



MINUTES

Clearmeadow School Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: February 21, 2008

In Attendance:

Lynda Hill-Oren, Robynne Hutton, Sophia Mullin, Heather Moffatt, Monica Brown, Kristine Draper, Michelle Rich, Marnie Clark, Terri Leach, Ron Clarke, Shelley Langer, Flo Azulay, CaroleAnn MacDonald, Sharen Pismarov, Sarah Horner

Regrets: Jane Macpherson, Lynn Conforti, Michelle Finlay, Michelle Willemse

Welcome and Agenda Review

The meeting was called to order by Robynne at 6:40 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The January 22nd Minutes were approved by Terri Leach and were seconded by Ron Clarke.

Administrative Update

- Lynda presented the attached document outlining the Administrative updates in the time since our last meeting.
- A lot has been happening with regard to the Ministry Initiatives. These tend to come with a lot of funding. The OPA (Ontario Psychologists Association) deals with special ed students primarily. There is a long wait list for assessment of children and we have over 70 students in Clearmeadow who are waiting for assessments. This could take a couple of years to clear. The first step is assessment which involves several steps done by the teacher(s) and then a psychologist comes in to assess the child(ren). The psychologist only is in the school once a week. The OPA was to help with the wait list and to flag kids for literacy skills, monitoring classroom behaviour, provide workshops for teachers, etc. This is critical for kindergarten to grade 4 students.
- The OFIP3 (Ontario Focussed Intervention Program) has 30 schools on board. The Ministry has looked at all the EQAO scores and we are just below the 75% mark of students in grades 3-4 for literacy. However we are improving. Although the Board looks at reading scores, Clearmeadow is focussing on student writing.

Co-Chair Update

Robynne and Sophia distributed the Goals and Objectives sheet. See attached. We reviewed all the projects that were ongoing and upcoming. The only project that was cancelled was the purchase of the portable fencing at the playground area located at the town park. There was a discussion regarding having a parent representative for each classroom to liaise with the council. This would be especially helpful for the teachers who have a monthly newsletter. It was suggested that the teachers have the school information for the next month given to them by the third week of the previous month in order for it to be added to the newsletter. Requests from the community regarding the Lunch Lady were considered. Every month there is a new menu and the funds raised are given back to the school. It was suggested that we offer this lunch program on Tuesdays, the only day of the week that doesn't have a lunch program this

year. It would be a trial run and we would monitor how successful it is via surveys, observing how many orders are placed, etc. Orders can be made via the computer as well as through the homeroom teachers. The Lunch Lady delivers the food and stays on the premises to ensure all orders are correct. We would also need a parent volunteer as a liaison person. Concern was raised regarding the safeness of the food with regards to allergies. A discussion ensued regarding nut free vs. nut safe products. The subject of milkshakes on Tuesdays was also discussed. Last year we used Reid's Dairy but unfortunately they are not in business anymore. The funds raised with the milkshakes last year went towards graduation and it would be nice to have that again. Presently, we are looking at Dairy Queen, however nothing definitive has been agreed upon. The Council agreed to endorse the Lunch Lady on a trial basis and information will be sent out to parents in the near future.

Volunteer Update

Monica and Terri spoke about the G.I.V.E. (Get Involved Volunteer in Education) program which they attended for half a day once a week for five weeks in the Fall. It was an informative, worthwhile program and for anyone interested in volunteering in elementary schools in York region. Participants had to attend 4 out of 6 classes and volunteer 3 hours a week in order to "graduate". Graduates receive a Certificate of Achievement. There are upcoming sessions and both Monica and Terri highly recommend it for anyone who is interested in volunteering in any capacity.

Treasurer Update

Monica submitted the January statement and the Budget statement. See attached. There were a few changes in the original Budget dated Oct. 24, 2007. The funds of \$2000 for the portable safety fencing have been allocated to other areas as it was discovered that the fencing would no longer be needed due to the fact that the children are staying away from the road. The funds have been allocated now to the kindergarten needs gift and the literacy focused divisional needs.

Fundraising Coordinators Update

Kristine and Michelle introduced Sharen, a member of the fund-raising sub-committee. They have been soliciting for prizes to be used for the Dance-a-thon and the Fun Fair. A Prize List was handed out to the Council. See attached. There have been many generous donations collected and it's very exciting! The Coordinators have issued a challenge for all Council members to donate 3 prizes each. February 28th is the next fundraising meeting and all are welcome. March 20th is the assembly for the kick-off for the Dance-a-thon. The CFL lightbulbs and Boo Boo kit orders have been coming in. So far, there has been \$150 profit with these initiatives.

Other Business and Updates

There was a brief discussion regarding the parking lot and the issues we have had this year with snow removal, the painting of lines, the pickled sand and safety. There was a suggestion that another pedestrian walkway be added perhaps more in the middle of the parking lot as the existing one is close to the first turn and with the snow, it is difficult for cars to see a person at the walkway.

The subject was raised whether or not we had funds set aside for a defibrillation machine. One needs a person to be trained on how to use it as well. As we don't know what the cost of both these would be, it was decided that Kristine would check on these at her workplace and report back to Council at the next meeting.

It was also mentioned that we need to tell parents where the money is being spent so they are aware of the good things happening with their fundraising efforts at Clearmeadow. It would be

nice to celebrate our success and look at all the positive things that are taking place in our school community.

The meeting was adjourned by Robynne at 8:30 p.m.

Next Meeting

Wednesday March 19th at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Childcare available.

Thank you for coming!