

## Helen Detwiler Elementary School

School Council Meeting  
September 26, 2019 6pm  
Helen Detwiler Library

Attending: Nhu, Annie White, Susan Boshier, Karen Francis, Michael Azzopardi, Tanya, Amanda, Allison, Kim Ward, Leanne Evelyn, Heather, Cara Healy

Regrets: Sukhi Dhillon

Approval of May 29 Council Minutes: Kim

Seconded: Nhu  
Motion carried

Council Elections:

Chair: Amanda  
Secretary: Cara  
Treasurer: Tanya

Quorum is 5 for the 2019/2020 school year.

Council Priorities for 2019/2020:

- \* Karen shared that the outdoor equipment and benches purchased by council are serving the students well; they are occupied outside and we all agree we would like to continue with the focus of engaging the students during outside time
- \* Relayed that the school shares same priority as council - playground rejuvenation
- \* Library rejuvenation is also an agreed upon focus
- \* **Everyone to bring any other suggestions forward at October Meeting**
- \* Michael shared that the education focus continues to be all students reading by grade 1, all students graduating and improving math in all grades

Fundraising:

- \* Pita Pit, Mabels Labels, Popcorn
- \* Although we would like to offer a lot of fundraisers, teachers have expressed concern regarding the amount of time taken away from class to collect and count money coming in for the various fundraisers
- \* discussed strategies to make it easier or be more aware of the teachers time.
- \* Cash online - not easily accessible to everyone - we know that people will still prefer to pay cash for pizza and other items
- \* Can Diane load cash on to someone's account? Is that feasible for her? Or would it be too time consuming? - **Karen** to look into
- \* Single order form for month? Monthly order form for pizza? Maybe cookies once a month instead of every week?
- \* If we do continue with cookies, they are a popular item, but we need freezer space. Maybe we can look for one that does not have to be kept frozen?
- \* The idea of a crockadoodle night came up - **Leanne** to bring information forward to October meeting, so that we can proceed with booking a day

- \* Everyone to bring more fundraising suggestions to the October Meeting - we would like to lay out a fundraising plan for the year as soon as possible
- \* Pizza profits from last year were directed towards technology - netbooks for students in the library, purchased 40 iPads for classroom use and also offset the cost of the student agendas
- \* So far, profits will be directed as follows:
  - \* Pita Pit to playground rejuvenation. First by Leanne, Seconded by Amanda, Motion carried.
  - \* Mabel's Labels to Forest of Reading: First by Leanne, Seconded by Cara, Motion carried
- \* Chapter's Shop Night - **Tanya** to book so that we can start promoting the date(s) as soon as possible. - we didn't officially vote on this, but it was talked about directing the funds towards library rejuvenation
- \* Annual Fundraising Plan is due at end of October, but it is a working document
- \* **Everyone to bring ideas for PROGrant - we did not receive but would still like to do a night for the parents and/or students**
  - \* was mentioned that Ron Joyce will do free talks to parents about a multitude of mental health related issues
- \* Popcorn will start being sold next week at \$2 a bag. Where to allocate money will be determined later.
- \* we can split up funds however we choose.
- \* Amanda mentioned that there was \$500 to be accessed by Council for council needs. **Karen** to look into how we access these funds
  - \* maybe if childcare was available during meetings, we would get more parents involved?

#### Principal's Report:

- \* Character Education - Respect and Belonging - making sure students can identify at least one caring adult in the building
- \* Connected to Character Education is Caught Ya's and Citizenship - Citizenship is a program for Grades 6 through 8 where students have the chance to earn citizenship points throughout the year for acts of kindness or being a good citizen. At the end of the year, a ceremony will be held for students to receive a bronze, silver or gold award. Grade 8's will receive a medal at grad. - This was implemented to engage the older students who have moved beyond getting excited about Caught Ya's.
- \* PA Day Focus - caring adult relationships, improving literacy, subject specialists working closely with a few students, as what they learn about a few generally translates to all. Also reviewed epipen, inhaler and med administering training.
- \* Reorganization - no teacher lost - down to 3 kindergarten classes, grade 1s down to 20 students per class, grade 7/8 now at two 7s and two 8s, as there were fewer grade 7 students than anticipated
  - \* Concern about making parents aware of reorganization before it happened. Conscious choice on the part of staff to not want to cause anxiety in anticipation for families. Want to ensure that best learning happens right up to the split.
  - \* Questioned about Meet the Teacher being before the split - Karen shared that they like to have Meet the Teacher as early as possible, and that any student affected by the reorganization can reach out to the meet the new teacher
  - \* Suggested a synervice go out sharing that there has been a reorganization - just to bring awareness to the parents, and ensure that backpacks get checked over the weekend for a letter.

#### Staff Representative Report:

- \* Leanne shared that Spirit Wear is still on sale online - there are hoodies, t's and hats and orders close October 4th.
- \* Jr. Swim Team - Grades 3/4/5 - Coaches are Evelyn and Walsh

- \* Boys and Girls Middle School Baseball tournaments - Coaches are Ho and Martin
- \* Cross Country Meet in early October - Coaches are Whitehorn and Martin
- \* Volleyball tryout beginning season after Thanksgiving
  - \* Jr Boys - Coaches Ho and Stainton
  - \* Sr. Boys - Coaches Willet and Bergio
  - \* Jr. Girls - Coach McHugh
  - \* Sr. Girls - Coaches Miles and Kawamoto

Treasurer's Report:

- \* Last year school council raised \$2476.87
- \* We spent \$248.74 on sports equipment for outside and \$1118.70 on two benches for the playground
- \* Current balance \$1315.10
- \* we have netting for basketball nets - we need to have them put up - **Karen** and **Susan** to see to this
- \* We all agree we would like to stencil the playground - looking into quotes and will vote over email
- \* Discussed a bit around playground rejuvenation - green document, plan for maintenance, need for blueprint — suggestions around starting a playground committee again - **initial meeting date to be set at October meeting**

Meeting Dates for Remainder of 2019/2020 School Year:

Tuesday October 29th 6pm  
 Tuesday November 26th 6pm  
 Tuesday January 28th 6pm  
 Tuesday February 25th 6pm  
 Tuesday April 28th 6pm  
 Tuesday May 26th 6pm

Motion to adjourn: Leanne  
 Seconded: Heather  
 Motion carried.