

Parent Council-March 30, 2015

Attendees: Andrea Michelutti, Greg Hallman, Megan Hall, Brandy Cameron, Mme Upton, Jen O'Connor, Karen Kokkelink, Chris Martin-Root, Natalie Barnard, Angie Hallman, Lynn Rieck, Amy Fung

1. **Welcome & Introductions**
2. **Approval of Minutes** from January 28th, 2015 – Motioned to approved by Chris, Seconded by Natalie.
3. **Principal's Report**

Principal Performance Appraisal

Needs 10 parents to complete some questions for her performance appraisal, will provide to Council members to complete in the coming weeks.

Communication from the office

The results from Andrea's recent survey were mainly positive. Most parents use school-day to obtain information. Parents prefer to have information come to their devices. One complaint did come in that the school was relying too much on technology. All other responses were positive.

If you would like to add an additional email to the school-day email Lisa to obtain another keycode.

Hot Lunch Format Change

See attached document on Hot lunch revenue & expenses

Decided to continue to offer East Side Marios Hot lunch for the remainder of the year. Participation has averaged approximately 70-80 students per day.

Some discussions around hot lunch and prices. Should hot lunch be a fundraiser or be close to cost? Committee to be formed to look at hot lunch program for next year.

Staffing Process

191 students are registered currently for 2015/2016. We are down 10 students from this year. April 11 Andrea finds out her class distribution for next year. The 14th the class distribution is shared with staff. There is a 50 percent chance that we may lose a teacher. There will be one Long term occasional teacher next year to cover a leave of absence. Mrs. Urquhart and Mrs. McLean will be back from their maternity leaves.

Colour Houses

Meet once a week for a half an hour. Whole school is divided into 4 colour groups. They talk about New Dundee PRIDE. They complete an activity each week based on one of the PRIDE topics. At 11:05 they come to the gym to complete their cheer. This will continue for the rest of the year.

LOGO Update

There are 4 parents who are looking at the logo submissions to narrow them down to a few favourites. There is a graphic designer who works with the School Board for free who will assist with finalizing the logo for use once the parent committee makes their choices. We hope to have the logo finalized by the end of the month.

Music Concert

May 6th is a music concert at the school. Only 2 adults per family will be allowed to attend due to capacity of the gym. There will be a daytime concert offered as well for anyone who is available.

Sir Adam Beck Music Program

Parents can donate funds to offset the cost of the new instrumental music program for 7/8 students. They need to raise about \$40,000 for a full class of instruments, at minimum \$15,000 to even start a program. They will also have a rent to own program for parents & students interested. We will try to create awareness & fundraise the night of the music concert.

Kindergarten Information Night

Kindergarten information night was a family affair during March. 11 families attended.

Grade 6 Celebration

Grade 6 celebration is June 15th. 500 dollars will be donated for refreshments and a small gift for the graduating class. Motioned by Amy and Seconded by Karen

French Update

Mme Upton joined our school last month as the new French teacher. The primary students are working on AIM plays. The juniors are working with a brand new curriculum that is focused on spontaneous conversations. She has had a great start! A french information night will be held in June.

3. Bag to School Spring Plan

Bag to school drop off will take place around and after Victoria Day. Volunteers will be needed to hand out flyers in the community on Victoria Day as well as door to door in both New Dundee and Mannheim in the weeks leading up to Victoria Day.

4. Treasurer's Report

see attached report. Motion to approve by Karen, Seconded by Jen

5. Grant Reports:

Parent Involvement Grant (\$500)

Intent: To support communication with parents and increase parent involvement & to demonstrate inclusion/outreach to the community

2014/2015 School Year: Application window: September 2014 – June 2015

Status: A. Michelutti has applied to cover cost of community gardening

Parents Reaching Out Grant (\$1000)

Intent: To support school-based initiatives to reach **parents who face barriers** to becoming involved in their child's education AND to **inform or engage parents** in support of improved student achievement and well-being and align with Ministry of Education goals. Examples: Guest speakers, information nights, removing language/cultural barriers, family math nights, nutrition workshops, skills for parents to support learning at home.

2014/2015 School Year Status: Applied last May for \$1000 to support educational kits in the classroom again. Approved August 2014. *"The funds must be spent on the budget items described in your grant application by June 30, 2015 and reported on before August 31, 2015."* We will use these funds to support the French Night as mentioned above.

2015/2016 School Year: Application window currently open. Need to apply before May 19.

Canada Post Community Foundation Fund (Up to \$50,000)

Intent: Community-based, community-driven or rely on community resources, New capacity project up to \$50,000 (not a retrofit or expansion). Notes: Extra consideration if Canada Post employees are involved, Money must be spent within a year

Status: Application window currently open. Need to apply before April 17. Will submit same application as the past 2 years for Outdoor Classroom.

Physical Activity Grants (Heart and Stroke Summary)

Status: Bell Let's Talk was not promising (Mental health is a stretch)

Alviva Looks promising – September

Farm Credit Canada AgriSpirit Fund: FCC AgriSpirit Fund is about enhancing rural communities. If your organization is raising money for a capital project and your city or town has less than 150,000 people, it may qualify for a donation between \$5,000 and \$25,000. Online applications will be open from April 13 – May 18, 2015. Successful projects have included hospitals and medical centres, childcare facilities, fire and rescue equipment, playgrounds, food banks, libraries, recreation centres and community gardens. We will apply for this grant to cover the cost of a new Kindergarten playground that is age-appropriate (see below), will consider it to be farm-themed to increase our chances of approval.

6. Playgrounds

In September the swings will most likely need to be replaced. The cost will be around \$1800.

The current Kindergarten playground has been inspected and deemed safe for children 6 years of age and older only. Andrea will communicate this to the Kindergarten students, staff and families now that the weather is warmer. We will need to consider what we can plan for these students going forward so they have some playground activities. Some features on the red playground will also be removed due to the safety inspection.

Next Council Meeting: Monday April 20th