

# A.M. Cunningham

## Parent Council

Meeting Minutes: Thursday 10 December 2014



**In attendance:** Jodie Whitley, Lauren McLean, Shannon Kotecki, Meghan Lloyd, Mr Maliphant, Dr Sharon Bowler, Amanda Rankin, Joanne Gibson, Brandy Brooks, Erin Heneberry, Sylvia Jarrett, Christy Cowan, Ian Stuart, Yvette Cowe

**Regrets:** Chris Upshall, Krystal Jenkins, Alicia Moore

### 1. Welcome and Bouquets

- Families in Motion has started off as a great success! Thank you to all that assisted with organizing the event and obtaining prizes. Almost \$1000 in prizes were handed out!
- Thank You to Sylvia, Christy, and Jillian Toplack-Watson for help with the chocolate fundraiser
- Thank You to Lauren and Mme. Hind for their work on this week's Christmas Carol Sing
- Bouquet to Brandy from City of Hamilton Forestry Department for the new trees on the school grounds. More work will be done with her in the spring to put gator bags on trees and mulch them. The kids will be involved in this process.

2. **November Meeting Minutes:** passed by Joanne, seconded by Lauren.

### 3. Christmas Carol Sing

- Parents Gordon McLean and Cecilia Chang have offered to play guitar and violin, respectively.
- Hot chocolate and Dare cookies have been purchased. Dare cookies are peanut-free.
- Marshmallows were put forth as an option but were rejected on hygiene grounds.
- Additional activities include a photo board, and "snowball toss" game
- "Motion" in form of dance will be included to co-ordinate with the Families In Motion event.

### 4. School Catchment Boundaries

- Lauren, Christy and Mr Maliphant attended a meeting last week. They will continue to sit on the committee looking at this issue.

- Boundaries under review: AMC, Memorial, Queen Mary, Viscount Montgomery, Ballard
- East Hamilton Boundary Review map circulated
- Public meeting scheduled for next week [date?] at Viscount Montgomery School
- English catchment only – French catchment review scheduled for next year
- Effective September 2015
- Issues under consideration include siblings already attending school

## **5. Treasury Report**

- Chocolate fundraiser final profit: \$10,496.31
- Account Deductions:
  - teacher classroom allowances
  - reimbursements
  - \$600 for garden fall cleanup (additional \$400 was used from Eco Fund)
  - balance forward: \$13028.27
- New fundraising options to be discussed in the New Year. Will look at ideas other than chocolate. Feeling like people need a break from selling chocolate even though this is such a good fund raiser. Will need to consider more than one fund raiser as a result.

## **6. Additional Fundraising**

- Samko & Miko toy sale receipts need to come in – can be submitted till 19 December.
- Mabel's Labels – open till 18 December
- So far not the most successful fundraising option
- another option is "Oliver's Labels", which offers an open timeframe and 25percent return

## **7. United Way donations**

- charity is under investigation for disbursement of donations – need to determine if they are going where they are needed
- Donations made for Christmas drive are going to Kwanis Boys and Girls Club. They will come directly from the local branch so these items will stay within this community.

## **8. Music Program**

- Volunteer call to clean and repair instruments
- Mme Hind would like parent input into programming options
- Proposal for dance teaching programs such as we have had in the past
  - will kindergarten students be included? not specified
  - \$600.00 in funds for return of Josh & Josh requested. Motion by Ian, seconded by Christy

- from Mr Maliphant: 5 classes participating in curriculum-related dance/music programs with visits from French and Native dancers/musicians will be happening as well.

## 9. Families in Motion

- December's event is "Sneak It In" – find ways to ditch the car and be active instead, for 10 extra minutes per day
- beginning January – monthly AMC nights to be offered at Churchill Recreation Centre
  - free open gym times offered every Thursday and Friday evenings to families of children ages 12 and under
  - our school is partnering with the Rec Center one evening per month in the new year to have organized activities for families
  - Mrs Lowery has offered to plan activities for families at gym night.
  - Will also look at having students involved in planning some of these events as well.
  - Can look at having a dance one of these nights also. Mme. Hind suggested a band and an instructor to help lead the movements.
- Jodie has been working on presentation for parents from Bikes, Blades & Boards
  - 1hr presentation focused on head injury and prevention of injury
  - Funds will be available for childcare
  - Early March a proposed date for presentation – to coincide with Ontario Science Centre's exhibit on the brain
    - perhaps we might be able to offer a door prize from the Science Centre
  - Bikes, Blades & Boards are willing to come to the year end picnic with information, helmet fitting seminar, etc.
- another idea: Minute to Win It night – details tbd.
  - **Action:** Meeting of Subcommittee to set up events for coming months.

## 10. PRO Grant

- Submissions for next year's application due in March. Looking for someone willing to work on the proposal for next year.
- **Action:** brainstorm ideas for next theme.

## 11. School grounds issues

- 20 new trees planted around the perimeter of the school by City of Hamilton. The types of trees are a Kentucky Coffee tree, a Bur Oak, 2 Sweet Gums, an Eastern Redbud, 2 Tulip trees, 3 Yellowwoods, 2 Ginkgo Biloba, 2 Ornamental Pear, 2 Black Gum and 4 Pyramidal English Oak.
- Garden cleanup finished for the most part. Just need to remove a bit more garden waste from the front of the school. We can easily go through 100 Leaf

Bags each year maintaining the appearance of the front of the school. This year we started removing debris by truck loads but leaf bags are still required. A lot of work is still needed around the school property addressing various issues like diseased trees, exposed roots which cause a tripping hazard

- **Action:** For springtime – collect donation of 1 leaf bag per family to help clean up winter debris ~possibly to tie in with Earth Day?
- Question raised: Why is it parent responsibility to clean up property?
  - Grounds maintained by a contractor. They only cut the grass. They did their last cut before the leaves were all down. Even when they mulch the leaves, there are too many and combined with the pine needles so they do not decompose as expected. This mostly affects the area where graduation celebrations happen in June.
  - **Action:** Mr Maliphant to put in work order to tidy up areas around property, especially those deemed unsafe ie tree roots around playground (trip hazard)
- Kindergarten enclosure
  - Mr Maliphant has had meeting with Board Representatives
  - Plan brought forth by parents to enclose a part of the main playground was rejected by the Board. For safety reasons, they want the children completely fenced in.
  - Moving forward with the plan to expand current kindergarten area and fully fence it. There has not been final approval that this will in fact occur. There are more funding requests in from various schools than the budget can accommodate.
  - Where new kindergarten area encroaches on existing garden, Board will relocate displaced plants
  - will need to ensure that they will not regrow in old location
  - Proposed timeline: beginning Spring 2015 if the budget is approved for this school

## 12. Principal's Report

- Christmas activities
  - Native elder scheduled to visit school Friday 12 December
  - Class concert presentations scheduled for next week in the gym. Parents may come to watch
  - Glee Club scheduled to perform at old age facility, also at carol sing
- Nutcracker performance – positive feedback, enjoyed by students and parents. Mme. Moon did an excellent job organizing this event!
- Skating days in planning stage
  - 3 skating days – end January, end February, end March
  - Hoping they will take place at Parkdale arena only

