**Ray Lewis School Council – Meeting Minutes**

**Date: Wednesday September 16, 2015**

**Location: RLES library, 27 Jessica St. Hamilton**

**Attendees:** **Regrets:**

Scott Dicker Tara McDonald Kari Wright

Kevin Herr Michelle Kell Laura Wydysz

Angela Giardino Sandi Inglis Christine Jansen

Daphne Sampson Karen Johnston Christine Kott

Tyler McNeil Karen McPhee

Bryson Sherriff Kim Slezak

Denise Campbell

**New business:**

1. It was brought up that there are still some minor difficulties with the phone system and contacting teachers. Ray Lewis and the board are continuing to resolve these issues.
2. Budget for the coming school year is similar to the past few years and the break down is:

**Costs**

Donation to Library $1000.00 (this is where our money will go this year)

Grade 8 graduation $400.00

Staff appreciation $400.00

Parent info night $600.00 (Pro Grant)

 Total $2600.00

**Fundraising**

Movie night (2) $1000.00 Fundraising committee is looking for help and is

Sub days (2 or 3 min) $1000.00 trying to recruit people for this coming school

Pro Grant $600.00 year

 Total $2600.00

1. We have the new school sign in place out front! The digital component of the sign will be installed sometime around October. The digital component will be full colour and graphic. The board has stated that all schools will have these signs so that there is consistency across the HWDSB.
2. There was some discussion about “buddy benches” (Bellmore has some). The benches are used to provide a safe place for students to go if they don’t have anyone to be with and are looking for friendship or someone to ‘hang’ with. Many members of the council had heard of these, but some had not, we will do some research and discuss at a later meeting.

**Previous Meeting minutes:**

May minutes have not been passed because they were not prepared in time for the meeting.

**Elections:**

*Chair of the Council*:

Daphne nominated Scott; second by Karen – vote – passed; Scott will remain the Chair of the School Council

*Secretary:*

Scott nominated Daphne; second by Karen – vote – passed; Daphne will become the Secretary

*Treasurer*:

Scott nominated Bryson; second by Daphne – vote – passed; Bryson will remain the Treasurer

**Umbrella Centre:**

There was a break in at the school on Tuesday September 1, 2015. The Umbrella Center had their computer and laptop taken. There were schedules, plans and other important information on the computers that made things difficult for a while, but thankfully there was no client or personal information of any kind on the computers.

The Umbrella Centre is currently full and looking to expand.

**Principal’s Report:**

1. Kindergarten has seen an increase in numbers. We are currently over our allotment of a 30/class maximum (by 2 students) and are waiting on direction from the board.
2. The sign is in out front! There will be a digital/graphic component added in the next little while. The cost to install and wire the digital sign is approximately $1500.00 and it will be paid entirely by the board. The board wants all schools to have the same signs to promote visual identity board wide.
3. We had more kids register in late August/early September than ever. Approximately 30 students were registered the week before school started.
4. Ray Lewis is currently looking for more support for special needs students.
5. There are nine new teachers at the school this year, with five teachers off on maternity leave.
6. Transportation problems are/have worked themselves out for the most part. We have difficulties sometimes because we are the third run and are currently looking to resolve the problems with the one route that is still always late in the morning. We are down a bus from last year.
7. Trips – Ottawa – Not able to plan trips at this time (including grade 8 Ottawa trip). The only trip that is planned is the trip to the Shaw Festival that was scheduled, booked and paid for (deposit) last April or May. The hope is that once things are happily resolved by all parties we will be able to continue with trips.
8. No pizza day and no sale of milk – there is no one to monitor and supervise the collection of money and the completion of paperwork. Once there is a resolution we can look into how we can offer things to the students.
9. There will not be a ‘Meet the Teacher’ night as of right now.
10. We are looking forward to another great year with students, teachers, council and parents.

**Teacher Report:**

1. 22 band members practiced a few times in the summer and played (representing Ray Lewis) at an honorary ceremony for Ray Lewis by the Historical Society. Ray Lewis was being honored as the greatest Hamilton of the year. The ceremony was on August 3, 2015 at the Football Hall of Fame. The band played a prelude, a 15 minute set (approximately) and a postlude. There will be plaques of articles coming to the school. It was an amazing opportunity and experience for all who attended.
2. Teachers are open to parents and have an open door policy for parents and are available through many avenues of communication.

**Nora Henderson:**

There will be a meeting at Templemead School either September 30 or October 1 for all parents who wish to attend. Parents need to be there to say and emphasize how much we need the school. The new school could be delayed further, the location is being questioned. Barton is staying open until the school is completed.

**Garden Area:**

Attached is the information that was read out by Scott at the meeting.

We have one company offering to donate an irrigation system for the garden area and another company that will donate greenery. This was a very large discussion and there are still a lot of details that we need to discuss and information that we need to gather. We are all in agreement that something needs to be done, but that much research and planning will be required before we can finalize a decision.

Bryson will look into getting a donation for the tearing up of and replacing the asphalt in the back.

We agreed that we need to do something right now to get it cleaned up and fulfill our responsibilities, so here is what was decided for now:

Kevin Herr will contact the board recommended landscaper and he will get the area cleaned up. School Council has approved Kevin up to $400.00 as a budget for this project. Kevin will provide an update once he has the information and/or a time line for the completion of the project.

*Thought:*

Does anyone see any benefit in having a “sub-committee” that will deal with the ‘garden area’? It seems to occupy a lot of discuss time at these meetings and we never really seem to come out any further ahead. My suggestion would be that someone ‘chairs’ the sub-committee and is responsible for ensuring that the committee gathers all the information and proposes to the Council a recommendation based on facts, costs and necessary upkeep.

Are there any volunteers to take on the leadership of this committee or be a member of this committee?

**Next Meeting:**

Tuesday October 20, 2015 – 6:30 pm – Ray Lewis Elementary School – Library

**Future Meetings:**

Ray Lewis School Council will meet every third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm in the Library of Ray Lewis Elementary School.

**Meeting adjourned: 8:08 pm**

**Meeting Minutes Prepared By:**

Bryson Sherriff