

# A.M. Cunningham Parent Council

Meeting Minutes: Wednesday 17 September 2014



**In attendance:** Chris Upshall, Jodie Whitley, Meghan Shannon, Shannon Kotecki, Lauren McLean, Jennifer Priestley, Mr Maliphant, Becky Smith, Sharon Bowler, Yvette Cowe, Joanne Gibson, Ian Stuart, Amanda Rankin, Tiffany Iles, Tara St Jacques, Sylvia Jarrett

Regrets: Annastacia Dickerson, Krystal Jenkins, Rebekah Roy, Christy Cowan

## 1. Welcome and Bouquets

- Garden path cleanup – thank you to those involved.
- Thank you to Mrs. Gruza for getting the water station installed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor over the summer.

## 2. Treasury Report

- There is currently \$4385.06 sitting in Council funds. Several expenditures were withdrawn at the end of the year for graduation, grad 5 trip, school oven, end of year picnic etc.
- **Action:**
  - Sylvia to provide a more detailed report once she has had a chance to review the books.

## 3. Nominations for Chair, Treasurer and Secretary positions

- Jodie and Chris retain positions as Co-Chair. Motion passed by vote.
- Sylvia retains position as Treasurer. Motion passed by vote.
- Yvette assumes position of Secretary.

## 4. Chocolate Fundraiser Campaign

- Letter announcing campaign went home with students today.
- Chocolate to be ready to go home next Thursday.

- Sylvia will require help with handout, to be organized in the afternoon Thursday and to run the campaign.
- Question as to whether families have option to donate money instead of selling chocolate. Mr. Maliphant unsure of the procedure at this time.
- **Action:**
  - Lauren and Jillian Toplack-Watson have volunteered to assist with the chocolate campaign.
  - Mr Maliphant to clarify with Board regarding procedure for accepting donations and issuing tax receipts.

#### **5. Request to allocate Council funds to individual teachers for classroom setup and materials**

- Proposed to allocate \$50 per teacher to use as they see fit to benefit their classroom. Teachers spend a lot of money out of pocket for their classrooms. It is hoped that this small offering will help teachers provide things for our children.
- 30 teachers in total.
- Motion passed by motion. Teachers to submit receipts to Mrs. Gruza.
- Teachers should also supply any wish lists for classroom items so that parents can donate items they may have on hand or wish to donate to the classroom.

#### **6. Volunteers**

- Lauren created Google form for parents to fill out online, requests contact information and details re dates, times and events to volunteer for
  - [https://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fdocs.google.com%2Fforms%2Fd%2F1xcr2zvtvsA9guZbzJnmjklJ-vHlekpcmZo-5iBNOqer0%2Fviewform%3Fedit\\_requested%3Dtrue&h=JAQHoPe1K](https://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fdocs.google.com%2Fforms%2Fd%2F1xcr2zvtvsA9guZbzJnmjklJ-vHlekpcmZo-5iBNOqer0%2Fviewform%3Fedit_requested%3Dtrue&h=JAQHoPe1K)
- data goes to spreadsheet, centralizes volunteer information
- Lauren requests parent feedback (on Facebook Council page) re trial form: ease of input, other items to list on form. Feedback so far is positive.

- Volunteer information should be started fresh every school year
- Information table to be set up at Meet the Teacher Night about volunteer duties
- Milk will be handed out during first break. Given the full day kindergarten program now in effect, parents are not at the school to assist with milk distribution.
- Pizza program. Pam Rodgers will no longer be running the pizza program. Jodie to take over for the meantime. We will need to look at a new way to distribute pizza since Fire Marshall will not allow us to have tables in the hallways any longer. Pizza will be handed out on the second break.
- **Action:**
  - add to form: request for Pizza volunteers – 2 people in morning, 5-8 people at lunch for pizza handout (volunteers required at the school for 12:45)
  - add to form: request for volunteers to read with children in French and English
  - add to form: Mme Hind requires volunteers for music/drama needs (sub-committee for music/drama?)
  - add to form: Dr Bowler will need volunteers for Go Girls
  - Lauren to discuss details of form and database with Chris and Jodie. Mrs. Gruza will need access to database as well.
  - request to Shannon Weston to add link to form on school website
  - Parent Council table to be placed near portables during Meet the Teacher in order to provide access to the Wifi. This will allow parents to fill out the volunteer form and subscribe to the school web page immediately.
  - Mr Maliphant to coordinate the milk program within the school.

## 7. Meet The Teacher Night

- takes place 2 October, 5.30-7pm outside on the black top weather permitting.

- planning to host the event outside on the blacktop, where teachers and parents can mingle, but classrooms still to be open for parents to view
- BBQ – food preparation/serving etc to be handled by outside company. Mr. Maliphant is working on this.

#### **8. Communication between Home and School**

- online newsletters/teacher blogs already available on school's website
- discussion to start a Parent Council blog – but it cannot be hosted on the school's website . No one willing/able to take this one right now.
- **Action:**
  - carry over for future discussion.

#### **9. PRO Grant**

- Thank You to Lauren and Heidi van Veen for completing the feedback form from last year's event.
- Families in Motion (this year's proposal) received full funding - \$1000
- this year's focus: Physical Literacy
- ideas: small monthly events connected to theme, ie. skating event/trip, bicycle rally and a larger event in the spring
- Subcommittee Volunteers: Lauren, Yvette, Becky, Meghan.
- **Action:**
  - Recruit more volunteers
  - Add this to the Parent Council Volunteers information table at Meet the Teacher Night
  - Chris is in process of negotiating with the City for Parks & Rec pass to award as a prize
  - Create a Families in Motion Facebook page.

#### **10. Principal's Report**

- From Dr Bowler: Go Girls initiative – previously only intended for girls grades 6-8, however it has been extended to invite grade 5 girls to take part this year
  - explores self esteem, other issues facing girls of this age group
  - All grade 5 girls eligible to participate
  - partnership with Big Brothers/Big Sisters
  - Dr Bowler requested volunteer assistance.
  
- From Mr Maliphant: school enrollment at 418 students as of today
  
- September reorganization:
  - French Grade 1 students: enrollment over maximum by 12 students – will need to shuffle classes to accommodate.
  - French Grade 2 classes below maximum
  - English Grade 1 – only 1 or 2 students may be moved
  - numbers will be finalized by 29 Sept,
  
- Council approved use of funds for nutritious snacks to be kept in the office for children without lunch. Motion passed by Chris, seconded by Yvette
  
- Ice Bucket Challenge a success – video can be found on Youtube  
<http://youtu.be/hP-TVcGUgTk>
  
- **Terry Fox Run**, Thursday 18 September: Council to provide freezies to the children after the run.
  
- **EQAO**: test scores enormously improved over previous year. Thank you to all of the teachers for their tremendous efforts to improve scores!
  
- **Resource Support**: several staff members screening for Empower, LLI, ACT etc.
  
- **Upcoming Events**
  - Ipad Mini meeting for grade 4 and 5 parents
    - all grade 4 and 5 students issued Ipads for take-home use, grade 3 classes to be issued units for in-class sharing
    - Jennifer requested list of educational apps for family tablets/devices outside of school-issue Ipads. List available outside LRT classroom.
  
  - Swim Team – 50 students in grades 3-5 interested in trying out
    - will use facilities at the Y on Ottawa St
  
  - School Photo Day – October

- Cross Country – Motion for Council to provide busing to meet passed by Lauren, seconded by

### **11. Banana Free School**

- Must the entire school be banana-free?
  - Yes – too much potential for affected staff member to come into contact because her duties take her to all areas of the school
  - Info shared on facebook regarding this situation: Despite what many people may believe, the banana allergy for this person is in fact an airborne issue. Walking past bananas alone can cause her throat to start swelling, and she has had episodes in grocery stores and restaurants. Any banana product (banana oil included) consumed within 1 1/2 - 2 hours prior to contact with her could lead to a reaction. As such, it is important that the people in that specific classroom not consume any banana product prior to coming to school, and that no banana products come into the school. Children in other classrooms can consume banana products prior to school since her likelihood of coming into contact with that person is small and everyone can eat bananas after school and on weekends. There are a number of products that bananas/banana oils can be in that you might not think of including yogurt, apple sauce, soap, shampoo and lip balms. She does NOT have any issue with anything other than bananas so there is no latex, avocado etc issue at play. Plus, she CAN eat plantains.
- Detailed information needs to be sent home in newsletter so parents are aware of situation and what is being asked.

### **12. Kindergarten Area**

- Update: school is on list
- Mr Maliphant in talks with Trustee, Superintendent etc

### **13. Garbage Bin Fire Prevention – Mr Maliphant exploring ways to deter arsonist(s)**

**Next Meetings: Wednesday 8 October, 6.30pm  
Thursday 6 November, 6.30pm**

