

Yorkview School Council Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2010

In attendance: Tracey Hunter (Chair), Lorrie Ann Wannamaker (Principal), Sue Sardo, Hilary Millington, Tammy Lombardo, Cami Boyko, Greg Boyko, Cathy Maga (Secretary)

Minutes:

- Approved by Tammy Lombardo, Seconded by Cami Boyko

ACTION:

1. School Newsletter to indicate next School Council meeting on Tuesday February 9, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at the school.

Webmaster Presentation: Greg Boyko

- To date, only 8 families have signed up for the auto-subscribe message service. Families will need to complete a second step and verify with reply when prompted with message. Messages will be sent out between 3 and 5 a.m.
- Mr. Boyko suggested that all files to be included in the auto-subscribe service should be submitted in pdf format, to allow all users to open them, regardless of PC or Mac use.
- He indicated that the Board is attempting to create a standardized web page template for all schools, with consistent content and layout. He will do his best to get Yorkview added to the pilot schools list, and hoped that this may be in effect prior to the March Break.

ACTION:

1. Flyer to all families sent out in mid-January to encourage them to register for the e-newsletter. It should indicate that future school and teacher newsletters would be sent by e-mail. If supply is sufficient, the "little website man" would be attached to the flyer. The goal is to minimize the amount of paper used and decrease the photocopy budget.

Teacher Presentation: Hilary Millington

- Ms. Millington outlined the status of the TCLP (Teacher Learning Critical Pathway), noting that they had completed the second cycle (of 4) focusing on the need for improvement in the literacy levels as indicated in earlier diagnostics. Four classifications of literacy were indicated; oral, written, reading and media.

- The Junior team was working on critical thinking, 'Is it ever acceptable to do the wrong thing?' Text reading was followed up with a writing task, aimed at improving student sentence variance, organisation and word choice. They were encouraged to develop an introduction, defend their opinions/position and provide a final summary of their thoughts. The goal is to make the Yorkview students better 'writers'.
- She indicated that a bulletin board in the school hallway outlined what the students were working on.

ACTION:

1. Continue to monitor student skills in the TLCP process.

Chair Report: Tracey Hunter

- A letter was received from a Yorkview parent regarding the last school assembly and awards presentation. It noted that it was difficult to hear and understand the children reading the award recipient names. Discussion included the importance of the character awards for the children, and the time involved to prepare and rehearse for an assembly and its impact on classroom learning.
- Mrs. Hunter provided a budget for review. She indicated that she would like the staff and teachers to review it for possible omissions and inappropriate allowances of funds. (i.e. is \$1500 for playground equipment too much?) She indicated that a Smart board is an achievable purchase this year, but some fundraising will be required. It should be indicated to the Yorkview families that the purpose of the fundraising event is to raise money for the purchase of a Smart board.
- Ms. Millington outlined the results of the survey of the teacher fundraising ideas. She indicated that the majority were interested in a dance-a-thon during school hours, as there were many extra-curricular activities ongoing, including; book clubs, highland dancing, intramural basketball and the primary Olympics. This type of event had been successful previously, and was widely supported by the teachers.
- Additional fundraising ideas were discussed, including a car wash and a combined talent show/art show.

ACTION:

1. Teachers to review award assembly procedure, with suggested return to teachers reading the student names.
2. Teachers and staff to review budget and suggest any possible omissions or changes. Approve budget.
3. Teachers to select Dance-a-thon date (after Family Day and before March Break, preferably a Friday afternoon.)

4. Increase awareness for the fundraising event, including posters. Solicit prizes to be donated. Top fundraisers to get prizes. Secure funds for juice, water, cookies, etc. during event.
5. Confirm that Melanie Walter to provide sound system.

Principal Report: Lorrie Ann Wannamaker

- Ms. Wannamaker indicated that it was Teacher Appreciation Week, February 15-19, 2010.
- She indicated that she attended a meeting about the Board Equity Policy with Ms. Millington and Ms. Besser. She indicated the importance for school equity in the areas of religion, disability and sexual orientation. She noted that some secondary schools have Positive Spaces and/or Prayer Rooms. She noted that Elementary schools were attempting to increase cultural awareness and inclusivity with increasing exposure to all cultures. (Many different cultural holiday/festival songs were included in December's sing-along.) She noted that the Equity Policy was outlined on the H.W.D.S.B. website.
- Teachers must report to the Principal any events which may include; threats, weapons, alcohol, bullying, physical violence. It is then up to the Principal to follow Board protocol. This would include a Teacher report and a Principal/Supervisor report which describes any action taken and consequences to this action. This report may include any mitigating circumstances, such as limited social skills, etc. She indicated that in the case of older students, a phone call to the parents may be warranted. (There would be no contact to the parents if there was indication that a child may be harmed as a result of this contact.) Protocol includes a schedule of escalating consequences, including; speaking with offending student, sending the student to the principal, contact with the parents, and finally, suspension.
- Ms. Wannamaker indicated that there was no smoking permitted on school property. Signs have been placed around the school.
- She indicated that the Board no longer plows or salts the school pathways to the rear of the school. She noted that protocol now indicates that the Teacher on Duty would identify an icy spot and Caretaking would apply salt. She indicated that in the cases of widespread ice, the students would be kept indoors for their safety.
- Ms. Wannamaker indicated that the new H.W.D.S.B. Director, Mr. John Malloy, visited with her last week and would return to meet with the teachers at a later date. Mr. Laverty, the Board Superintendant is to visit the school on Monday January 18, 2010 to meet with the teachers and attend some classrooms.
- The Board is currently reviewing the Nutrition Policy and, if approved, may require changes to the Pizza Day menu. It will be revised to include whole wheat crust, and cheese or cheese and veggie choices. Meat

options would be eliminated. She will inform families of changes when the policy is approved.

ACTION:

1. Provide link to Teacher Appreciation Week on school website. (www.Ontario.ca/teachingawards)
2. Inform families of Nutrition Policy approval and changes.

Teacher Report: Hilary Millington

- Ms. Millington provided the Teachers 'Wish List' outlining future school purchases. The list included:

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|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Kidney-shaped guided reading table | \$230 each |
| Paint drying rack | \$150 each |
| Area carpet | \$ 75 each |
| Non-magnetic large white board | \$300+ each |
| Additional signal splitter (computer) | \$ 500 each |
| Window shades/blinds | \$ 200 |

ACTION:

1. In the event of a financial surplus, the Council and Staff will review the possibility of additional purchases.

Fundraising Report: Tammy Lombardo

- Ms. Lombardo indicated that the Hot Lunch date was Thursday January 28, 2010. Menus are to be sent home with the students this week. She noted that student Astrid Moore won the draw for the free meal, to be provided by School Council.

ACTION:

1. Ms. Lombardo will attend to facilitate meal distribution on the 28th.
2. Review menu if Board Nutrition Policy is approved.

Next Meeting: Tuesday February 9, 2010 @ 6:30 p.m.