



SILVERHEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL
PARENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 25, 2017 at 6:30pm
School Library, Cambridge, ON

- 1. Welcome:** Jenn welcomed everyone. She expressed her thanks to the council for electing her as our new Chairperson. She also reminded us that she really wants input on how we want to operate as a council and invited anyone with ideas to please email her. She also expressed that she hopes the Council involvement experience will be positive so our children can learn in an great environment. Introductions were made for our new members.

Present: Leslie McNabb, Valerie Martin, Chad Moffat, Jenn Latour, Lori DaCunha, Helen Brown, Tina Weimert, Dirk Weimert, Reneè Kennett, Treasure Kaippila, Amanda Rilan, Paula Butt, Karen Petznick, Dana Tremblay, Tammy Dixon

Regrets: Faye Wilson, Rob Panek

Minutes: The September 2017 minutes were reviewed and approved via email vote. For the record: *Motion to approve the minutes was made by: Dana Tremblay, Second: Tammy Dixon. Motion approved.*

- 2. Council Secretary:** Amanda volunteered to take the notes again for this meeting. It was discussed that Amanda would officially be willing to share the role of Council Secretary with Karen Petznick in order to make sure the note taking duties are covered each meeting. Karen agreed to share the role as well. *Motion to approve Amanda and Karen sharing the duties of Secretary: Jenn. Second: Helen. Motion approved.*

Finance Report: Due to a changeover in the accounting system with the School Board, no report has been provided for October. We will likely have a report for review in November. This report will also be posted on the School website for anyone to review if the wish.

- 3. Principal and Vice Principal Updates:**

- Leslie was pleased to report that our school has been doing much better with late arrivals this year. Last year our lates were very high. New rules have been put in place for students, after a number of consistent lates, students will be

getting a detention in the office. This is reducing the number of lates considerably. Absences are also reducing.

- The focus this year from the Board is Wellness and Math. In September we have focused on wellness. Barbara Ward from the school board has been with us discussing wellness and stress related to math. We are looking at a work/life balance for kids who are hyper scheduled and suffering from “brain fatigue”. A presentation has been booked for staff to discuss this for their benefit as well.
- Staff Meeting – The K-3 teachers discussed Speech and Language concerns for their students with these challenges. Also discussed self regulation for kids. This skill must be taught, but do we know how to explicitly teach this skill? Sessions will be held throughout the fall to work on this issue. Grades 4-8 teachers were looking at a stop/start journey for math instruction. “Encompass” data collection service from the board will assist in this process. Teachers can look at a report card or EQAO results for a particular student to see patterns in their learning. “Which kids are lagging behind?” “What are we going to do to target these kids?” “What is good for some is necessarily good for all”. They discussed strategies that will be put in place to help these students which all assist others as well. Question was asked if all teachers will be accessing this information. Leslie explained that all teachers are using it so far and are expected to access this information for their students.
- Halloween – Reminder that this is an inclusive school. Not all of our staff and students participate in this holiday for a variety of reasons.
- Question was asked about Traffic, specifically improving the morning and afternoon congestion. Could a Crossing Guard be posted at Sascha and Poplar? Leslie suggested that council members contact the city. Amanda has the contact name for the Crossing Guard Coordinator and will forward the details to Jenn for distribution to the rest of us. Discussion continued, Leslie mentioned that we have all witnessed unsafe practices but there just isn’t enough staff to police the problem every day. There is also an issue with some parents taking staff parking spots. Tickets have been issued and hopefully that will have a lasting impact.

4. Teacher Representative Updates:

- Terry Fox Run raised over \$4000! This is a huge accomplishment.
- Me to We is gathering food donations for We Scare Hunger from October 16-30
- Photo Day November 2nd
- Boys soccer, Boys & Girls Football just finishing up, the kids all had a great time.
- Boy and Girls Volleyball is underway, games will start soon.
- Grades 4-6 Intramurals (Soccer) Champions League with Mr. Zarudny
- Open Gym time for Volleyball being offered.
- Recycling Club with Mrs. King, our head custodian
- The popular Games Club happening with Miss Leslie, our Child and Youth Worker
- PAL’s Playground leadership with Grades 4-5 everyday for grades 1 and 2. 25 Leaders! Which is the largest group we have ever had.

- K1 and K5 are going to see Fred Penner on October 24th. The students determined they like the song “Sandwiches” so much so they decided to do a survey to find out which sandwich is everyone’s favourite. Chocolate won but they made Ham and Cheese instead.
- October Spirit Assembly is on October 31st. The focus is Optimism/Positive Attitude and for November it will be Gratitude.
- Remembrance Day Cabinet Display. If anyone has any Memorabilia to lend please contact the school. The Assembly will be on Nov. 10th at 11:25am
- Popcorn sales for Grade 7’s headed to Sudbury in the spring
- Grade 8’s will be selling chocolate bars soon to raise funds for Camp Walden
- Random Act of Kindness (RAK) week coming soon
- Early in November we will begin to prepare the Grade 8’s for the transition to High School. A Parent info night will be held.

5. Chairperson Updates:

- Pizza Program – it was an interesting first week. All students got fed but there were some delays, thankfully everyone was very patient. The following 2 weeks have gone smoothly. Pizza arrives sorted and students like the choice of toppings and the pizza. The kids are working hard to make sure that the pepperoni and the cheese stay separated. Discussion had about who is looking after pizza. Since Tamara Butler and the office are heavily involved in the process, the program will run in partnership with the office team and council. How the funds raised will be spent will be discussed with Council but will not be reported in the Council financial report. This will make the accounting process much easier for Tamara, as it was quite complicated managing multiple accounts for council funds. This new system will be simplified and better for everyone, especially Tamara! Extra pizzas leftover after each Tuesday are being placed in the Staff Room with a donation jar beside it. Staff can help themselves to a slice and support the school at the same time!
- Social Media – We do not currently have a social media account. We would really like to see more parents come out to our meetings so we can accomplish more as a council. Council is interested in creating a Social Media account, so Leslie will investigate what we will need to do to make that happen.
- Babysitting – There have been fairly low numbers of kids taking advantage of the babysitting services during meetings, but hopefully this number will increase. Should we leave it with 3 babysitters or reduce to 2? Council decided to leave it with 3 babysitters in order to provide a safer environment for the kids, and hope that council will grow to justify the costs of the sitters.
- Fundraisers – The request for donations to our WEFI account went out to families, but we need to send out a reminder letter to parents so they are aware of this opportunity to support the school without participating in fundraisers!

The plan is for these WEFI donations to go toward the purchase of new technology for the classrooms. Council liked this plan. Question asked whether or not we would like to form a dedicated Fundraising Committee? That group can decide a short list of options for fundraisers and present them to the full council to make final decisions. Helen, Reneè, Tammy and Paula all volunteered for this Committee. They will meet to discuss options to present. Also discussed sending out a request to parents that we need volunteers for fundraising efforts. Discussed using the possible Facebook page to request this volunteer support on an event by event basis. Some ideas were presented about different things we could do to fundraise easily, raffle off front row tickets to Silver Celebration, and Grad. Council thought these ideas were fun.

- Recruitment – We need people!! Jenn asked for the council to put their minds together and share some ideas on how to get the word out to others about what we do as a Council and entice them to come to a meeting. Can we put meetings on Class Calendars? How about a Coffee Chat each month? And Online chat was mentioned. It was brought up that people may have a perception that they need to “do” things in order to be a part of council. People are very hard working and very busy so it was suggested that we be more specific with our requests. An idea was presented about having some tasks that volunteers could complete at home. It may help additional parents feel more connected to council if there are other ways to get involved.
- Parent Reaching Out Grant (PRO) – We have been granted the PRO grant in the amount of \$1000. We presented a proposal outlining our plan to use the funds to support Arts and/or Music. We have until June to spend the funds and report on what we did. The School is planning an expanded version of a Math and Music night. Can we support this initiative? Guidelines are very specific so we need to make sure we are following the rules. Helen read through those guidelines and it seemed that supporting this Math Music night is within the parameters we laid out. *Motion to support the school and their planned Math and Music night with the \$1000 PRO grant funding: Treasure. Second: Karen. All in favour. Motion approved.*

- 6. Distribution of Funds:** There is about \$4000 left in our account from last year. At the end of the 2016-2017 school year we discussed using this money to provide funding support for each classroom to use towards field trips. A discussion was had about the logistics of this providing this funding and how it would be best spent. *Motion to spend the remaining funds from last year for offsetting the cost of bussing for field trips each class: Karen. Second: Tammy. Motion approved.* Knowing that this amount of money will not be enough to cover every class, we will continue to allocate funds as they are raised throughout the year to ensure that each class gets one bus during this school year.

Next Meeting: Wednesday November 22nd, 2017

Adjournment: *Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm*