

Spring Valley Elementary School Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday, November 28, 2024

Attendance:

- **In-Person:** Christine Ho, Alex Anderson, Adam Kappheim, Kate Babetin, Leslie Montreuil, Tina Verbinnen, Michelle Ouzounis, Jelena Urosevic, Lisa Veloce, Alla Rouner Bida, Carla Da Silva Hodal, Michelle, Nicole Kondo, Amanda Fehrman (Trustee), Jason Manson (Teacher), Jenny Seto Vanderlip (Principal)
- **Virtual:** Kristy Pearce, Jennifer, Manraj Kaur, Megan Misawa, Monica McCrory

1. Welcome & Chair's Report: Tina Verbinnen

- Land acknowledgement
- Review of meeting guidelines and purpose and role of school council
- Review of Parent Survey Results
 - 105 parents responded
 - Top three interests – School safety, bullying prevention, online safety & social media use, anxiety/depression support, positive friendships, homework routines & early literacy
 - Action top priorities/parent concerns
- School Council Pro Grant
 - It has been submitted with top interest from parents
- Community Safety
 - Rembrandt Street safety update – the situation is under active investigation with the police. It was identified as an issue of serious concern by the police.
 - Advice from police:
 - De-escalate if you have the skills, if not leave the area and contact police and/or COAST.
 - Regular communication via the school to remind parents about respecting our neighbours and following signage.
- Fundraising
 - Pizza
 - TCBY
 - Subway
 - Fun Script for Robotics (not parent council, instead teacher-led)
 - We do need to create a list for Barb McVittie to submit
- Request for parent volunteers to form a Sub Committee
 - Food days
 - BBQ
 - Bake Sale

2. Treasurer's Report: Adam Kappheim

- The financial status was reviewed, showing a significant surplus of over \$30,000. Purchases for laptops, tablets, and playground equipment were discussed, and the need to plan for using the surplus was highlighted.
- \$28,000 was carried forward from last year's fundraising
- Many items from last year are in progress. We need updates on this from Barb.

3. Principal's Report

- Policy for parents in addressing concerns shared- will be posted on the web site
- Human rights awareness focus during the anti-bullying week (Nov 18)
 - Staff directed to provide lessons on human rights and how to support human rights
 - Lessons are age-appropriate, kids can ask questions, and there are activities
 - Teachers have access to numerous resources
- Parents expressed concerns that lessons on too generic and not specific enough- parents may connect with the teacher if they'd like more information
- There is a human rights equity and advisory committee – parents can join, check the HWDSB Web page
 - Alex will look into how parents can join and will provide this information
- Parents shared the perception that there is less clear communication about more sensitive concerns happening at school
 - The principal acknowledges that staff are all learning on how to address issues as they arise, communication went out to all families
- EQAO
 - We saw great improvements in reading, writing and math in our board overall
 - We focus professional development on closing gaps (as assessed through EQAO results). There has been a lot of PD on math and literacy recently.

3. Teacher's Report: Mr. Manson

- Laptop and iPad carts have been created and are used daily in the school
- Remembrance Day ceremonies
- Volleyball
- Robotics teams – the club will be from January to June
- Makerspace fundraiser - is a new endeavour, hoping to service kids from grades 1-8, (Fundscript ends Dec 3)
 - Contributions can be made directly if parents don't wish to participate in the Fundscript. An email will be sent this Friday

- Holiday Hampers – going well
- Winter Concert – this information will come out soon
- Primary Choir
- Senior Band
- There will be a teacher-student volleyball event happening
- Parent questions about how the school can improve communication about activities happening at school so that parents can encourage kids to get involved.

4. Other

- Safety questions - New safety measures have been implemented:
 - Washroom sign-in/sign-out
 - Cameras have been considered but this has been passed on to the superintendent
 - Request to have classrooms locked when classes aren't in there to ensure property is safe. Most teachers are doing this.
 - Windows in doors are to be clear (unless in the event of a lockdown)
 - The school is trying to monitor guests in the school in the evenings
 - There is increased teacher/principal monitoring the hallways
 - Question about teachers safety during concerning events
 - Teachers have walkie-talkies and intercom to call for support if needed

5. Upcoming Meetings

- January 16 (we will skip the December 12 meeting as this is only 2 weeks from now)

On the To-Do List:

- ☐ Look into providing childcare for the January meeting.
- ☐ Enhance communication and accessibility for meetings, including virtual options and updated agendas.
- ☐ Consider updating the school website regularly to improve communication.
- ☐ Form a fundraising subcommittee.
- ☐ Explore new fundraising ideas.
- ☐ Plan the use of surplus funds.
- ☐ Further, investigate the current status of funds for the next meeting..
- ☐ Research how parents can get involved and provide feedback to the board.
- ☐ The Fund script fundraiser will end on December 3rd.
- ☐ Holiday Hampers event will end on December 3rd.
- ☐ The December 12th meeting is cancelled.
- ☐ The next meeting is tentatively set for January 16th.