

School Council Minutes – January 23, 2017

In attendance: Sarah Coles (Co-Chair), Melissa Crawford, Jennifer Lenoir, Lisa Selman, Christy Cowan, Ben Moore (staff), Amanda Rankin (community rep), Shannon Weston (staff), Tiz Penney (Principal).

Regrets: Meghan Shannon (Co-Chair), Joanne Gibson, Lauren McLean, Megan Lloyd, Charlene Dokter, Tammy Gruza (staff).

Principal's Report

- Gym renovations to fix ventilation issues, improve air quality and other improvement on track and on time. Should be completed early Feb.
- Some staff have attended Board workshops; CPS (Collaborative Proactive Solutions) which embrace new Board focus. Kids want to do well – if they are not, identify what challenges they might be facing, and address those. Find supportive, not punitive solutions for the students.

School Council Secretary

- Previous Secretary has had to step down. Welcome new Co-Secretaries: Lisa Selman (afternoon meetings) and Melissa Crawford (evening meetings). –Nominated by Jennifer Lenoir, seconded by Christy Cowan

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer absent, firm numbers not available
- (\$2,000) provided to Mrs. Vanderberg to purchase French and English books for library
- (\$292) Council portion for Wil Stroet concert
- (\$20) Childcare, Council meeting
- (\$1,000) provided for Pub Night fundraising initial fees, deposits, etc
- \$84 cheque from Samko sale expected in Feb.
- Total raised from Chocolate fundraising: \$13, 501 – most ever raised

Fundraising Survey

- Separate surveys sent to parents and staff to determine priorities. Overwhelming response from both to invest in more leveled take home reading books (English and French). Ms. Penney to reach out to Consultant to determine needs analysis, and which books to purchase. – Motioned by Jennifer Lenoir and seconded by Lisa Selman.
- Classroom consumables also a significant request by staff. (In previous years Council had granted \$50/class). Council feels these needs are best served from monies raised by pizza slice sales.
- Staff requesting AV investment for the gym. Currently technology has to be brought in via cart (often disrupting classroom usage of items). Only a few staff know how to set up all items. Onerous, and leads to faster wear and tear of technology already out of date. Request for: wireless microphone (and accompanying wiring) –cage to hold projector permanently in gym –updated projector (to stay in gym) -remote controlled screen -new cage(s) to house sound equipment (already own) so they can stay set up permanently in gym (reduces wear & tear, and will not need special know-how for setup). Staff working on estimate.
- Council to examine costs next month and determine how to divide funding. (Also there will be as yet unknown additional funds raised from Pub Night).

- Also discussion around re-painting lines on blacktop (hopscotch, etc). Ms. Penney to get estimate
- “Wobble chairs” or bumpy chair cushions discussed with much positive interest in fall for use of fundraising \$, teachers have mixed reactions to them

Frenchapalooza

- CPF Member Chris Sykes Upshall provided us details for next event; Feb. 21, 6:30-8pm at Lawfield. Childcare provided.

Pizza Volunteers

- On hold for January due to need for volunteers
- Lauren McLean to take over coordination of those volunteers via email list – volunteers can confirm in days before pizza day, so we know in advance if there is enough coverage or if last minute call out needs to be done.

Parent Concerns re: LTO replacement uncertainty

- Having experienced strings of non-french speaking supply teachers in fall, parents have expressed concerns to Council re: school strategy to provide seamless learning experience for children. Ms. Penney explained she has already posted job for Mme. Federchuk’s replacement for 3 weeks and there have been no qualified applicants. However, she can reassign Mme. Kahana as she finishes her support for M. Ferlatte. Unfortunately FI teachers are in high demand and LTO assignments are not very desirable, so there is little she can do if there are no qualified applicants.

Pro-Grant Update

- Jacquie Reeds has stepped down; Jennifer Lenoir and Lisa Selman are now organizing the workshops.
- First workshop tomorrow: discussion of final details.
- Next workshop presented by Julie and Angie from My Free Hamilton on Wed March 22.
- Books to be determined and purchased.

Next meeting: February 28, 2017, 6pm

Items to bring forward to next meeting:

- Ms. Penney to report on leveled readers needs analysis – which books to buy, cost, if backordered or not
- Estimates for AV equipment cages, wiring in gym
- Estimate for painting blacktop game lines
- Discussion as to how much to spend, where.
- Pub Night update
- Pro Grant workshop update
- Pizza volunteer update