

A.M. Cunningham

Parent Council

Meeting Minutes: Thursday 15 January 2014



In attendance: Meghan Lloyd Davies, Jodie Whitley, Shannon Kotecki, Tammy Gruza, Mr Maliphant, Yvette Cowe, Amanda Rankin, Joanne Gibson, Sylvia Jarrett.

Regrets: Chris Upshall, Krystal Jenkins, Laura Wright, Christy Cowan, Lauren McLean, Brandy Brooks

Life Touch School Portraits

Cynthia Webster from Life Touch School Portraits came to the meeting to address issues that came up from picture day this year. AMC was involved in a very small test that Life Touch tried in order to drive business to their website. We discussed some of the issues that have been mentioned in terms of people's dissatisfaction and experiences with customer services. Cynthia acknowledged that their "test" was a total and complete failure and apologized for any upset that was caused. The company cancelled the test quickly after seeing the problems that came up and will not be repeating that mistake again.

After Cynthia left the meeting, a brief conversation ensued with respect to the possibility of using a different photographer for next year.

1. Welcome and Bouquets

- Carol Sing – a success! Thank You to Mme Kirk and Mme Moon for a fine performance with the Glee Club, to Lauren McLean and Mme. Hind for organizing the event and to Gordon McLean and Ceceila Chang for their musical assistance.
- Student performances during the last week of school were enjoyed by all. Thank you to Mme. Hind and all of the teachers who worked so hard to make it a success!
- Thank You to Brandy Brooks, our new Milk Coordinator and all of the parents who are doing the milk. After a shaky start, the program is now running smoothly!
- Thank You to Mme Hind, Mrs Lowery and Dr Bowler for their work for/with Families in Motion.

2. December Meeting Minutes: held for passing at next meeting due to low attendance.

3. Treasury Report

- still over \$400 available for teachers' classroom funds
- Mabels Labels fundraiser brought in \$15
- Samko & Miko fundraiser brought in \$153
- Busing fund may be slightly underestimated - \$1800 will be required for 3 skating days alone
- Current balance as of meeting: \$12 980.26

4. Families In Motion

- Ski dates set for 24 January and 28 February.
- 3 skating days included as part of FiM, as families can come and participate along with students.
 - Bruiser may join students for the 3rd skating day – confirmation TBD.
 - Helmets and skates are here – parental help required for sizing beginning Monday 19th.
- Rec Days at Churchill – free gym time every Friday from 6-7pm
 - 3 days selected for AMC: 20 February, 27 March, 17 April, from 6-7pm.
 - Feb and March days facilitated by Mrs Lowery
 - April day facilitated by Mme Hind – will feature dancing lessons and possibly Bruiser – Dr Bowler to confirm.
- Bikes, Blades & Boards – presentation for parents scheduled for 3 March
 - Presentation to include what to do in case of head injury, how to size helmets
 - Evening will also include a presentation from Board reps re: the virtual library and other online/iPad issues
 - Child care will be provided by licensed Y childcare providers
 - Door prize from Ontario Science Centre – free pass – to coincide with current exhibition on the brain
 - Jodie proposed that Council fund this pass (PROgrant funds not allowed to be used for door prizes). Will be less than \$100.
 - Motion passed by Meghan, seconded by Yvette.
- Escarpment Clean up – set for 26 April (near Earth Day)
- Minute to Win It Night tentatively scheduled for last week of May
 - Looking at holding the event at Delta HS due to the limited space we have to work with and the need to spread out for these activities
 - planning meeting needs to be scheduled.
- End of Year Picnic – some activities already scheduled. Laura Wright and Lauren McLean will take on planning responsibilities for this function

5. PROgrant 2015/2016

- Grant application due in May so it is time to come up with ideas for the theme and basic plan outline for next year
- Previous topics and amounts of money granted include:
 - 2014 Families in Motion ~\$1000

- 2013 Urban Foodie Fest ~\$800
- 2012 Art in the Heart ~ \$1000
- 2011 Bullying ~\$700
- 2010 Mad Science ~\$700
- 2009 Game Show Night (reading and math) ~ \$300
- 2008 Popcorn and PJs Literacy Night
- 2007 Readers and Mathematicians Stars
- Briefly looked at some topics that could be considered. Mental Health/anxiety issues a big current focus, environmental focus mentioned last year as a possibility
- Really need someone to develop the basic idea and apply for the grant

6. Superhero Day/School Spirit

- Jodie is working on an idea to support a positive school climate. Plan will require staff to dress up as superheroes (generic cape/mask costume) for a picture. More details will be provided in the next few weeks.
- Small financial output of money will be required for printing photos.

7. CPF/Frenchapalooza

- Date has been rescheduled for Thursday 9 April, 6.30-8pm
- Child care will be provided
- Speakers/presentations are being planned
- Possibility of a book fair but this is still up in the air at the moment
- 4-5 volunteers needed from AMC for an hour to set up and clean up

8. School Boundaries

- Plan calls for approximately 30 English-catchment students to transfer to Viscount Montgomery. This would cause significant issues with class sizes being too small for AMC
- AMC currently has 417 students a 104% capacity.

9. Expenditures?

- Discussed ideas for use of council funds
 - BBQ for the school to use at functions
 - Issues: what cost? Food safety certification? Solid, consistent volunteer base to count on for cooking? Storage/upkeep/maintenance?
 - Community message/bulletin board on back playground to help increase communication between home and school
 - Issue: vandalism/would people actually use it/who would take care of it
 - New garbage cans for each classroom specifically for Terra cycle products
 - Action: Meghan to call City, Board contact (Aaron Pulley) – perhaps these receptacles come from one of these sources

- NOTE: Call was made to the Board and bins were provided to the school without cost. Eco Club to get them into the classrooms shortly
- External audio speakers for classrooms to use with the iPads so that presentations can be heard by all of the kids in the class
 - Issue: are popcorn funds already earmarked for technology-related purposes?
- Bench for playground
 - Preliminary idea sketch from Joe Merrett circulated
 - Idea could be tied into the “Buddy Bench” idea that was discussed several times last year
 - Concept met with positive initial response but would like additional people on hand to discuss
- **ACTION:**
 - Discussion re BBQ and bench to be Held Over for additional consideration.

10. Fundraising

- Discussion of ideas to raise funds in lieu of chocolate
 - Samko/Miko – requires more advertising for it to be more successful
 - Mabels Labels – unsuccessful because the company has a time restriction on when the campaign
 - perhaps a different label company that allows for a longer campaign would be more successful
 - Simple request for funds in newsletter instead of any campaign etc.
 - Further discussion required

11. Principal’s Report

- Transforming Learning Everywhere (TLE)
 - Use of iPads within the classrooms leading to some very exciting opportunities for learning and leadership
 - Students are taking ownership of their own learning
 - AMC initiatives outside of classrooms are cutting edge and being watched closely by the Board and other schools
- Positive School Climate
 - Small committee of teachers/parent/students went to a workshop to look at positive school climate
 - AMC doing a lot of positive things

- Praise for Mrs. Gruza and her effort to use the display case in front as a way to highlight all student achievement and not just single one segment of the student population out (ie. Trophies)
 - Students giving feedback on classroom experiences that are positive, particularly positive teaching
 - Concerns regarding bus issues were identified and have been followed up on/addressed
- Welcome to French Immersion Info Night – 26 January, 6.30pm
 - Wondering if it would be beneficial to have students speak?
 - Agreed Jodie would attend to represent Parent Council
- New Concussion Protocol – takes effect end of January
 - What is new protocol if an incident happens outside school time?
 - Presentation to take place at next Council meeting to explain protocol
- Eco Team going for Platinum status this year after 2 years of achieving Gold
 - The requirements for Platinum requires a greater degree of involvement and include an effort to work on ecological efforts at home and in the community as well
 - messege to be sent home regarding an upcoming used clothing drive & toy swap
- Tim Hortons Camp – 7 spaces available for eligible students this year. Last year we were able to send 6 children. It was a very positive experience for all of the kids that attended the camp.

Next Meetings: Wednesday 11 February, 6.30pm

March Date: TBD in February