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

**September 13, 2018**

**Attendance:** Mr. Heer, Mrs. Boshart, Rebecca B (chair), Noel J, Terry Y, Marina D, Angie H, Meghan C, Anita C

**Regrets:** Mrs. Hagey-Nichols, Darlene R, Brittany L, Dave M

1. **Review of School Council role and membership**

* From the Board:

A school council is an advisory body that functions within the parameters of Ministry of Education and Board policy. School councils provide an opportunity and the means to advise the principal and the Board on any matter pertaining to improvement of pupil achievement and enhancing the accountability of the education system to parents/guardians. The ultimate responsibility for the administration and management of the day-to-day operation of the school rests with the principal.

A School Council Handbook has been prepared by the Waterloo Region District School Board and the Waterloo Region Assembly of Public School Councils working in partnership to support school councils in their valuable role in elementary and secondary schools across the Region. A reference copy of the handbook is available in all of our schools.

A school council is an important venue for the various stakeholders in education to work in partnership. Its role, in collaboration with the principal, staff and the community, is to help set the priorities of the school, and to enhance learning opportunities, through various activities, for the benefit of our children/students.

* <https://www.wrdsb.ca/our-schools/get-involved/school-councils/>

1. **Election of School Council positions (Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Grants Lead)**

* Elections for council positions is to be deferred to the 2nd meeting of the year. *Raised by Angie, 2nd'ed by Rebecca.*

1. **Principal’s report**

* Three new staff members joined the school this fall. A new French teacher, a teacher to support Kindergarten and a new educational assistant.
* The Principals approach is to create a Team atmosphere where the Teachers and the Parents are working towards the same goals.
* New air-conditioning units were installed on the upper floors over the summer. Rooms 7 & 9 still remain without A/C.
* A new parking lot fence was installed just before the beginning of school.
* The bell at the top of the tower is now functioning.
* School Day will still be the main source of communication between the School and Parents.
* Wednesday September 19th is photo day.
* Meet the Teacher Night is going to be September 20th. East-Side Mario's will be providing hot lunch samples for family to try, as well as food for the staff to enjoy.
* Drills & Procedures will be run over the course of the fall.
* The Terry Fox Run will be run again as well as *Toonies for Terry*. The fund-raising goal was soundly beaten last year.
* Math Night, November 15th currently.

1. **Follow-up from 2017-18 School Council activities**

* Parent Survey running again to gather input from families - will have results for next month's council meeting.
* 102 Treasures Cards remain from last year's fund raiser. They are valid for 1 year from date of activation. We will re-offer the remaining cards for $20 for sale between September 21st through October 12th. Reinforce that the coupons are valid outside of Waterloo Region.

1. **School Council financial report**

* We open the year with a balance of around $5,000.00
* Recent Withdrawls:
  + Magic Show (May) - $500.00
  + Graduation locks (May) - $216.40
  + Cumulative field trip bussing costs (June) - $1,160.01
  + Classroom recess sports equipment (August) - $895.00
* Recent Deposits:
  + Bag2School (June) - $173.00
  + PRO Grant, Math Night (June) - $966.72
  + Mabel's Labels (June) - $50.87
* PIC Grant used for the Interfaith Counselling event on mental health last year.
  + The event cost $257.39 to put on.
* Other grants that were applied for: Canada Post community foundation fund, Farm Credit Canada AgriSpirit Fund.
* Grants that weren't applied for: Rotary Club of Kitchener Westmount, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation.
* Council requested a ‘wish list’ from staff for purchases that would support student learning (i.e. library materials, assisted seating supplies, technology, music materials). **Mr. Heer will raise this.**

1. **2018/19 school year activity discussion**

* Meet the Teacher night – plans are in place but additional volunteers are needed for that evening.
* Fall garden clean up – possibly a joint activity with students/staff? **Mr Heer will inquire with staff.**
* Math Night on November 15 – will sort out final plans at our next meeting.
* Movie Nights - Dates to be determined.
* Dance-A-Thon - Plan for a February 14th date again with volunteers from WO Secondary.

Other ideas brainstorm:

* A literacy night featuring an author? Canadian Authors association? Reading for the Love of It?
* Student talent/variety show
* Art Night - a guided event where an artist works with a group of people to reproduce a piece of work.
* Outdoor Carnival / Circus Day
* Outdoor games event
* Mini-golf – we could approach the Rotary Club
* Exotic animals / Wildlife rehabilitator
* Music Night - more of a participatory event rather than a concert (i.e. trying different instruments)

Fundraising ideas:

* Fund raising sales, esp. local options - example produce, Elmira Poultry, Baden Coffee. There was support for this if someone stepped forward to organize and there was sufficient volunteer support to help run it.
* Encourage families to explore whether their employers have programs that offer donations. We have received money this way in the past (i.e., RIM, Investor’s Group, Libro)

1. **2018/19 School Council meeting dates**

* Next meeting October 16, 7pm start. The remainder meeting dates for the year will be set at this time.

1. **Other items – open floor**

* Those in attendance were asked to speak to others that might be interested in attending meetings or helping out with activities and encourage them to come out as additional people will be needed to plan and run things this year.

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:45