

A.M. Cunningham

Parent Council

Meeting Minutes for April 1, 2015



In attendance: Chris Upshall, Jodie Whitley, Ian Stuart, Lauren McLean, Peter Maliphant, Shannon Kotecki, JoAnne Gibson, Tiffany Iles, Christy Cowan, Sharon Bowler, Sylvia Jarrett, Meghan Shannon

Regrets: Yvette Cowe

Welcome and Bouquets:

Staff appreciation luncheon: was well received. Super hero theme was very positive and enjoyed by staff and students. Since this went over well, we can do it again next year with a different theme. Thank you to all the parents that contributed to this event! A thank you card from the teachers was presented to council.

Thank you to Dr. Bowler for her work in getting the Bulldogs to partner with the school. The children have really enjoyed this experience. Bruiser has agreed to continue his partnership with the school next year as well!

Thank you to Mrs. Lowery for helping with the Rec nights for Families in Motion. The Rec nights have been well attended thus far and great fun was had by all.

Minutes

Minutes from last meeting passed by Ian Stuart and seconded by Meghan Shannon.

Treasury Report:

Busing for the three skating days have gone through \$597.64 x 3
Teachers gifts still coming out \$69.41
deposit from the Samko toy sale brought in \$137.10
Balance of \$7447.13

Families In Motion:

Inclement weather forced the postponement of the original date for Brains In Motion event. The information provided was valuable and appreciated by those that attended. One of the presenters has agreed to work with the school regarding looking at helmet issues for the kindergarten program and review the helmet needs for skating.

Some issue was expressed regarding information going home and communicating the event. This is an ongoing issue for the school. Every effort was made to get the word out there.

Two Recreation nights at Sir Winston Churchill have been held with a third and final event on April 17. The first two events were well attended.

Escarpment clean up is coming up as well. This is an opportunity for families to get out and be active together while helping the environment.

Frenchapolooza:

Will be held at AMC on Thursday April 98, from 6:30-8 pm. CPF Hamilton Wentworth Chapter is running the event. Help will be needed with set and and tear down.

PRO grant 2016:

Meghan is working on ideas for the upcoming year's pro grant proposal. The theme selected is Anxiety, resiliency and well being. See this as a link to the work done this year with Families in Motion. A sub-committee to work out the details would be helpful. A Facebook page has been set up to work on the proposal ideas. Deadline for the proposal is in May.

AMC shade and Kinder Project:

Trees Please will be giving the school trees to be planted in the back playground in conjunction with the design made by Joe Marrett. A workshop for Trees Please volunteers will be held at the school on

Wednesday April 22, 2015. The school trees will be planted after school on Tuesday April 28.

A plan was also designed by Joe Merrett for the kindergarten area. Plan circulated for viewing. Since the Board of Education is insisting on the use of a penned in area for the kindergarten children, this plan was made as a means of showing the Board what we would like to see in place. The plan allows for a circular roadway around a small play structure. Trees, benches and grass area also incorporated into the design.

Mr. Maliphant has passed the plan along to the Board and we are waiting to hear the outcome.

Expenditures:

The idea of spending council fund-raising money on benches and picnic tables was suggested in order to make the park more appealing and inviting to families.

The idea of using council funds to purchase a TV for the front entrance way was also suggested. The idea for this TV being that it would be used as a means of sharing information and student work with people that come into the school. There is a high amount of traffic in the front entrance way each day. Having the TV is seen as a way to disseminate information with families and to build a positive school climate. Jodie and Dr. Bowler were able to see how this works for Prince of Wales School. Staff at that school indicated that the TV is very engaging to parents and students. It is an easy to use system that does not take much to set up and keep up to date.

Both items suggested met with resistance. Ideas may need to be revisited with more information provided. Some members of the council indicated that they would prefer to see the money being used on a learning experience for the whole school.

Sylvia suggested asking the City if they would put more benches in the park. Sylvia agreed to follow up with the City.

Fundraising:

Chocolate is out.

Suggestion was brought to the table to hold a Stag and Doe type event as the main fundraiser next year. The idea would be to sell tickets, have music, food, prizes, raffles and possibly a silent auction. Members of Council agreed to use this as the main fund raiser for next year. Looking at hosting the event at the end of October. Lauren agreed to look at venues for this event. Additional volunteers to help with the planning will be needed. Request for volunteers will be put on the council Facebook page.

Principal's Report:

Staffing is status quo for next year. We will not be looking at losing any FI numbers. There will be approximately 50 grade 1's next year.

Scholastic Book Sale will be held May 6, 7, 8th with the set up on May 5th. Mrs. Bettridge is requesting volunteer support. Suggestion made to use an online volunteer sign up sheet. This idea worked well with the staff appreciation luncheon.

Skating went well. Improvement in the kids skating has been noted. Woodward School will be closing and AMC will be getting their skates and helmets.

Josh and Josh returning to the school for Grade 1-5 on April 20 and May 12. (Council agreed to pay for this earlier this year)

Talent show will be held on May 15, with a maximum of 3 acts per grade.

Fish painting will be occurring in the neighbourhood. The fish will be painted by sewers as a means of making people aware of what they are flushing down the drain and how some things should not be dumped.

Venture Engineering for grade 1-5 will be held May 27-28 and is presented by McMaster students.

Grade 5 end of school trip will be held on June 17. Trip this year will be to the Falls. It is also the day of the family picnic but the kids should be back in time to participate in that as well.

Choirfest is on April 15. Parent council has already approved money for busing students to this event.

Balanced day. The majority of the teachers are for the balanced day. They are looking at changing the teaching blocks to 3, 100 minute blocks

Next meeting: May 6, 2015