

Monday December 4th School Council Meeting

Welcome remarks from Kylie Gallagher and Land Acknowledgement.

Opening of meeting occurred and was opened by Asmaa Salama and Kirsteen Cannell.

Approval of last meeting's minutes by Stacey Kuczerepa and Tanja Brujic.

Guest Speaker was moved down the agenda due to not being present.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- Mrs. Nelson welcomed everyone to our second council meeting.

- Current Enrollment:

Shannen Koostachin currently has 842 students. 12 additional students have enrolled since last council meeting.

- Purchases:

- 30 iPads and covers were purchased for the students. Mrs. Nelson thanked the school council for their contribution of \$5,000. The school contributed \$10,000 of school funds. The newly purchased iPads have been allocated to intermediate classes. An additional 30 iPads have been loaned to our school from the school board for primary classes. Hoping to be able to purchase some more towards the end of the year.
- New resources have been purchased to support new language learning program (e.g. UFLI)

- Athletics:

Athletics teams have been doing very well especially the Senior boys. They got a banner for their Volleyball match and are hoping for a win at the Semi-Final match at Shannen Koostachin tomorrow December 5. Final match is on December 7th.

- Library:

Mr. Creatchman's wife has donated all of his books to our library. Books have been catalogued and all include an emoji sticker of Mr. Creatchman. Mrs. Needham is planning to create a corner in the library dedicated to him which will contain 200 of his favorite books.

- Events:

Letter was sent home for Winter Wonderland Concert. Two tickets per family. Winter dance party and party in a bag will precede the concert.

- **School Website:**
Mrs. Nelson asked to encourage parents to sign up on the Shannen Koostachin website for alerts, announcements and newsletters. School needs support in getting the message out to sign up.
- **Student Safety:**
Teachers report a significant decrease in incidents on social media due to supporting not having devices throughout the school day and increase in positive social interaction amongst student. There are still reports of issues happening over the weekends.
- **Boundary Review:**
 - Mrs. Nelson would like parents to know that all communications regarding the boundary review come directly from the School Board and Superintendent (Gerry Smith).
 - Reminders have been sent to parents to attend the public review meeting on December 5th at 6 pm. Child minding services are available.
 - Online parent portal is also available for input. Translation available to Arabic, Urdu, and Serbian.
 - Changes will take affect starting September, 2024 and will affect a core number of students at Shannen Koostachin.
- **MAD Group:**
 - Organized a different School Spirit Day for every Friday for the month of December.
 - Organized Food Drive. Class with most donations will receive a Fun Friday Snack Pack for the class.
 - World Kindness Day was a great success. Students seen doing kind things for others received stickers as well as some teachers.
 - Panzerolli day is this Friday.

TEACHER'S REPORT

- Staff are busy preparing for the Winter Wonderland Concert including songs, poems and dances.
- Food drive will be ongoing for the next 2 weeks.
- Candy Grams will be starting soon.
- Pizza days are off to a good start.
- Grandfather Teachings Award is Kindness for this month.
- Popcorn days are a favorite for students. Will be paused in January for a brief time to accommodate for Pita Bits.

TREASURER'S REPORT

We started the school year with a balance of \$9,220.72 which included the overdue amount of \$1486.49 for pizza payment for the previous year 2022-2023. We currently have a balance of \$7,734.23. Tech funds of \$5,000 will be redeemed in January 2024. The remaining balance will be \$2,734.23.

CHAIR'S REPORT

- Boundary Review:
 - Encourages parents to attend Boundary Review meeting at 6pm at Gatestone School in the gym to support even if not affected.
 - Child minding services will be available and interpreters.
 - Approximately 200 students from our school will be affected. Binbrook proposed school land is slated for a school but not yet fully approved. Expectation is 4-5 years for completion.
 - Parent on school council is concerned for his son with special needs who will be affected by the new boundary changes. Will be attending the meeting tomorrow to voice his concerns. Students with special needs take a long time to settle at a new school and in building relationships with staff and peers and feels it is unfair.
 - Principal has no further information on this issue but encourages everyone to attend the meeting.
 - Only grade 7 students can make a request to stay at Shannen Koostachin and only by parent submitting a request.
 - Showed a copy of the presentation of boundary review meeting. Encourages parents to add their questions on the link provided.

- Guest - Brean Domjancic from Umbrella Family:

A statement has been prepared for the boundary review meeting. 2 current kids will be affected by the boundary change. A transition plan will be put in place over the next year. Currently, there are 5 kids on the waiting list. Remain committed to kids here and at Gatestone. Requests will be dealt with in an equitable manner.

- PRO Grant:
Taken off the agenda for now. Required further investigation and looking into.

NEW BUSINESS

- Fundraising:
 - Spring Fling:
 - School council would like to conduct more fundraisers to have more say in where the funds are spent or allocated to.
 - Proposed fundraising events to be attached to Open House events when possible e.g. Spring Fling. Next Open House date is yet to be determined.
 - Permits are required for any events held at school past 6pm.

- Food trucks were tricky at last Open house with the need of special permits. Not all food options are permissible. Only a certain amount of food items are allowed per school year that are non-nutritional. Discussed other food options including pre-purchased foods as opposed to food trucks.
 - Other options may include a Bazar's table or maker's table.
 - A school council subcommittee to be established to plan fundraising events.
 - Movie Night:
 - Proposal of a Disney movie night capped at 450 participants. Guardians must accompany children.
 - Monitors will be needed. Grade 8 students would only be able to assist in selling snacks and not to monitor children.
 - Teachers to have their classes vote on one movie out of 4 movies. Google form may be used to collect results.
 - Proposed ticket for movie night is \$2. 80 cents will be used for license and permit per viewer and \$1.20 revenue for school council funds.
 - Proposed food items for sale at movie night include popcorn, pizza, candy. Encourage people not to bring their own food. Must be mindful of allergies. Could use current popcorn contacts.
 - Movie night expected to take place before March break.
 - Coffee Fundraising:
 - Muskoka Coffee – Canada's #3 Coffee brand. To be priced at \$19.99 on School Cash Online. Profit of \$5.70 for school council. Minimum order of \$200. May be difficult to sell with the current economy as evidenced by decreased chocolate sales this year.
 - Other Ideas:
 - Talent show – student-led would be hard to get all parents seated.
 - Raffles - With more time to plan, can be an even greater success than last years. Last year's was very lucrative.
 - Books for library. School scholastic funds to purchase more books for the library. Mrs. Nelson shared that every year almost 400 books are either lost or taken out of circulation. A book drive may be an idea to implement at start of next school year.
 - Asmaa to speak with Nancy regarding a hot lunch day idea (Poutine)
- Shade structure for playground:

Schools' playground is a public space and therefore any permanent structures would be the schools' responsibility for upkeep and maintenance and would need to prove the funds for that. Would need school board's permission as well.

- STEM/Coding programs at school:
 - Mrs. Nelson explained that any clubs outside of school hours would require teachers to volunteer to run them.
 - Some teachers have attended a PD on Robotics and are hoping to start a Robotics club at school.
 - Our school has only been official for about 1.5-2 years and is a very young school and is unable to do what established schools are able to.
 - Not enough space in the building to run additional after-school clubs as there are currently second-language classes after school hours.
 - Encourages students to connect with teachers if students are very passionate about certain topics.
 - Parents may contact the Superintendent for IB programs in our schools.
 - Math HW club was cancelled due to not enough students enrolling to run the program.

Meeting was closed by Stacey Kuczerepa and Kirsteen Cannell.