



School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, September 28, 2020
 Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting
 Time: 6:30pm – 8:30pm
 Co-Chairs: Giovanna Bowes, Astrid Vig-Bergsma

Attendance: Cory McKeown, Karen Moffitt, Meredith Lee, Alison Currie, Giovanna Bowes, Leigh Nykoliation, Ann Compton, Heather Gledhill, Dave Heidman, Lisa Duhamel, Sarah Boddy, Quintina Wiens, Melissa Keown, Jill Kalkan, Jen Dale, Astrid Vig-Bergsma

7:00 Welcome & Opening Remarks (Cory)

- Land Acknowledgment (Karen)

7:05 Election of Council (Cory)

Giovanna Bowes – co-chair
 Astrid Vig-Bergsma - co-chair
 Lisa Duhamel - treasurer
 Alison Currie - secretary
 Jennifer Dale – voting member
 Meredith Lee – voting member
 Leigh Nykoliation – voting member
 Quintina Wiens – voting member

Principal's Report (Cory)

1. Staffing

- School community had an option to pursue online learning 70-80 kids have chosen this option
- Staff adjustments – We lost 3 classrooms/ teachers to online learning – Ms. Rowe (Gr 4) moved to a remote class and was then recalled to a previous school. Ms. Hamilton now teaching Kindergarten online; Mr. Mahone transferred from Ferndale and now teaching Gr 4 online; Jen Johnson teaching Gr 6-7 online. All are attached to our school but have additional kids from the community.
- Community has a shortage in supply teachers however ARES is doing ok.

2. Summer construction

- Finished most of it before school started - paving is done but new sandboxes are expected with built in pergolas, and tree benches
- Path renovation near the sun shelter is estimated at \$28,000; board will now do it with a later time frame in mind

- Gaga ball pit is on hold due to lumber shortage. Reminder of estimated cost of \$2500. **TABLED** to next week to discuss funding.
- Basketball nets coming
- Google classroom - every teacher has been asked to start up a google classroom; will be a resource for future

6. School health – School has sent close to 40 kids home with a Covid style symptom; concern that Covid symptom list also covers symptoms from flu and allergies however they are following the protocol to keep Covid out of the school
7. Moving forward with video conferencing for teacher conferences
8. School not quite as fun right now as things have had to be cancelled, and health guidelines in place

Question (Leigh) Where does the school stand with classrooms and class sizes? -

- A. 3 kindergarten + one online; 19 non kindergarten to 16 current 1, 1-2, 2, 2-3, 3, 3, 4, 4-5, 5, 5-6, 6, 6-7 (online), 7,7,8,8
- B. Class sizes? Opened the year with good numbers as 80 were at home.
 - Primary now around 20, a few at 21, gr 3 18-19
 - Junior classes are around 25; some at 26, 27, can go up to 33. Target is 25.
 - Intermediate 2 gr 7 are at 28 or 28,29 gr 8x2 are at 23.

Financials (Lisa)

1. Fun lunch summary (see accompanying report)
 - A. All fun lunch money has been cleared out by board; suggested to transfer it back from technology; Ann will refund them, and the board will determine where the funds come from
 - B. Question about refunding outstanding pasta lunches that were cancelled due to covid ~ \$800; Yes, these will be refunded. **ACTION:** Ann to refund pasta lunches
 - C. Overall, still raised \$21,000 from fun lunches
 - D. Allocations will be emailed to council
2. Fundraising Plan Revenue Summary *REVISED* (see accompanying report)
 - See notations for council fundraisers and School/Student Fundraisers and Charitable Donations as per report
3. Final 2019/20 List of Approved Expenditures (see accompanying report)
 - A. Re Note 7. Attention re levelled readers - were they ordered? Cory would not suggest additional money for this year but would like to continue to top up from last years request. Lisa will carry the item through to this year and it will utilize money from carry over from classroom expense. Paula Teskey has readers order ready to submit.
 - B. Social studies and science books for learning commons **ACTION:** Ann to check on status of these items
4. Year End Account Balance Overview discussed – see Notes as reported
 - A. All fundraising is currently on hold as directed by school board
 - B. Gym is not being used. Athletic equipment is being used. All needs to be sanitized between cohorts.
 - C. **ACTION:** Ann to pursue refund for summit climbing
 - D. Bradford Greenhouse cards – they do not expire - Garden needs - buy some trowels, save money for Grant Hamblin did his community hours and weeded front area. Great idea for high school students. **ACTION:** Ann to send out a synervice or item in newsletter reminding parents to donate their points at BG.
 - E. Discretionary fund - suggested to put this on hold for this year
 - F. Free the Children - waiting to see status on this organization
 - G. Field trips – field trips on hold – **ACTION:** Ann to check status of pending reimbursements from Grade 8 trip to Ottawa, Tree top trekking field trip and summit climbing
 - H. Student subsidy - will have more students in need this year however not sure how we will be able to help in this area
 - I. Safety patrol - question about how this money has been used. Seems to be a same amount from year to year. We did buy yard signs last year (kiss and ride area). Goal to have 2

patrollers/ bus. Hoping to get vests for each patroller as well as some rain wear. In the past they spend money to go to a movie as well.

- J. Technology - this is where the bulk of the fun lunch money was transferred to. This money appears to be available for the future decisions.
- K. Question re technology (Leigh) re loans for online learning during covid - how was that process? Approximately 60 computers were shared out. There was only 1 that did not come back. Some money from school is set aside to do necessary repairs. School also gets yearly refresh for outdated equipment. Received about 50 chrome books this year to help support the online learning kids. About 20 were accessed. Excess may go to other schools but we may see them returned at a later date.
- L. Yearbook – fewer orders this past year resulting in change in printing costs. Size was reduced but despite sponsorship there will be some costs needed to fund difference. Treasurer will be notified when bill comes in.
- M. Suggested to leave accounts with these sums and as things come up we will decide via email what needs to be transferred.

5. Spending Requests

- A. Equipment bag – purchasing a bag of gym equipment for each classroom In lieu of topping up gym equipment.
 - i. **MOTION** by Lisa Duhamel, seconded by Leigh Nykolation to purchase \$1500 worth of classroom gym equipment bags, using current \$1000 balance in Athletics account. APPROVED
 - ii. **MOTION** by Lisa Duhamel, seconded by Meredith Lee, to transfer \$500 from Technology to Athletics to cover deficit funds in Athletics for cost of Classroom gym equipment bags. This will leave the Athletics account with a balance of \$0. APPROVED
- B. Outside tarmac painting – \$1500 requested to replace yard tarmac painting. Sidenote: cost would be quoted at \$4000 however company will reduce it by \$1000 as they still have the needed templates available. Construction company will pay half of cost and school will pay remaining.
 - i. **MOTION** by Lisa Duhamel, seconded by Jen Dale to spend \$750 on tarmac painting from School Yard Improvement account. Cory will pay \$750 from his budget. APPROVED
 - ii. **MOTION** by Lisa Duhamel, seconded by Jen Dale to transfer \$535 from Art Club account to School Yard Improvement account to offset \$750 council portion of tarmac painting. APPROVED. This was suggested by Sarah Body as there will not be an Art Club this year with Covid. This will leave \$0 remaining in Arts Club.
 - iii. **MOTION** by Lisa Duhamel, seconded by Jen Dale to transfer \$215 from Classroom Needs to School Yard Improvement to offset \$750 council portion of tarmac painting. APPROVED

Teacher's Report (Dave)

- 1. Teachers are feeling the school is going great. Off to a good start. Kids are accustomed to new social norms. Indoors is all marked, line ups working well. It is a very different year but staff are feeling very supported.

Question (Jen Dale) – Student at ARES lost a parent this past week. Is anything being done to support the student? Council in the past have not done this although the staff are considering options. Perhaps a card on behalf of council.

Question (Quintina Wiens) - Will the school be looking at modifying the list of covid symptoms like BC has done? We have little control on this and continue to need to follow the Ontario health board on this.

Next meeting: Monday, October 26, 2020 at 6:30pm

MOTION by Alison Currie, seconded by Leigh Nykoliation to adjourn meeting at 8:48. APPROVED

Respectfully submitted by Alison Currie