least 10% in scores. Had they completed and continued with the scores they had already achieved in other areas, they would have received standard scores and our overall results would be higher.
  - In comparing the Grade 3 scores from the same students who are currently in grade 6, the scores have fallen slightly, but not significantly.
  - There is a program for all Grade 2 students this year called Dreambox that we are piloting to see how it helps with math learning. Because we have split classes, we actually have students from grades 1 to 3 working with this tool. We also have some extra licenses allowing some struggling students in other grades to utilize the program as well. We will monitor the use of the program to see if it helps.
  - Special education focus this year is intensive small group support for math in number sense & numeration. This is shown to make a very positive impact on students.
  - In the Spring we may offer an open house night on the topic of EQAO testing in general for all parents (not for kids). To be revisited later in the year.
- School Day
  - 50% of our families (115 students) have signed up for the program. We’ve already had many families sign up for pizza online even though we haven’t advertised it. We also hope to do the same for the next hot lunch term. We will be pushing out parent/teacher interview signups there as well.

- Parent-Teacher Interviews
  - Parents signed up for School Day will have first dibs on interview timeslots. Interviews will be Thursday, Nov 6<sup>th</sup> from 4-7pm and Friday, Nov 7<sup>th</sup> all day.
- Safe Welcome
  - So far the implementation has been going well. A couple of glitches with people needing to use the washroom when nobody was available to let them in, etc. It has helped reduce the frequency of some visitors and helped with students who like to hang out in the halls during recess since they are actually tracked in & out.
  - It was suggested that for the younger grades the teachers provide a bit of extra guidance on what to do if you are late coming to school or late after recess so they know to head to the front door and buzz the office.
- Engagement Continuum
  - 3 levels of engagement that the Board is focused on with respect to parent involvement – Inform, Consult or Collaborate. Andrea handed out a sheet from the Board that outlines each of these levels. Attendees were asked to review the sheet and consider what level we should be targeting for School Council meetings.

#### 4. Chairperson's report

- Gardens
  - Gardening Day was a success, spent the morning of Oct 18<sup>th</sup> planting & mulching the new beds and weeding & mulching existing beds. Thanks to volunteers for all of their help – Jen O'Connor, Martin Kokkelink, Rebecca Byers, Brandy, Tasha & Daniel Cameron, Megan Hall, Kevin Martin, Dave & Kelly Blier. And special thanks to Karen Kokkelink for the Tim Hortons treats at the end of the workday!!
  - Motion to approve the use of the Parent Involvement Grant of \$500 to reimburse Brandy for the plant purchases. Motioned by Jen O'Connor, seconded by Kelly Blier. Vote passed.
  - The plant list will be provided along with information about each of the items for the school to use for educational purposes.
  - We will need to look after the gardens next summer to ensure they are well watered for the first year. We will be looking for volunteers to sign up to look after this.
- Movie Night – How to Train Your Dragon 2 on Nov 14<sup>th</sup> – need volunteers
  - All of the food we had on hand was either expired or stolen by furry friends over the summer, so we will need to replenish. Natalie will ensure we have enough
  - Drew Einwechter has offered to look after popcorn prep for the evening
  - We will have a separate meeting of interested volunteers to set a schedule and make concrete plans
- Dance-a-thon – Nov 19<sup>th</sup>
  - Brandy will round up volunteers to assist during the day
  - The provider will hold an assembly to hand out the pledge envelopes & get the kids excited. This will be held on Nov 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### 5. Treasurer's report

- Monthly report – September began with a balance of \$11,779.75 and ended with \$12,396.92 after expenses for Meet the Teacher, Fun Fair postage, Hot Lunches, Garden

Mulch & Dance-a-thon deposit as well as deposits for Meet the Teacher & Hot Lunches. The report was motioned for approval by Lynn Rieck, seconded by Kelly Blier. Vote passed.

- Discuss overall budget for the year (see attached School Council Proposed Financial Plan document for full details)
  - Funds to spend from last year's fundraising initiatives:
    - ChromeBooks – goal is to have 10 per junior class, 6 per primary class
    - Field Trips – \$300 per classroom for total of \$2,700
    - Catherine Wheatley - \$4,000 for music program
    - Grade 6 Graduation - \$500
  - Goals for this year's fundraising – totalling \$11,000, in priority order
    - iPads – 10 for kindergarten use (who don't use ChromeBooks)
    - Grade 6 Leadership camp - \$500 (tentative, based on pizza sales)
    - Field Trips – additional funding to offset the rise in costs this year due to the change in bus schedules
    - ChromeBooks – 10 more
    - Garden Expenses – probably nil given that we're using the PIC grant this year
    - Teacher Allocations - \$150 per teacher to use at their discretion for in-class supplies

#### 6. Grants Update

- Parent Involvement Grant – use this \$500 towards the Gardening Day expenses as above
- PRO Grant – we have received the \$1,000 for the year, need to spend it by June 2015; need to brainstorm ideas for this year
- Canada Post Community Foundation Grant – up to \$50,000; will apply again in spring for an Outdoor Classroom
- Physical Activity Grants (Heart & Stroke Foundation) – there are as many as 39 grants that we could apply to for an Outdoor Classroom; Karen will go ahead with as many as she can based on the same format as we've used for the Canada Post grant

#### 7. New Business & Announcements

- Dave brought a donation from Investors Group based on his volunteer service with NDPS for \$400

#### 8. Next Meeting Date: TBA