

A.M. Cunningham

Parent Council

Meeting Minutes: Thursday 6 November 2014



In attendance: Chris Upshall, Shannon Kotecki, Tammy Gruza, Ian Stuart, Jennifer Priestley, Jodie Whitley, Joanne Gibson, Lauren McLean, Mr Maliphant, Brandy Brooks, Dr Bowler, Jarah West, Yvette Cowe, Krystal Jenkins, Sylvia Jarrett

Regrets: Amanda Rankin

1. Welcome and Bouquets

- Families in Motion is getting off to a great start. Positive feedback for the Scavenger Hunt.

2. Previous **minutes** passed by Joanne, seconded by Lauren.

3. Treasury Report

- Subaccounts have been created for designated expenses as discussed in the last meeting.
- To date, chocolate fundraising has added up to \$4915.32 sold, + outstanding boxes to be submitted, + credit but numbers are NOT final.
- Total money to spend: \$5892.14 but this number is not yet final.
- Expenses for music items and picnic have been deducted to zero out those subaccounts as discussed at the last meeting.

4. Chocolate Fundraising

- As of meeting: approx.17 boxes still outstanding
- Many boxes are being sent back for credit
- As of meeting: approximately \$7000 profit but numbers are still coming in
- General consensus is that it is time to put chocolate selling to rest for a time and decide on other methods of raising funds – BUT to find something that offers the 48% return that chocolate offers. Otherwise we are looking at doing more fundraising.
- **Action:**
 - Talk to other parents. Find out whether they would be willing to support more frequent fundraising, or continue with chocolate as our one big fundraiser. (All)

- Discussion will be picked up again in the spring when we need to start looking at this topic again.

5. **Other Fundraising Ideas** – Samko, Mabels Labels, Chapters/Indigo

- Purchases from Samko Toys, Mabels Labels or Chapters offer a kickback to the school
 - no “extra” work involved – simply use online code or mention something at register and school receives a portion
 - At time of meeting, another school was having a fundraiser night with Chapters. Mabels Labels offers 20 (percent) to school
 - Pros: online code is provided, so easy to use, not asking anything extra of anyone.
 - Providing a survey is an option. Krystal mentioned Survey Monkey. Parents would need to be provided with information on the return on chocolate sales
 - Jarah suggested that simply asking directly for donations is a successful method.
- **Action:**
 - Mr Maliphant to contact that principal to find out how Indigo fundraiser went for them.
 - Contact Mabels Labels and Samko to set up. (Chris)
 - Spread the word about these new fundraising efforts. (All)
 - Pick up discussion in the spring when it’s time to plan for next year.

6. **Christmas Carol Sing**

- Date set for Thursday December 11.
- Physical component is required ie dancing, to tie into Families In Motion. Just Dance was a suggestion.
- to coincide with toy/food/mitten drives – donations will be accepted prior to and evening of
- Mitten tree – conflict with fire marshal to have in the hallway as in previous years?
- **Action:**
 - confirm date with Mme Hind and plan for physical component. (Lauren)

7. **Request from Mme Hind for parent volunteer committee for arts initiatives**

- Question raised: what type of commitment is she asking?
- review of options
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- **Action:**

- speak with Mme Hind about ideas for committee (Lauren).

8. a) **Bike Rack**

- estimated at around \$500. Mr Maliphant checking with schools that have closed or are closing to find one we can have for free. It cost just over \$2000 to have the cement pad put in place.
- Jarah suggested a business that provides racks called The Compound as a source

b) **Garden**

- Joe Merrett, AMC parent, has offered his company to regenerate the learning garden at a cost of \$1000. This would include the rejuvenation of soil and heavy pruning to revitalize plants.
- Discussion regarding the need to have an annual management plan for garden maintenance, and education for garden volunteers to be included as part of the deal.
- Funding for this project will come from a separate environmental fund set up by Mme Brooks-Bittle and Mrs. Harris.

c) **Kindergarten Enclosure**

- Current Kindergarten population is around 90 students. There are some challenges ie behavioural issues, running away within this group.
- Kindergarten teachers dividing time in the area – all the students do not currently fit at once
- Current thinking is that the Kindergarten pen will be enlarged to ensure children's safety and will be mix of paving and soft surface ie grass
- **Action:**
 - Mr. Maliphant to follow up re: bike rack
 - Mr Maliphant to get input from Mme. Brooks-Bittle and Mrs. Harris re the use of the environmental fund for the garden.
 - Mr. Maliphant to arrange for garden clean up to commence.
 - Mr. Maliphant to arrange a meeting between parents and Board to work on plan for the enclosure.

9. **Families In Motion update**

- Scavenger Hunt underway – prizes include Splitsville passes, Laser Mania passes, museum and Conservation Authority passes. Grand prize is a bicycle donated by Rankin's Restaurant and Main Cycle worth (\$350)– must have fully completed answer sheet to win the bike.
- Next months event will be simple given how busy everyone is with the holidays.
- Grade 4 and 5 students have opportunity to use iPads to videotape their hunt. Dr Bowler sent home a handout regarding the iPad challenge. A prize will be

given for the best video. This will be part of a bigger plan for the iPads (iPads in Motion).

- Bull Dogs will be coming to the school to talk to the kids about the importance of leading a healthy active life.
- Date for drawing of the scavenger hunt prizes: TBD
- Sub-committee needs to get together again to continue planning further events.

10. Frenchapalooza

- Date set for Wednesday 18 February 2015 at AMC
- Chris is working with Hamilton Public Library to incorporate French storytime – likely at Saltfleet branch

11. Principal's Report

- Human Growth and Development survey – looking for input from parents into Health curriculum
 - Krystal, Lauren, Jarah and Sylvia expressed interest in entering the survey
- Boston Pizza Nights have been arranged for the first Tuesday of every month
- iPad workshop for parents on 19 November, 4pm at AMC
- teachers are learning about iPads from an IT guy on a regular basis.
- building on the success of Math Prodigy, Mr Maliphant is working on 2 literacy programs for iPads – one French, one English
- Progress reports to be sent home on 18 November
- Parent idea: temporary skating rink on school property for winter months. Mr. Maliphant looking into whether this is possible or not.
- School security: teachers on yard duty wearing high-visibility vests and stationed in openings between portables, fences, building etc. They are keeping vigil for any strangers on the property. They are trying use walkie talkies to improve communication during this time.
- Milk volunteers urgently needed! No more than 10-15min commitment required.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 10 December, 6.30pm