



Home of the Silverhawks!

SILVERHEIGHTS SCHOOL COUNCIL

November 26 2014

1. Call to Order

Rhonda call to order; chairing for Amanda (ill but present)

2. Welcome and Introductions ...

Rhonda, Amanda, Kristin H., Chad, Me, Helen Parker Brown, Menna Smith, Mr.Sherlock, Velos, Johanna, Rachel, Faye, Ms. Ogilve, Bill & Erin Bracken

3. Approval of Minutes

Approved: Karen Petznick; second: Helen

4. Approval of Agenda

Q: (Menna) Council should be Parent driven, WRAPSC Board directed, can parents contribute to agenda through school day or other means;

Comments on Q&A Portion of Agenda

- questions and answers should be time limited vs number of questions, further engage community and foster additional communications;
- Q&A - specific questions for administration should be submitted in advance to the chair person (people) to allow for preparation and can be added to agenda,
- meeting needs to end at 830 due to child care and any additional time available will be allocated to Q&A; determine who has questions as Q&A starts to ensure time allotted equally across the group
- Technology Discussion - Online Chat not encouraged as in person participation at meetings is encouraged; Council issues are encouraged to be kept at in person council meetings, allows for content and context to be maintained.

Previous Minutes Approved: Helen; second Faye

5. Technology Presentation

Kirsten Hrback

- two major pieces of equipment most often requested; document camera and projector; with demonstrations of each provided
- Projector allows all students to see what is being taught; and allows teachers to work freely within the room; can be linked to Chrome/iPads; can share students work on different; facilitates sharing across the classroom
- Document Camera - projects current documents live; allows live creation and editing with effective tools, particularly beneficial for visual learners, allows live demonstration of lesson planning and expectations for students; facilitates learning that continues throughout the school year; leveraged in reading and language, demonstrating in real time, and avoids photocopies
- Tools allow all students to see the same details in the lesson

Currently 6 in the school; need for more deferred to Funds Allocation

This technology inspires teachers, and inspires kids

6. Principal Updates

- projector has been installed in the gym, with full screen and can be used for assemblies (modification required for screen), used for Remembrance day;
- new signs erected, IE Silverheights Parkway, reinforcing expectations and citizenship within the school
- Traffic planning update: SilverHeights one of three schools chosen within board for traffic planning group; will be focused on improvements in community to reduce risk; promote alternate transportation to get to school;
- Parking is not an option as there are 59 spots and not enough for staff

7. Vice Principal Updates

1. CASL Since July 1 CASL Canada Anti Spam Legislation; impacts school communication; prohibits mass emailing with intention to sell/solicit funds – ie Pizza Day;

- CASL Compliant techniques are available, providing a means to deliver messages; ie school day allows parents to receive any money related communications. Encourage School Day sign up, ensure communications with parents; Mr Sherlock is available for questions

2. Safe Caring Inclusive Schools Team participated in day long conference, Amanda, Sarah, Mark, 2 Student reps; promoting safe, caring inclusive school environment and allow our team opportunity to reflect on Silverheights and develop plan for our school

Safe Caring Inclusive Schools 3 point plan:

a) recognize positive student behavior (students are motivated by intrinsic means, but also driven by recognition); implementation planned for before holidays; teachers can nominate students who have demonstrated core values and SOAR: Safe and inclusive behavior, Ownership of own behaviour, Achievement of personal goals, Respect self and others.

b) Anti Bullying initiatives promoted w/ Ms. Leslie having scheduled visits with classes to develop bullying strategies

c) Community Celebration – targeted for Spring, invite and host community in inclusive celebration; recognize diversity & multiculturalism

- Coming soon. School foyer will be updated with "Welcome" message in multiple languages (35!) to promote inclusion and representation (Has now been installed and looks great)

3. WRDSB Initiative driving Growth Mindset Vs Fixed mindset. Silverheights is a safe environment to learn; promote students effort vs results, allowing continued risk taking and trying new things. Work hard and enjoy the process, and be comfortable taking risks.

A growth mindset gives kids resilience to handle failure - wherever it faces them. Allow students to Develop coping mechanisms and tenacity.

8. Teacher Rep Updates ... Chad Moffat notes provided

- Assemblies; Remembrance Day was well attended (by accident with observation parents) and students were obviously well invested. - can parents get notice of assemblies? Capacity issues prevent all parents from attending; however, if students are being recognized can parents be notified

9. EQAO Results

Grade 3 & Grade 6 students tested at end of May/June; Silverheights has shown results at or above board standard. Results for Math are encouraging but there is always work to be done.

Generally EQAO is a stressful experience for students; these results are encouraging

EQAO results need to be taken within context as a snapshot of what is happening in the school at that time. Day to day feedback drives ongoing efforts by staff; EQAO does not determine the success of a school or its students. Teachers can leverage individual results to determine if teaching strategies are successful.

Don't hang your hat or sell your home based on EQAO results

10. Lunch Program

No longer accepting cheques for pizza; too labor intensive, and NSF are too troublesome. Pay online through school day or cash.

Contest: Ipad has been purchased for prize; draw will be on December 19 to encourage enrolment in School Day

11. Parent Involvement Committee

PIC has contacted Laurie Hough re Parent Engagement Strategy which took place in spring 2013; update has been requested for survey results. Menna will update when available

School Day communication - as communication tool improves mass communications, guidelines requested for Parent involvement committee to leverage school day; how can we better leverage technology to improve parent engagement;

12. Funds Distributions; wish list provided

Requests from across Music, CAC (computers) PhysEd, Individual Grades, Divisions and French; amounts are not inclusive of tax

- Currently, council account sits at \$37K; QSP is down by 2/3 with funds still to be deposited;
 - o Tasty Batter fundraiser comes in January, usually very successful; fundraising down overall after playground completion (fundraising fatigue); Administration does have some funds available to support staff as necessary

 - 12 document cameras, 6 data projectors recently purchased by administration
 - Funds from wish list total approximately \$30,000; the list has been prioritized by staff focusing primarily on technology; Of note, not a single smart boards requested (fixed asset) ... all technology requested is mobile and can be leveraged across the school
 - Ms. Ogilve has filtered board specific requests (ie locks) where not appropriate for council;
 - Previously have subsidized \$10/student for field trips; only requested by intermediate division now; JRs prioritized technology over field trips; busing restrictions severely limit field trip opportunities
- Funding Recommendation...
- Fulfil wishlist requirements with exception of iPads (for Primary Grades) – to be deferred to spring after additional fundraising.
- Wishlist total without ipads approximately \$20,000; approved for funds via unanimous vote

13 Q&A – deferred to next meeting due to time constraints

Next meeting January 28; 630 in Library

Looking ahead

....fundraising starts in January ; evaluating options in spring for new opportunities

Parent Council Meeting – Teacher Report November

Student Activities/ Teams

- Me to We – Selling Smencils in November
 - Selling Candy Grams in December
 - Raising money for the Sierra Leone, Free the Children project (providing health care).
 - We had 14 grade 7 students attend We Day this month at the Kitchener Aud to promote social justice initiatives as well.
- Boys and Girls Volleyball teams are playing starting Playoffs
- Grade 7 and 8 intramurals (dodgeball)
- Grade 7 and 8 Swing Dance club
- Recycling Crew - Grade 4 and up – occurs every Tuesday
- PAL's Playground program for Grades 4-5's (assist with grade 1 and 2 students 1st NB everyday)
- Ukulele Club Every Wednesday for Grades 4-6
- Recorder Karate (Grades 3, 4 75) during NB on Tuesday/Thursday (in classes or during NB's)
- Group of Gr. 7/8 students participating in a handbell choir
- Mr. Hewitt is starting a theatre for social action group within the next two weeks. (Presentations will be shown around the school to raise awareness of major issues affecting the student population - chosen by the students and will be interactive)
- Staff is investigating the possibility of a Winter Concert
- Remembrance day assembly was a success (speakers, Gr.1's and the choir)- great turn out from the community

Spec Ed

- 2 Corrective Reading Groups have started (1 Grs 4-6 and 1 Gr 4)
- 1 Reading Mastery Group
- 2 Reading Intervention Groups
- 2 ELI groups
- 20 Dreambox accounts form Gr 3-6

Transition Information

- High School Trip November 26th was today (gr 8's were excited)
- Transition / Course Selection process will occur till about early March
- Parent Information nights are in December – JHSS Dec 10th (home school for most students)