

Yorkview School Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday September 28, 2010

In Attendance: Tracey Hunter (Chair), Gary Poot (Principal), Sue Sardo (Teacher Representative), Bronwen Patterson (Teacher Representative), Tammy Lombardo, Cami Boyko, Melanie Walter, Trina Baird, Julie Ann Rochon-York, Rose Rochon-Ansley, Tara Smith, Cathy Maga-Turner (Secretary)

Welcome:

- School Council Chair and Representatives introduced themselves and a warm welcome was extended to the new principal and the new parents attending.
- Mr. Poot outlined his teaching and principal history. He indicated that he started as a High School Chemistry teacher, and included stints as a Resource Teacher, Guidance Counsellor, Vice Principal and he noted that he was the Principal of Strathcona School for the last 5 years. He noted that he is on a gradual return to work program and expected a full return by Christmas break. He indicated that he was grateful for Ms. Wannamaker's assistance during this transitional period, as she is acting as his Vice Principal when they are working together.

Minutes:

- Minutes from the June 2010 School Council Meeting were approved by Tammy Lombardo, Seconded by Cami Boyko.

ACTION:

1. Newsletter to include date of next meeting, encouraging all families to attend on Tuesday October 26, 2010 6:30 p.m. at the school.

School Council Elections:

- Mr. Poot outlined the role of the School Council as crucial to identify and present parental suggestions/direction, acting as an informal conduit of information between the principal/teachers and the parents. He stated Council was 'not a fundraising entity', and the overall goal was to increase student achievement and community involvement. The School Council was run by the Chair, and the 5 executive positions are eligible for voting. The teachers and principal would present what is new and going on in the school, such as the EQAO results and the new Board

Nutrition Policy. Council Meetings are open to all interested parents as an open forum to address their concerns and review suggestions.

- Tracey Hunter indicated that she is willing to continue as Chair. Acclaimed.
- Cathy Maga-Turner was to continue as Secretary. Acclaimed. Trina Baird to perform the duties of Second Secretary. Acclaimed.
- Cami Boyko is not able to continue as Treasurer due to prior commitments. Leslie Hodges noted that she was willing to perform the Treasurers position but was not in attendance at the meeting.
- Tara Smith will perform the Fundraising duties and will also complete tasks related to the School Newsletter.
- Tammy Lombardo is to perform the duties of a new position, Communications Liaison. This position will ensure that messages and information is transferred between the School Council and the Staff, the Newsletter and Website to the Yorkview families.

ACTION:

1. Contact Leslie Hodges to confirm her Treasurer position.
2. Tammy to meet with Cami, Mr. Poot and Ms Dichazi (school IT contact) to discuss the website and potential redesign.

Teacher Presentation: Sue Sarido

- Ms. Sarido hosted an 'in-class' presentation on the new 'Growing Success' information, which will impact both teaching and learning skills. The overall goal is to increase student knowledge and understanding, improve critical thinking, utilize various forms of communication and be able to apply this information to another area. The emphasis is on 6 learning skills which are to be integrated into daily classroom learning. They include: Collaboration, Responsibility, Organization, Independent Work, Initiative and Self-Regulation. She noted that not all children learn and communicate in the same way. Teaching assessments would include an initial Assessment **for** Learning (do they know the basics?), an Assessment **as** Learning (ongoing, including; verbal or written, peer-review and developing tools to 'own' their learning) and a final Assessment **of** Learning (evidence of achievement).
- Note from Mrs. Caldwell-Puppa and Mr. Puppa regarding the school Cross Country Team: Our team has been practicing 3 times a week, right from the fifth day school this year! On the 28th of September, 50 grade 2, 3, 4, and 5 students went to Christie Lake Conservation Area to compete in the HWDSB Junior Elementary Schools Meet. We are very proud of the excellent efforts put forward by our Yorkview runners. Everyone will continue to train to prepare for our school meet, which will take place on Friday October 15 at 12:30 on our playground. We look forward to ending our season with an excellent afternoon of running. The Coaches

were hoping that Council will once again provide money for ribbons and medals for our school meet.

- **Bronwen Patterson** Mrs. Paterson and Mr. Poot are members of the School Nutrition Action Committee (SNAC). This committee promotes healthy eating based on the guidelines of the *Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide*. The school is allowed 10 special event days per year, 2 per term and 4 other days. Halloween is the first special event day. The school snack cupboard will emphasize fruit and healthy snacks meeting the guidelines. The committee is looking for parental input, and Rose and Julie volunteered to join SNAC. The school will continue to sell milk and host pizza days. Melanie indicated that Pizza Pizza met the nutritional requirements and provided corporate nutritional information for the school records. Pizza Fridays will continue at the school with cheese selection only, as pepperoni has increased fat and sodium content.
- A request was made for funding by the School Council for the purchase of apples for the students following the Terry Fox Run on Thursday September 30.

ACTION:

1. Include 'Growing Success' information in newsletter to all parents.
2. Council had previously approved money for meet ribbons and medals at a prior meeting.
3. Rose and Julie to attend next SNAC meeting.
4. Melanie to finalize details for the Pizza Fridays with Pizza Pizza.
5. Council to provide funds [\$75.00] for apples after the upcoming Terry Fox Run. Any residual funds to be put toward the school snack cupboard.

Principal Report: Gary Poot

- Mr. Poot indicated that he and the Staff were happy with the Grade 3 EQAO results. He stated that the school scored 77% on reading (Board average= 56%), 88 % on mathematics (Board average=61%), and 65% on writing (Board average 65%). Writing will be the main focus of the literacy plan this year, as last year scoring was 72%. A new program will be put in place by the new Learning Improvement teacher (Marnie) and include 2 sessions per week for 6 children regarding Levelled Literacy. Mrs. Savoie is investigating a Grade ½ Premiere Reading program and it will be facilitated by Mrs. Gelderman and Mrs. Caldwell-Puppa. It is anticipated that this ongoing review will provide students will assistance for EQAO writing skills.
- Mr. Poot reviewed the Board-wide timetable, which includes Day 1-5 schedule and kindergarten A/B schedule on the calendar.

ACTION:

1. Implement ongoing programs to improve writing skills.

Chair Report: Tracey Hunter

- Tracey indicate that the School Council has \$6,948.47 in the bank, but upcoming withdrawals included \$2,500 for Teachers classroom allowances, \$75 for Terry Fox Day apples, \$200 for Cross Country Team ribbons and medals, and \$1,500 for Board-approved mulch for the creative play structure.
- She noted that this year's goal of School Council and the Staff was to obtain another Smartboard. It was initially thought that a portable version would be utilized, but a mounted Smartboard in the Library was deemed to be a better solution, allowing increased accessibility and use.

ACTION:

1. Tara will investigate pricing of mulch.
2. Mr. Poot is to investigate the current pricing of Smartboards.

Fundraising Report: Tammy Lombardo

- Tammy provided a summary of fundraising activities over the last 3 years. Top revenue sources included QSP sales, Pizza Days, BBQ/Fun Fair Night and the Dance-a-thon. Mr. Poot indicated that the Staff would be willing to do the Talent show again this year.

ACTION:

1. Identify funds raised from QSP sales to go to Smartboard purchase.
2. Identify Scholastic Book Fair dates for October with Mrs. Dichazi and recruit volunteers.
3. Meeting with Tammy and Tara to discuss key fundraising events for the upcoming year to be presented at the next Council meeting.
4. Tammy is to review Lunch Connection dates to confirm Wednesday schedule.

Next Meeting: Tuesday October 26, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at the school