**New Dundee Public School - School Council Meeting**

**October 17, 2017**

**Attendance:** Rebecca B (chair), Noel J, Brittany L, Julie B, Darlene R, Angie H, Terry Y (community rep.) Mr. Burnley, Mr. Heer

1. **Prior Meeting Follow Up:**
* Chess program:
* Will be rolled into the math program called Caribou math. The challenge to running a chess club is finding a time slot which can be used without interfering with other programming.
* An outside person has been contacted for teaching chess, but the preference would be for an after school time slot which really doesn't work with our bus-heavy school.
1. **Principal's Report**
* EQAO results - http://www.eqao.com/en/assessments/results.
* New Dundee specifically: https://eqaoweb.eqao.com/eqaoweborgprofile/profile.aspx?\_Mident=5194&Lang=E
* Hosting an eye sight clinic.
* A picnic table will arrive over the next few weeks.
* October 25th Me-2-We fundraising will be announced.
* "We Team" had a good trip to Toronto to prepare for this year's campaign.
* PALS is in full swing. Leaders are offering activities to younger children on the school yard during nutrition break.
* Teachers have been active in attending workshops to acquire new skills and bring it back to the work place and share with the other teachers.
* Treasures update - 22 memberships have been sold (as of October 17th). 12 sold on school-day and 10 sold presently. Order cut off is Monday October 23rd, cards will be sent home Thursday October 26th.
* Chrome books are still the desired item to buy with the Treasures funds.
* School Bell - $3k is the cost to install the necessary fall arrest hardware to allow someone to manually ring the school bell.
* Thursday December 14th will be the Christmas Concert.
1. **Financial Report**
	1. Upcoming Expenditures
		* Gardening supplies - around $250.00
		* Teacher wish list will be sorted out by Staff, and can be discussed at the next council meeting.
	2. Grant Update
		* Try and share the grant applications a little more evenly through the group.
		* Dave has applied for the Investors Group grant.
		* Use the PRO grant to help pay for Math Night and to possibly help to provide prizes.
	3. Treasures income isn't included yet.
	4. Gardening supplies have been bought.
	5. Parents should check their employers to see if grants are available.
2. Survey results
* See Addendum Below.
1. **2017/18 School Year Activity Planning**
	1. Skating party?
		* Revisit as we get closer to winter.
		* Whistle Bear golf course might be an option because they have had an outdoor rink in the past.
	2. Pot Luck dinner at the community center?
		* Attempt to bring the school family together and build on the feeling of community.
		* Try and enlist the service groups to help pull off?
	3. Dance-A-Thon
		* Angie will be sourcing the audio equipment.
		* Brian will find high-school volunteers to run the audio equipment.
		* Purchasing the glow in the dark sellables will be discussed at a future meeting.
	4. November 21st for a Math Night
		* Sharon Zintel will be running it again.
		* Angie moves to buy prizes Julie seconds.
	5. Have a speaker in the winter/spring session.
		* Try and host in partnership with schools in Baden/New Hamburg. Angie will touch base with the other school councils.
		* Possible Topics: Internet Safety, Resiliency, Anxiety
		* Depending on the topic there might be an opportunity to request various service clubs to help cover the costs associated with hiring a speaker.
	6. Movie Night
		* February 2nd
		* The movie is to be determined at a later meeting.
		* The Parent Involvement Grant will be used to purchase a license for a more current film.
		* Brian to try and supply a list at the next council meeting for movies that are available.
2. **Fall Garden Clean Up**
* Grade 6 students will handle the clean up.
1. **Other Items – Open Floor**
* Greater school board distribution board minutes can be had to other members of council. Rebecca can add people to the distribution list if they want.
1. **Future Parent Council Dates**
* November 14th, 7pm start
* December - no meeting planned
* January 16th, 7pm start
* February 13, 7pm start
* March - no meeting planned
* April 17th, 7pm start
* May 15th, 7pm start
* June - no meeting planned.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm

**Highlights from NDPS Survey of Dragon Families - September 2017**

**15 responses**

**Q1: What grade is/are your child(ren) in?** Answered: 15

* Many in Kindergarten
* Mix of other grades
* No Grade 6

**Q2: Indicate your satisfaction with the school activities that you/your family have attended in the past:** Answered: 15

* Almost all respondents were quite satisfied with all activities they reported attending.
* Important to note that speakers, drumming workshop and art night were attended by less than half of respondents (older activities, so not surprising).
* Many attended movie nights and math night responded favourably.

|   | Total | Avg. satisfaction rating (/4) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Math Night (2016/17)  |  11/15  |  3.82  |
| Art Night (2015/16)  |  7/15  |  3.57  |
| French Soiree (2014/15)  |  8/15  |  3.63  |
| Spring Fun Fairs (2014 & prior)  |  9/15  |  3.44  |
| Movie Nights in the gym  |  11/15  |  3.55  |
| Family drumming workshop  |  3/15  |  3.67  |
| Speakers/workshops on special topics  |  0/14  |  0.00  |

**Please explain what you liked and/or didn’t like about any of the activities listed above.** Answered: 11

Variety of comments were provided, including:

* Math night was interactive and lots of fun
* My kids loved the fun fair but a huge job for not a lot of pay off compared to events that were much easier to plan.
* I liked how relaxed movie night was and that you didn't have to sign up ahead of time. Enjoyed it a lot.
* Great to get into the school and let the kids share their space.
* I like an open house approach, so we could come and go as needed. Casual sales related to fundraising.
* Always impressed with the effort made and enthusiasm expressed by the organizers and attendees of events. The events really express the school as a community builder.
* Wished there were more speakers/workshops.

**Q4: What activities or events would you like to see School Council organize this year or in the future** Answered: 9

Suggestions offered:

* Fun Fair **(3)**
* Movie night **(2)**
* Charity/community-related - to promote kids awareness of community responsibility and care of others **(2)**
* Books/reading/word games night
* Literacy and math family nights
* Math and art night combined
* Science night (outside agency come in and set up the activities)
* Nature-related event
* Outdoor games/activities
* Skating party
* Kids help in garden
* Free extracurriculars for kids whom can't afford to do outside of school
* Parent workshops on how to make learning fun, building good relationships with your kids

**Q5: What fundraising activities would you like to see School Council organize this year or in the future?** Answered: 9

Suggestions offered:

* Try to support local
* The dance-a-thon type activity is great. We prefer this than kids having to sell things.
* Dance-a-thon
* Used book sale
* Making things that could be sold (preserves, baked goods, raffle quilt that the classes all contribute to)
* Car wash
* Bottle drive
* Bag to school
* Selling local produce
* QSP
* Cookie dough
* Product sales in advance of Christmas for gift giving (chocolates, simply delicious, Bright cheese, Baden coffee, Epicure)

**Overall notes re: survey:**

* Small sample size noted.
* Nice to get additional input and new ideas - some thoughtful feedback provided for consideration.
* Many suggestions were made for school council activities and fundraisers that would require more volunteer support to organize.
* Those that responded are generally pleased with Council-led activities and seem to be engaged parents who are interested in participating in school activities.
* Would be good to distribute paper copy to all families right at start of school year and leave the survey open longer (promoting it at Meet the Teacher and other avenues).