

Minutes from School Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

The September meeting of Greensville School Council and Greensville Home and School was held in the school library at 6:30 p.m on Tuesday, September 20, 2011.

Kate Fischer, principal, presented the principal's report.

- start up went smoothly, classes are close to being full – does not seem to be any danger of re-organization
- staff is very similar to last year – Mrs. Atkinson has taken over the music classes, Ms. B. has changed from full-time to .7 which is 3.5 days a week, Ms. Nyitrai is gradually returning from her leave of absence and will be sharing the 1/2class with Mrs. Ketchen.
- E.Q.A.O. Results were disappointing compared to last year. Although five students out of thirty achieved level 4 in math, reading and writing both took a bit of a dip. Writing 70% Reading 73% Math 83%. E.Q.A.O. results are still well above the board average. There were many 2.9 marks in writing and students will be doing meaningful writing tasks on a daily basis.
- The school looks great both inside and out thanks to the hard work of our custodians and a parent, Jennifer ? , who did considerable work on the gardens.
- Administrative memo re appropriate dress has been published in the newsletter and the student agendas.
- Reminders were given to check agendas daily
- Grizzly Shack will be open every Tuesday – TCBY yogurt now meets nutrition policy. Some varieties of the popcorn also do.
- CGI – new recycling contractor – sounds like school will be able to recycle more items which will help with the boomerang lunch difficulties.
- Alternate Friday lunches – Pita Pit won't be able to individual orders but will provide some choices – form will be different. Various pizza providers will be tried until a good one is found.
- Terry Fox Run on Friday, September 23. Parents are welcome to

participate.

- Roots of Empathy – 2 babies, one for 5K, one for 4/5 B. Laura is trained and running the programme.
- Bus Patrollers – application process, official training is Thurs. Oct. 6. Bus Safety assemblies will take place sometime in the fall.
- Skill Streaming is a program that will begin next week. It will focus on specific social skills, beginning with Listening. Hope to improve interactions on the playground.

Teacher Report

Chris Duggan spoke about the kindergarten classes – working on learning routines, letter sounds (SK reviewing this).

Cairine Grantham presented the rest of the teacher report.

Grade ones have settled in nicely to class routines and are beginning to show off their talents. Their class pet, Spikey the fish passed away last week. The students planned a very lovely funeral that included finding a suitable rock for a headstone, deciding on the engraving and where to place it. It was remarkable how respectful the students were during this time of sadness.

The Terry Fox Run prompted a great deal of discussion in class and students learned that the money raised was to help Doctors and scientists learn more about the disease and find ways to help people who have this disease. Room 10 certainly has some deep thinkers.

The grade twos are beginning to settle in nicely with routines. We are working on mapping skills in Social Studies, Graphing and Numbers to 100 in math, Making connections while we read and Exploring how to get ideas to write about. We had a guest speaker from the Hamilton Board come in to our class to teach the grade twos how to avoid getting themselves in trouble when their peers are "Fishing". The grade twos explored a variety of strategies to avoid getting "Hooked". Some of those include Ask them to stop, Ignore, Walk Away, Get help from a teacher, Use the friendship corner, etc. There is a visual display in the classroom to help the students throughout this year. Many are beginning to use these strategies already.

In Writing the kids in room 6 are working super hard at learning to identify what makes a good detail. They are also discovering how much detail is enough and how much detail is too much. In Reading we have begun a novel called Julie of the Wolves and are learning about the Inuit culture and Canada's far North landscape. This blends well with our rural and urban studies where we are studying the community of Greensville and how it compares to other communities. In Art, Ms Slomka (our student teacher) will be introducing us to Inuit visual art and making Inukshuit (Inukshuk) out of modeling clay. In Math we are looking at adding money in our head for amounts over \$1.00 and moving into making change. We will be talking about place value next.

In room 7 we are also working on generating ideas and using detail. We are also reading books about native culture and working on urban and rural studies. For DPA Mr. Giordano has been teaching the students many exercises that he uses in training young athletes. In math we are finishing up place value and moving on to money and data management. Grade fours are working on habitats (what they are, examples of, plants/animals that live there).

The Board is continuing with Levelled Literacy Intervention for grade 1 and Class Act for SK students and grade one's that may not be ready for LLI. Students who are candidates for LLI have some phonological skills, know most of the SK popcorn words and can recognize letters and sounds. They are usually reading at a DRA 3 or 4. The program is meant to boost their skills and they do not graduate from LLI until they can read at DRA 12. The program usually runs from end of Sept to Jan. Then those from class act begin in Jan.

Class Act is for students who have weak phonological skills.

Empower is an intervention for grade 2 students who are reading at a DRA level 8 to 10. There are 110 lessons the program runs 5 days a week for 60 minutes a day. Only trained LRTs can run the program.

Mr. Carle and the enrichment group are organizing the school archives and would happily accept donations of old class pictures photos etc.

Since there were several new faces present, Kate explained how both groups meet together first then split for our individual meetings. Sasha explained what School Council does and Colleen spoke about Home and School. Home and School then adjourned to the staff room and School Council remained in the library.

School Council met immediately following these presentations.

Present: Marc Brittain, Brian Csermak, Cairine Grantham, Steve Hadcock, Kate Fischer, Rosina Harvey-Keeping, Susan Hill, Sara Mann, Laura Santaguida, Sasha Spycher-Sulentic, Aimee Van Meeteren

Regrets: David

Sasha reminded us that last year we were trying to attract new members for Council. She was pleased that we had some new faces present.

Dave has applied for the grant for this school year. Sasha asked the new members if they had any goals for the council for this year.

Brian mentioned his concerns re the boomerang lunches but felt it might be dealt with by the new recycling program.

Rosina was happy to hear of the emphasis on reading and writing and feels it is a huge concern. She also wondered about bullying on the playground although her child has had no problems. She works for the Hamilton CAS and knows how interested the community is in the bullying topic. Kate responded that the Skills Training program will target that type of thing.

Aimee had concerns about online bullying (e.g., Facebook). Even though her children are young, she wants to be one step ahead of them. She asked if this could be a part of the skills taught. Kate responded that there are parent controls for home computers and that Mr. Carle is teaching computer etiquette in his computer lessons. Rosina offered to get contact info re someone to come in for parent training re computer dangers. Susan mentioned that this had been a concern of Council last year and that we did have a school board rep come in to do a presentation for us.

Sasha asked if there were any more items before we moved to the election.

Mark proposed that we break down School Council in to groups that would have some clear goals and guidelines. He felt that last year was a rebuilding year and that we should start this year with a sense of what we want to accomplish.

Sasha responded that our mandate should be to look at our council constitution. Steve added that all councils have a similar framework, set out by the Ministry of Education. Sasha read some our school council constitution. It is very general. Sara felt that Dave had some plans for us to discuss.

Three forms were received for self-nominations. There is to be a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 16 members.

Sasha informed us that Dave had to be on a live television interview for his work and she read his letter explaining his application to be the chair of school council.

Marc wanted to put his own name forward as chair also. He said that he was not adverse to being a co – chair with Dave. Susan mentioned that Marc had not been a member for a full year and wondered if he was eligible but the group wished to ask Dave if he would be willing to co-chair. Steve said we could not have a motion for co-chairs without Dave being present. Sasha said that she would speak with Dave. If there is contention over the positions, a vote must held. Brian questioned whether there would have to platforms presented and the answer was yes. Steve asked if Marc would not come if he lost an election and Mark replied that he would still attend. Brian felt we should try to avoid the election. Steve felt that it would not be well supported. If Dave is okay with co-chair, that will happen.

Colleen Evans and Ramona Jones also submitted membership forms. Since they are members of Home and School, Marc went to get them. They both stated that they wish to be on Council as well.

Sasha nominated Susan for the position of secretary. It was seconded by all present. Sasha will help Sara with communications.

Kate reminded everyone of the newsletter articles and added that it would be good to have them ahead of the due date. This is usually a blurb re our meetings or something else of interest to the parent community. A sign up

sheet was passed around and it is attached to the end of these minutes.

Susan reminded us of our intent to have our December social, cancel the March meeting and have a June social. All other monthly meetings will be held on the third Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the library.

Kate talked about the school website being updated to the HWDSB new standards. Marc mentioned using a group e-mail which we have already started doing. Colleen asked about sub-committees and Marc said that we need to discuss those areas. School Council's permanent rep on Home and School will be either Ramona or Colleen.

Brian requested that we do not attend meetings if we feel at all unwell as he has some health issues and his immune system is compromised.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. Next meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the school library.

Teacher Report for September, 2010

The ½ class has been making connections and learning the parts of a story in Language. In math they are doing whole number to 50 or 100 and counting by 2, 5, and 10 forward and backward. In Social Studies they are learning about Rules, Relationships and Responsibility.

Grade 3s are beginning a unit on Silly Stories. Our Big Idea is 'how humour can enrich the world'. In math they are working on numeration and number patterns. They also starting a unit on Forces and Movement beginning with magnets.

Grade Fours are learning about visualization (reading), generating ideas (writing), place value (math) and habitats and communities (science). They are also doing DRA.

Grade 5s are are doing DRA, Terry Fox, Place value in math, the Human body in science -, and having fun.

In the library/lab Bob been putting lots of new books into circulation. The junior grades have been receiving Internet/First Class user agreements.

Bob has been starting to take a group of junior students for enrichment work. This will continue throughout the year and involve different grade levels.