



# MINUTES

## Clearmeadow School Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: March 19, 2008

---

### **In Attendance:**

Lynda Hill-Oren, Jane Macpherson, Robynne Hutton, Sophia Mullin, Heather Moffatt, Lynn Conforti, Kristine Draper, Michelle Rich, Marnie Clark, Terri Leach, Ron Clarke, Shelley Langer, Flo Azulay, Sharen Pismarov, Helen Flannery, Natalie Zander, Helen Jolly, Ruth Burgess

**Regrets:** Michelle Finlay, Michelle Willemse, Monica Brown

---

### **Welcome and Agenda Review**

The meeting was called to order by Robynne at 6:40 p.m. All guests were welcomed.

### **Special Presentation**

Ms Natalie Zander spoke about a program which has been started by the Rogers Elementary School which promotes reading. Although Rogers has initiated their program in the primary, junior and intermediate levels, Ms Zander proposed we just begin with our primary grades (1-3). The program consists of a toolbox/kit which is filled with guided reading activities, boards for writing, little reading games, etc. Parent volunteers would be trained during the day to use it and it may even be attractive for parent volunteers whose children are out of the primary grades (ie. older) but may still want to volunteer in the school. It would also be used by the primary teachers when the volunteers weren't in the classroom. Each guided reading session would be 20-30 minutes in length. Ms Zander would build the toolbox and she estimated that we would need 12 of them in order to meet the classroom numbers and the start up cost would be \$2000 but that it would be a one-time thing. Once the kits were purchased, there would be no need to incur further costs. It would be used by all students, not just those who needed special help and attention for their reading skills. She would like to start gathering the supplies and putting the kits together in April so that when September arrived, they would be organized and ready to go. A question was raised as to whether it could be used in the kindergarten classrooms and Ms Zander suggested talking to the teachers but maybe do a phonics program for them. A discussion ensued about where the money would come from. Mrs. Hill-Oren has set aside \$500 from the allocated classroom funds and we still needed to find \$1500. It was decided that a portion could come from the literacy focused funds as well as the parent development programs funds. The council agreed it was a worthwhile cause and voted and approved the program. Terri Leach suggested she meet with Ms Zander and together they could develop a form she could hand out to attract potential parent volunteers.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The February 21st Minutes were perused. It was suggested that the sentence regarding the \$300 for safety crosswalk signs be removed. Minutes were approved by Shelley Langer, seconded by Ron Clarke.

### **Administrators Update**

- Lynda presented the attached document outlining the Administrative updates in the time since our last meeting.

- A lot of certificates have been handed out to the students. The Honour Roll is up from 1<sup>st</sup> term to 2<sup>nd</sup> term. She is very pleased with the efforts of all students.
- Transfers have taken place (a one day event) and she is happy to report we were able to accommodate all but one student. Our kindergarten over-flow list is cleared with only 4 students needing to go to Crossland.
- There are more SK students than JK students. On Mondays and Wednesdays, there will be 3 blended classes and one straight JK class. On Tuesday and Thursdays, there will be 3 blended classes, one straight JK class and one straight SK class.
- Our school plan is under revision and we are trying to be specific. We need to find a concrete way to measure success in writing.
- It is also difficult to measure what needs to be achieved by students for teachers to grade them in the E, G, S, and N part of the report cards. Teachers have a whole list of things to look at before grading but there is still a bit of "gray" due to different factors. Homework completion is the only one that can be totally accurate.
- Lynda and Jane are attempting to measure aggressive incidents in the playground and decrease the numbers. The "character counts" program (for grades 4 and up) is helpful and easy to measure and track. Considering the number of children in our school, the number of incidents are relatively low. We have had under 10 suspensions this year.

### **Fundraising Update**

Kristine and Michelle spoke about the efforts being made for the upcoming Danceathon. The theme this year is Jungle Fun and it's sure to be exciting. There are plenty of prizes, with the grand prize being an Ipod shuffle and a gift certificate for the Rainforest Café. The kick-off is being held March 20<sup>th</sup> in the gym with music, people wearing costumes, a conga line, and plenty of enthusiasm! It has been decided that children will be eligible for a prize for every \$10 that is raised and that everyone will be eligible for the grand prize, whether they have collected pledges or not. There will be spot prizes during the dance as well. The larger prizes will be displayed in the glass case outside of the Library and hopefully that will generate some excitement with the student body!! It was mentioned that the Monday/Wednesday JK/SK classes are thrilled that there will be a special danceathon day for them as well. Terri needs volunteers and encouraged everyone to sign up for something.

The Boo Boo kits and CFL lightbulb fundraising initiatives went over well with \$456 being raised. It was an added bonus that the CFL lightbulbs were donated by Philips so all monies received for them was pure profit.

### **Other Business and Updates**

Robynne read a letter to the council written by Mrs. Rylander. She wrote that Mr. Dinsdale's book "Stolen Away" has been nominated to be part of the Red Maple series. There is a special ceremony in Toronto for all Red Maple award nominees. Some students who have read his book along with other Red Maple books have been invited along with Mr. Dinsdale to this ceremony. Mrs. Rylander asked the council for \$72 which would cover the cost of the students attending this ceremony. It was agreed that the council would donate the money for the students.

Jane MacPherson talked about Earth Day on March 29<sup>th</sup> and that the Clearmeadow Earth Club would like to do something the day before. They have suggested that everyone who wants to participate in this venture to register, sign paper light bulbs to be displayed in the halls of the school, and that the lights would be turned out in the school between 2:00 and 3:00 pm. A discussion began regarding the wasting of paper with many copies of the same thing going out to two, three and sometimes four members of the same family. Unfortunately, there is a glitch in the Trillium computer system and we are unable to generate a sibling list. Monica Brown has volunteered to go through the family lists manually and Helen Flannery offered to help her do this. Jane also mentioned the Voices for Africa Concert taking place at the Newmarket Theatre on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Clearmeadow has a choir that will be performing and Stephen Lewis will be there so she encouraged everyone to attend.

The defibrillation machine information was gathered and shared. According to the police, there is no special training and anyone can use it. According to the Red Cross, a person has to be trained. Then there's the issue of installing one. It can be anywhere from \$3000 to \$10,000. It was mentioned that all high schools in Toronto are being given one and that perhaps Kristine could get a quote. It was also suggested that we choose a designated person to be trained on it (such as Mr. Milne). There is a Health and Safety visit coming up and Lynda suggested it be discussed at that point with them.

Robynne asked if everyone was prepared to go ahead with the Fun Fair. The council agreed that it would be feasible to do it again and are prepared to pitch in and make it a success.

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

### **Next Meeting**

Monday April 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Childcare available.

*Thank you for coming!*