

Spring Valley Elementary School Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 23, 2023

1. Welcome: Kate Babetin

2. Principal's Report: Barb McVittie

- Barb returning Monday
- PA Day with Math focus
 - Learning is continuing with staff particularly with Junior and Intermediate teachers with math workshops and training
- Extra support coming into the building – Assisted resource learning teacher
 - She is in around twice a week – working with Intermediate teachings focussing on reading, phonics assessments and interventions to ensure kids are keeping up with reading
 - This in response to the Provincial Right to Read Report
- 12 students accepted and granted Lexia licenses
 - Lexia is a program - Step by step reading intervention program – done with technology (Ipad), it is very interactive and can be accessed at home
 - This year we could submit kids grade 2- grade 5 – all of which were accepted by the program
- Staffing Changes
 - Mr Fairhall has returned as EA
 - Grade 7 teacher (Samantha Lee Parker) is currently on leave – Mr Lacobucci has stepped into this role and will be with Spring Valley until New Year
 - Julie VanSickle is still away and reassessment will happen of when she will return
- Kindergarten transition went well with going down from 3 classes to 2.5
- Sports Teams doing well – see more below in Teacher's Report
- Trips have started
 - 1 trip per term for each of the classes – some may choose to do 2
 - In addition to walking trips within the neighbourhood
 - Looking at linking trips we are taking with what is happening with the curriculum – per board and ministry direction
- Continuing to register new students
 - 4 new students in the last month
 - Enrollment keeps rising
 - We are nearing 420 students from the 250 that started out in the new school

3. Teacher's Report: Mr. Manson

- **Sports**
 - Volleyball
 - All teams made it into playoff
 - Jr and Sr Girls and Sr boys won the first set of matches
 - Sr boys fought hard but lost on recent matches (Nov 22) – Ref and Parents commented on how it was some of the best elementary volleyball they have seen this year and at this level
 - Primary Intermurals – Mrs Braun is running this starting late November and into December
 - Board and Ball – primarily during secondary nutrition break
- **Primary Choir**
 - Potentially choir/ concert event in December
- **Student/ Teacher Volleyball Game**
- **Ipad Cart**
 - Sign-out system has been working well
 - Full class technology has been up and running
- **Competitive Robotics team**
 - First competitive Robotics Team (Intermediate Zone) will be going to Markham on December 9 for first qualifying tournament with Canada First Robotics
 - After qualifier we will be opening up to generalized club from Jan – June to support all students from Grade 1-8
 - Pending how fundraising goes we are hoping to get into at least grade 6 and hopefully down to Grade 4
 - Sept – Dec: Competitive Members
 - Jan – June: Open club to support new interest, developing new learners, so we can have that mentor system
 - Staff is really interested in what students are doing
 - What is the fundraising goal to open it up to Grade 4?
 - Goal was to have 3 new expansion sets of Lego Robotics and 3 new sets of Prime – this would cost around 15-1600 and would allow us to go to Grade 6
 - Could open it up periodically to lower grades
 - One issue is not just about tools but is also about consideration about how tools are used, and how to share space and time with staff
 - 4 staff members – 1 x Kindergarten, 1 x Primary, 1 x Junior, 1x Intermediate
 - Within the next 3 years, this year included, we are hoping to get this opened up to Grade 1 and work through logistics of:
 - Tool rotation
 - Teacher rotation
 - Grade rotation
 - Shout out to Jason who has spearheaded and well respected with the board and as such has been granted wonderful access to resources in this area

4. Treasurer's Report: Christine Ho

- Pizza – sales so far are \$12,088 – expenses out \$4,454 – Total \$8,458 profit
- Kernels, Subway & TCBY - \$13,058 with carry-over from \$1,00 from last year, not including TCBY and Subway comes out each week – slightly inflated due to the scheduling of Subway and TCBY and when funds come out – Total ~\$5,000 profit

5. Fundraising Updates

- Pita Pit has offered price reduction but Subway has been a great success that we will pass on Pita Pit
- Stacked was offering breakfast options for first nutrition break – scrambled eggs, fresh fruit and pancakes
 - Barb comments: response was not good due to transportation issues – food sitting too long and being soggy
- Subway – create option for foot long in new year – Leslie to connect with Rhonda
- **January – Book Drive – Megan & Kate**
 - Barb to provide criteria for books
 - Megan to do flyer
 - Include donating board games and cards
- **February – Krispie Kreme – Leslie**
 - \$7.00 dozen and Purchase \$12 - 16 dozen but minimum qty with 50dozen or more
 - Good margins
 - Mississauga pick up and Parent pick up similar to MacMillans
- **ALT OFFER – Cake Raffle**
 - Could be done on a smaller scale just for the kids
 - Families make a sweet treat – everything goes into the gym; they buy tickets and enter the ones that they want to win
 - BARB: We will need to check health and safety with parents baking them
- **April – Kate B**
 - Card Boxes
- **May – Cookbook – Megan**
 - Barb to confirm printing costs through School relationships
 - Digital and Print options available
- **June – Picnic – Committee**
- **On-Going – Restaurant Night – Christine**
 - Domino or Boston Pizza
 - Contribution to school based on people buying on a specific day
 - Consider takeaway – may yield better results as sit down may not be as feasible during weekday

6. Other

Fund Allocation

- Allocation of funds has yet to happen with staff
- Big ticket item will be kindergarten play area
- May have to supplement robotics
- Graduation will receive funding
- By next meeting we should have a concrete idea of how much is needed for each area

Posting School Council minutes to the website

- Yes, aiming to go live next week
- Tab on website says School Council

Funds for babysitting so parents can come to meetings

- Could resource Ancaster High – Volunteer hours
- Barb to look into Supervision and if we can use school raised funds for this

Volunteer Coordinator Position

- This is a school-based decision that must go through Barb due to the Volunteer Policy – we need to be in compliance with the board

Sponsorship for Ancaster Community Services for the Holidays

- Gifts for teens or gift cards
- Hygiene / toiletries
- School Snacks
- Ancaster Community Services needs items by December 11
- Jen Lumsden is arranging a Toy Drive with Spring Valley and Fire Department and can tie in the above items with this initiative
 - All items will remain within our community

PARENT QUESTIONS**NOTE:**

- All of these questions should and are encouraged to bring attention to the school.
- There is a school council email that all of these questions can go through so it is not going through FB

Student Agendas – this is a teacher decision to use them or not

- Younger classes tend to use them
- Older classes tend to use electronic communication

Announcements and Oh Canada

- Each class does do it, times vary based on teacher
- It is not done collectively by the school

Skating at Morgan Firestone

- High risk and not something that the school can approve
- Helmets would need to be checked

Flag Football

- The school board has not sanctioned it as an official league
- Schools can work together to organize - another school has reached out to run an older student flag football team
 - Jason has reached out to NFL to get a kit

Kindergarten Door – not shutting properly

- This will be looked into and work order will be placed

Graduation

- What is the plan
- Typically, in January a council is put together with interested parents
- Students have a voice based on recommendations from parent committee
- Should be as student centric as possible

Kindergarten Graduation

- Barb to bring it back to the board and teachers

7. Upcoming Meetings

- December 14, 2023
- January 18, 2024
- February 22, 2024
- April 18, 2024
- May 23, 2024
- June 14, 2024

7. Evotes:

- **November 2, 2023 Meeting Minutes:** Approved