

School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: November 22, 2023

Attendees: Andrea Hitchcock, Amy Telford, Melissa Pistolcors, Sophie Weifang Yin, Hillay Nabi-Shaikh, Ashley Buligan, Stefan Strecker, Louise Young, Krishna Patel

Welcome – VP Stefan Strecker

- Land acknowledgement: *Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board acknowledges our presence on ancestral Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Confederacy land as determined by the Dish with One Spoon treaty.*
- Approval of last month's meeting minutes – approved by Amy Telford, seconded by Krishna Patel.

Principal/VP Report: Stefan Strecker

Recycling:

- One way in which we are respecting the land we live on is through our recycling team.
- They have made more conscientious effort when recycling and putting on announcements.
- More diligent- papers in one, no garbage in recycling bins, more mindful of how we are recycling at Tiffany Hills
- Staff led initiative, students helping out. Will go above and beyond going into bags and taking things out that don't belong and re-sorting, so our recycling is going to plants the way it's supposed to be – not mixing. Respecting the land, doing it the right way.

Fundraising and School Fund Purchases:

- 20 iPads have been ordered for classrooms and distributed equitably to staff. Leverage technology and help support students and their learning.
- Soccer posts have been ordered for the field. Where exactly they will go is still to be determined. Lots of soccer played during nutrition breaks and with the community so invested in these posts to supports kids playing soccer. They are ordered - around \$9000.
- Done some stenciling and tarmacking for primary kids on the cement for physical literacy, discussing doing that in kinder pen as well.
- Basketnet is also ordered on other side for primary kids. One is in the building awaiting installation, other has been ordered and is on its way. Work orders submitted for installation. Spot for it has been designated. Not blocking students from entrance, but far enough away from fence. Red, green, and blue. Something to get Primary kids more involved engaged in nutrition breaks.

Secure School:

- Fire drill, hold secure bomb threat – all of these drills are complete. One more in December – lockdown drill – you will receive notification through school messenger. Need support of families to discuss with their children the importance of drills. Make sure staff and students are aware of what to do in these events. Last spring during lockdown drill, VP was going around portables making sure portables were locked and 2 separate community members called the

police. Community heard the announcement and did not know it was a drill. One before holiday break and then another in February or in March. End of year is really busy so would like this done before then. There are three Fire drills in the Fall/Winter and three in the Spring/Summer.

Excursions:

- Excursions are learning opportunities – educational excursion is any approved excursion or activity off school premise. The policy describes as educational learning policy designed to enhance students' learning and linked to curriculum – look on HWDSB for the educational excursions policy. Rich learning opportunity for students. We try to supplement costs so its not a burden on families. The reason for excursions is for all students to attend and not meant for some students to stay home. If student cannot go, expectation is they come to school and do alternate assignment related to curriculum to replace the learning they will miss by not attending excursion.
- Notifications from teachers as they may need volunteers for excursions and parents can sign up. (need completed vulnerable sector police check on file with office)

Teacher's Report: Ashley Buligan

Candy Grams:

- On sale from December 11-15, go out last week of school.
- 2 days for K-3 to buy. Mrs Bosma's class doing candy canes buddies and will go into primary classes to help with writing out candy grams.
- Grades 4-8 can buy over 3 days at nutrition break.
- Mint candy canes \$1 each.

Holiday Dance:

- Wednesday December 20th (last week before holiday break)
 - o Andrea: are we still ok to run pizza day on this day?
 - Ashley: Yes Room 109 is still ok to use for pizza day will just be loud

Toy Drive and Holiday Hamper:

- Toy Drive running Nov 27-Dec 8
- Donations of new unwrapped todays will be given to Ancaster Community Services
 - o Amy: Will each class get an age group to collect for? Would recommend sending a flyer noting its new toys only as we received some used donations during Food Drive
 - Ashley: It's any toy, any age group, \$5 minimum for each toy. We will send a flyer and will note new donations only.
- Holiday hamper supports a HWDSB family – cash online donations to make the purchases. Families can donate any amount through School Cash Online.
- Tree set up in front foyer and Equity Team will make a story about our 'Peace Tree' where all donations placed around the tree.

Checkers Club:

- Checkers club has started – Grade 4-8 during nutrition breaks.

Grant:

- ESL teachers \$500 grant approved again and they will use to purchase CRRP books.
- We received the \$500 Equity Book Grant again this year. Will be using this to purchase books about various days of significance.
- PRO grant – Ashley has applied 2-3 years on behalf of council. Books in 6-7 languages to help families engage in reading and support kids.
 - o Stefan: Purpose is to honour lived experiences of the communities at the school and for students to see themselves in the materials.
 - o Krishna: What kind of books do you need for library?
 - Ashley: All kinds are welcome
 - o Sophie: Suggestion to use grant to purchase technology and public policy books.

Library:

- Mrs. Duncan shared that kids loved new library books that were donated by community – thank you!
- Library theme for December books being showcased will be 'Celebrations Around the World'.

LRTs (Learning Resource Teachers):

- Requesting cash to buy noise cancelling headphones. Also, for headsets for the iPads.
 - o Ms. Faux would like \$500-700 to get headphones \$25 per set of headphones, 20 pairs, 10 pairs of noise cancelling headphones and 10 pairs of headsets for the iPads.
 - o Parent Council voted – agreed to give \$500 to go to headphones

Treasurer's Report: Sophie Weifang Yin

- Pizza
 - o \$14,905 revenue
 - o Balance is \$11,732
 - o In the next 5 weeks will likely spend \$5500 so we will have \$6232 left at the end of the year (estimate).
 - o We have \$6232 we can spend.
 - o Sophie question: Was soccer and ipads from this money?
 - Andrea: No that was from last year's funds. Soccer posts came out of Laura Secord fundraiser money.
 - o Ashley: Laura Secord made approximately 12K profit. Used all empty returned chocolate boxes for dioramas in the classroom.
 - o Andrea: there are different levels we can choose when we are deciding which fundraisers to run. Some take a lot of effort but bring in a lot of money, some take minimal effort but bring in less money. We can sell coffee which is less work but little funds raised.
 - o The board gives the school x number to spend every year so for iPads some of it came from that pool.
 - o Sophie: Do we need to plan ahead on what we are spending on.

- Stefan: School enhancements items like arts supplies and iPads and grad, trips and excursions, etc.
- Andrea: Teachers provide list at end of year too of what would help
- Amy: Jenny and Stefan will give us list of what the school needs in a way to best serve everyone in the school.
- Sophie: Is picture day fundraising?
 - No

Chair's Report: Andrea Hitchcock and Amy Telford

- Second round of pizza online orders will be up soon on school cash online - parents have 3 weeks to sign up from December 4 until December 22. No late orders. This round of pizza lunches will run from January 10 until March 27. Then a third round from April to mid-June.
 - Ashley: Can you send me a flyer to send out again
 - Amy/Andrea: Yes
- Teachers, parents and kids really enjoyed Hot Dog Day.
- Other ideas – Pita Day?
 - Amy: Do teachers want to run a hot lunch day? Subway sandwiches was not a hit. Only 2-5 kids per class ordered subway.
 - Need to be aware of health guidelines and we get 10 days a year where we can sell things that are in the 'red zone' of the nutrition policy
 - Ashley: Everything in the Snack Shack is 'green', follows board's nutritional guidelines.
 - Andrea: Does Spring Fling count towards those 10 days where exceptions are allowed?
 - No because it is outside of school hours
 - Halloween dance, holiday dance, these all count since we sell chocolate.
 - Have to watch for sodium, dyes, fats, etc.
 - Sophie: How about a parent survey to see what parents want their kids to eat for these special days?
 - Amy: That would be close to 1000 responses and might not lead anywhere as we need to work with businesses that have worked with schools before.
 - Ashley: How about another Hot Dog Day?
 - Louise: What was the profit?
 - Ashley 500-600\$
 - Amy: sometimes its about the kids having fun even if the profit is less. Movie night would not work again school is too large now. Putting our focus on Spring Fling where we can use indoor and outdoor, family friendly, better for a larger community like this.
 - Does anyone want to look into another hot lunch idea?
 - No volunteers
- Andrea: we are lucky to have a team of parents to run Pizza Day because at other schools who have to use a 3rd party companies it can cost \$4 a slice which is significantly more costly because they individually package each slice. Does anyone want to look into another hot lunch day?
 - Low interest, no volunteers

Coffee Fundraiser:

- Local coffee from Muskoka.
- Will run this fundraiser from March 25 to April 5
- Delivery would be 3 weeks later.
- Will need to determine how much we will sell this for later.
 - Andrea: would \$20 flat sound reasonable
 - Yes, unanimous.
- There is not much work to do before orders come in, but on the day that orders come in we will need volunteers to sort, organize, separate and hand out the orders.
- Canada post will not deliver to a school so will be delivered to Andrea's house.
- Vote – only sell through School Cash Online?
 - Yes, unanimous
- If the orders are small (1-3 bags of coffee) we can send home with kids, but for larger orders will need parents to pick them up, will need to arrange a pick up date. They won't be sending bags, so we will need to think about this.

Spring Fling:

- What worked last year, what did we want to learn, and what can we improve on, and what new ideas can we add?
- Need a sign of what tickets are used for and what takes cash – we need a board to say what needs cash like food trucks – because parents bought a bunch of tickets thinking it applies to Food Trucks
- Ashley applying for license to run hampers and a 50-50 with lottery license.
- If we do pie in the face again, we need to have a table in front of the person getting the pie in the face to establish some distance.
- Usually takes place in May.
- We won't have meetings in December and January so we can assign a date in February meeting.
- Learned photo booth was good but how to make more money like saying if you're in the photo need a ticket.
- Cotton candy 300 bags sold – good profit.
- Sold pop leftover from movie night.
- Can't sell water because school board policy of on plastic water bottles.
- Jammers drink good to sell.
- Cake walk? Need bigger space and more volunteers to run it.
- Getting a kick back from food trucks – Garner Road food trucks give 10% kick back. But maybe because it is consistent every week?
- Louise will ask around get more info and see if we have a deal where if they sell a certain amount then there would be a kick back.
- May 6-10 is education week so May 9 would be ideal day.
- If we can confirm day we can find food trucks
 - Ice cream we got a percentage from those trucks.
 - Could reach out to church to get their food truck contacts.
 - Fire truck was a lot of work to get them to come and they came early due to communication error and had to leave.

- Ashley: There is a local dealership that provides schools with some money, if people did a test drive of this car. Ashley will explore this option.
- Sophia what if parents bring costumes for photo booth and charge more?
 - No. He brings props. Timing is fast, doesn't allow for costume changes.
- 2 ice cream trucks this year instead of 1.
- More paid games to use tickets.
 - Find the ace, plinko board etc. Need lottery license otherwise every single time child needs to get something.
- Don't need a police check to volunteer at this event.
- Raffles, hamper need lottery license.
- Louise: Could we call the community businesses and say do you want to give a basket like the contracting company that did the past?
- Please email any ideas for Spring Fling to Andrea or Amy.
- We know were doing cotton candy, pop, cake walk.
- We will need volunteers to run these at Spring Fling – please let us know if you or any other parents you know would like to volunteer. Police checks are not required to volunteer at Spring Fling since kids are there with their own caregivers.
- School Council does not meet in December or January so some decisions might need to be made via email or impromptu meetings – please keep an eye out for emails.

Meeting Dates for Remainder of Year:

February 7, 6:30pm

April 17, 6:30pm

May 22, 6:30pm