



NORWOOD PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MINUTES: SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Prepared by Carolyn Reid, Secretary

DATE: January 22, 2024

TIME: 6:15pm

LOCATION: Virtually via MS Teams due to Winter storm conditions

ATTENDEES:

Rhonda Moules, Principal
Julia Hayes, Vice Principal
Shannon-Leigh Chandler, Chair
Carolyn Reid, Secretary
Amber York
Courtney Mitchell

Kim Stala
Kristina Llewellyn
Lisa Major
Saran Forbes-Davis
Stevie Kenyon
Frehiwot

Juliet Lea
Sana Sabir
Thomas Overgaard
Trupti
Stephanie Smith
Heather Lambert-Hillen

6:15pm meeting called to order by Shannon-Leigh.

WELCOME

- Land Acknowledgement
- Introductions around the room
- Approval of November Council meeting minutes: All in favour.
- Approval of meeting agenda: All in favour.

FUNDRAISING: Shannon-Leigh Chandler

- Lemon and Ice lunches are raising approx. \$200 per week.
- Funds have not been used since the Fall, when Council supported class trips and associated bussing.
- Pizza lunches continue, now include gluten-free and vegan options.
- Thank you to everyone who has volunteered with distributing lunches!
- Pita Pit is a fundraising option; would come from Westdale, \$1 profit (costs \$6, charge \$7 per pita), nut-free, vegan and Halal options are available.
- Suggestion made to keep all fundraiser lunches on Thursdays, to make it easier for families to remember when to send less food.

CHAIR'S REPORT: Shannon-Leigh Chandler

- PRO Grant application due on Friday.
 - PRO (Parents Reaching Out) Grant is designed to provide resources and support for parents, though students are also welcome to attend event(s) and utilize resources.
 - Application is for \$1000 (max. amount) to address racism at the systemic level within our school; recognize what is equitable, what is racist language, what is the history of racism in Canada.
 - What approaches can be taken to encourage children to be leaders; recognize and call out racist language, understand why it's harmful, learn how to be a good ally.
 - Address racism overall, not specific to one race or culture.
 - Event to be held in April or May, with keynote speaker, workshop, reading materials, etc.
 - Thank you to Lisa Major for coordinating the grant, event, and follow-up.

HOME AND SCHOOL REPORT: Heather Lambert-Hillen

- Toy drive for McMaster Children's Hospital, in honour of Evie Wilson, was a success; most toys went directly to children staying at Mac.
- FunScript campaign was a great success, funds will be used for Spring Home and School events.
- Hamilton-Wentworth Council of Home and School Associations has recently been involved with advocating for kindergarten curriculum changes, school safety, transportation, and Winter sidewalk safety.
- Safe school panel is now complete. Focus was on violence in schools; what to do, how to be safe.
- The 2024-5 schoolyear calendar is out for consultation; parent teacher interviews are being built into the calendar, and a PD Day will be the day after Halloween.
- The multi-year strategic plan is "Be You, Be Excellent."

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Rhonda Moules

- Students got to play in the snow at recess, finally, and had lots of fun.
- Mme. Moules is retiring after 5 ½ years as Principal of Norwood; last day with students is Jan. 25th and Jan. 31st is official last day.
- Caitlin Evans is Norwood's new Principal, returning to Norwood after being temporary Vice Principal a few years ago. Welcome Mme. Evans!
- Mme. Hayes, Vice Principal, will be the bridge between outgoing and incoming leadership.
- Mme. Moules' final message to Council:
 - The Norwood community is incredible, with a big School Council and an active Home and School Association.
 - Thank you to everyone on Council for being involved.
 - Thank you to Shannon-Leigh for being chair for so many years, keeping with it through Covid, and for ongoing leadership.
 - Thank you to Heather for being Chair in the past.
 - Thank you to everyone for your amazing children.
 - It's been a privilege to be Norwood's Principal.

PRESENTATION TO MME. MOULES: Shannon-Leigh Chandler

Basket full of treats and gifts, purchased independently by Council members, was presented to Mme. Moules by Shannon-Leigh.

- Thank you for everything, Mme. Moules. Your dedication to the Norwood community will be missed by the kids, staff, and parents. We appreciate you! Congratulations on your retirement!

ACTION ITEMS:

- No action items noted.

6:44 pm meeting adjourned by Shannon-Leigh

Next meeting: February 27th, 2024, in the Norwood Park Music Room