

Dundana School Council Meeting

Thursday, November 9th, 2023

Attendees: Principal Cathy Calvano, Sara Brown, Robyn Read, Meredith O’Flynn, Gillian Petersen, Brian Liberty, Tori Wilson, Lisa Djakalovic, Shannon Schwetz, Carla Dubinski, Lauren Bahrani, Jill Tonini,

Absent: Brooke Pratt, Naomi Foster, Robin Barr, Kent Barr, Michael Weaver, Candace Bastedo, Leora van der Linden, Lisa Beaudoin, Christina Loomis

1. Welcome:

Lisa called the meeting to order at 6:33pm. Principal Calvano proceeded with the land acknowledgement, and Lisa & Shannon carried on to chair the meeting.

2. Approval of September 28th, 2023 Minutes

3. Principal’s Report:

-The grade 4s have been doing C-CAT testing – part of the process in identifying students as gifted

-Remembrance Day tomorrow, Friday, November 10th – staff & students only

-Winter Concert planned by teachers: Tentative date is December 19th, 9:15am, food donations as admission -Intramurals starting soon

-Staff organizing a coat drive – asking for donations, more info soon

-Mittens/Socks Tree – Shannon has received three donated trees

-Parent-Teacher Interviews next Thursday, November 16th and Friday, November 17th – Please check Lost & Found

-November 14th – Beaver Computing Challenge – grades 4 & 5

-Report cards go home Monday, November 13th – EQAO results to go home

-EQAO Results: 80% scored Level 3 or 4 for Reading, 72.5% for Writing, 55% for Math (42.4% for the school board)

-School Annual Plan – Focus this year will be Math

-Duffle Bag Theatre – sent a contract that our board’s department could not sign (too much risk), so we will not be engaging them, and we will look elsewhere for alternative theatre company, or other ideas. Perhaps Dundas Little Theatre, or high school drama departments?

4. Bylaw Updates:

-Removing the bylaw that requires one teacher, voted by fellow teachers – amend to asking, not requiring

-Removing the two-year mandate bylaw? - keep ‘elected’ part

- Change to 15 voting members to have quorum – to review annually
- Adding an online option for meetings, except for the first meeting when new members will be elected/voted in

5. Treasurer's Report:

- No changes to income
- \$871.40 for licensing for movies – two invoices/seems double? - Principal Calvano & Lisa to look into it
- Current balance: \$2931.47
- We've made \$363 from Pizza Days

6. Meet the Teacher Night Feedback:

- Apples were a hit!
- Parents were surprised we were not outside on the tarmac – parents seemed to like the communal station outside as in previous years
- Many complaints re: the book fair (slow, long lines, etc.), only one machine for cards, cash is quicker, which is written in the letter that goes home with students
- Volunteers were helping in lines, calculating totals, etc.
- The kids really enjoyed it, especially visiting with their classes during the day
- Teachers each had \$85 to spend
- Labels might be needed next year to write in the books bought by parents for the classrooms

7. Fundraising Update:

Movie Night: Dec. 1st – Encanto will be the movie (voted by council) -This will be a free event, arrive for 6:00pm, movie to begin at 6:30pm -We will sell candy, chips, etc.

Everything for 1\$

- We will sell whole pizzas for families
- Volunteers will be needed
- Flyers to be printed for agendas – including an Encanto colouring page, and info about other events happening in December – Flyer to go home Wednesday, Nov 15th in order to give enough notice, 310 copies needed – to be printed at Staples
- Candy has been donated from Mondalez
- Chips needed from Costco
- Rent a popcorn machine or buy popcorn from Costco
- Water bottles will be encouraged, no juice or pop
- **Giving Tree:** Mittens/Socks Tree – Shannon has received three donated trees
- **Pizza Days:** moving to second Thursday of each month, to avoid conflicting with popcorn days
- Switching back to Pizza Pizza, as our experience with Pizza Nova on November 3rd was sub-par. We will remove whole wheat option and we will offer cauliflower crust as an

option. -Upcoming pizza days: Dec. 14th, January 11th, February 8th, March 7th, April 11th, May 9th, June 13th

-**Booster Juice:** Shannon's contact, Marco, has gone MIA. We will be putting Booster Juice days on hold until the new year. Likely will be the last Thursday of each month.

-Pita Pit is another option. Shannon to look into it and contact the Westdale location.

-Upcoming Fundraisers for 2024: Another movie night, maybe a Valentine's Day dance, Read-a-thon, Purdy's Chocolates

-**Read-a-thon:** to replace the Indigo fundraiser that is not running this year

-Robyn has been organizing this event

-March 2024: to last the entire month to honour Dr. Seuss' birthday

-Supporting students reading; friends and family would donate a one-time amount, or pledges for how many books are read

-Different goals for the read-a-thon, data collected and results shared

-Reading Buddies at school could be incorporated

-Suggested options for donations; donations to be cash or online -Students can participate with or without fundraising

-Funds would be used for the school library

-Book Swap in future?

-**Purdy's sale:**

-To be discussed in January

8. **PRO Grant:**

-School Council to apply for a grant for up to \$1000 for parent engagement or guest speaker -Ideas:

-Math related? Number Blocks is really engaging for younger kids

-Math Nights at the school – would take lots of coordination and lots of teacher involvement (multiple classrooms, rotating with different activities)

-Parent Engagement Grant – \$500 automatically deposited

9. **French Parent Association Update:** -No update

10. **Any other business:**

-Divide between French & English students

-Is being done through Intramurals (Skittles)

-Clubs: choirs, cross-country, swimming

-Bringing grades together through grade-specific projects? -To be discussed more in future

Upcoming Meetings: 6:30pm -Thursday, January 18th, 2024 -Thursday, March 7th, 2024 -Thursday, April 11th, 2024 -Thursday, June 13th, 2024

Meeting adjourned 8:10pm