



MINUTES

Clearmeadow School Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: April 7, 2008

In Attendance:

Lynda Hill-Oren, Flo Azulay, Monica Brown, Ron Clarke, Lynn Conforti, Kristine Draper, Michelle Finlay, Robynne Hutton, Shelley Langer, Terri Leach, Sue McCabe, Ann McGowan, Heather Moffatt, Sophia Mullin, Michelle Rich, , Jennifer Rylander and student Lucas R.

Regrets: Jane Macpherson, Marnie Clark (no regrets really ... she's in Greece!)

Substitute Minute Taker: Heather Moffatt

Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Robynne at 6:40 p.m. Council photographs were taken for the yearbook.

Special Guest

Lucas R., Vice President of the Student Council, attended the meeting to give School Council an update on what they have accomplished so far and what is to come for the rest of the year.

The Student Council has been busy fundraising to subsidize intermediate trips and presentations, with programs like Candy Cane and Cinnamon Heart sales. They have also been raising money for charities like the York Region Children's Aid Society through Toonies for Turkeys, and a food drive. Dances have also figured prominently for the Student Council, with an "entrance fee" of food donations to benefit the YRCAS also.

Plans for the remainder of the year include a Nelson Mandela fundraiser on April 14 - 18 to raise money for children in Africa, freezie sales to help with end of year trips and a possible "Formal Spirit" day to coincide with the Unionville Dance performance.

Lucas also generously offered to assist School Council with any remaining items in preparation for the Dance-a-thon on Friday. School Council graciously accepted, asking for Student Council support in getting all the door murals down to the gym, and with general organization and cleanup.

Treasurer's Update

Monica presented both February and March treasurer's reports and Bank Reconciliations (see attachments), and fielded questions about how things are looking for the dance-a-thon. Things are looking very positive and everyone is very excited with the enthusiastic donations being received. A brief discussion about yearbook pricing took place. It was also noted that we are still waiting for a "school lunches" profit cheque from Term 2.

Approval of Minutes

Terri moved to have the March 19th minutes approved as is. This was seconded by Michelle Rich.

Administrative Update

- Lynda presented the attached Administrators' Notes, outlining the Administrative updates since our last meeting.
- In addition, Council received the information that our student population is now at 835 kids, and we now have 3 kindergarten children on the overflow list for next year.
- Brought forward from the staff meeting, Lynda discussed the ongoing concern about pressure on family budgets. Staff and Council will continue to try to keep each other updated on when programs are being run so that there is minimal conflict, and a conscious effort will be made by all, to make as few requests for money as possible, from our families. We will all continue to be sensitive to this issue when planning future events. During this discussion, a parent suggested the idea of a "Clearmeadow bucks" program so that families could purchase "Clearmeadow bucks" that would have the student's name on them, so that on days like Freezie Days, the student can simply present their "Clearmeadow bucks" instead of carrying cash to school. Lynda liked the idea.
- The structure of winter electives was also discussed. Because so many of our families are financially unable to take part in the skiing/boarding portion of the electives, Lynda wanted Council's opinion on whether to expand the locally based programs. The general consensus was that more local (and inexpensive) options would be greatly appreciated. Council also felt that the cost of the skiing was reasonable based on the fact that it covers two trips.
- Also discussed was the fact that Lynda was surprised by a visit from Board personnel, in response to the receipt of a letter from a Clearmeadow parent. The letter expressed concerns over the conditions of the walkways and schoolyard in terms of safety and maintenance. Because the playground is town property, and the rest of the playground is under the jurisdiction of the board, it is a difficult problem to solve, but suggestions are being made and solutions will result. Lynda informed Council that she has put in a request to have the back field properly leveled in an effort to prevent serious injuries resulting from the uneven ground back there. The visit also gave Board personnel the opportunity to look at the parking lot situation and to commit to correcting the confusing directional arrow painting, as well as to take care of the signage necessary to more safely identify the parking lot crosswalk. An additional crosswalk however, will not be added as it was felt it would encourage crossing at an unsafe area in the loop.

Fundraising Coordinators Update

Our fundraising team gave a detailed update on the status of the Dance-a-thon. Everything is looking good, and donations have been steady. There has arisen a situation where a misinterpretation of information about how many ballots a child could put in a single prize box. Terri offered to try to sort the situation out prior to the dance, as it seems to be restricted to a single classroom. It was decided that volunteers and the fundraising committee would meet on Thursday only, to coordinate the last of the glow item organization and distribution, giveaway organization, as well as decorating of the gym and setting up the prize table.

Volunteer Coordinator Update

Volunteers are still needed for the Dance-a-thon. The added help from the Student Council might help, but if anyone has additional time they can spend onsite, it would be greatly appreciated. Terri requested that the front sign be updated with Dance-a-thon information, so that the community at large will know its happening. As well as organizing for the dance, Terri has been working with the Kindergarten teachers on their wish list for the kindergarten exterior. A parent has even volunteered to try to organize a shade program through some horticultural organizations with which she has contact.

The meeting was adjourned by Robynne at 8:15 p.m.

Next Meeting

Tuesday May 13, 2008, following a special presentation on Drug Awareness by "Officer Craig" at 6:30 p.m. Two babysitters will be available for the event and for the meeting afterwards.

Thank you for coming!