



MINUTES

Clearmeadow School Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: May 13, 2008

In Attendance:

Jane Macpherson, Robynne Hutton, Sophia Mullin, Heather Moffatt, Lynn Conforti, Monica Brown, Michelle Rich, Marnie Clark, Michelle Finlay, Terri Leach, Ron Clarke, Shelley Langer, Flo Azulay, Sharon Clarke, Brooke Medeiros, Cassandra Miery Teran

Regrets: Lynda Hill-Oren, Kristine Draper, Michelle Willemse

Welcome and Agenda Review

The meeting was called to order by Robynne at 7:40 p.m. following the presentation on Drug Awareness given by "Officer Craig".

Approval of Minutes

The April 7th Minutes were approved by Terri Leach and were seconded by Flo Azulay.

Administrative Update

- Mrs. Macpherson presented the attached document outlining the Administrative updates in the time since our last meeting.
- The fence that was erected 2 years ago is deteriorating. A team of people from the Board came to inspect and determined it was a bad quality fence. It was decided that it needs to be replaced by a galvanized fence and this will take place shortly.
- The soccer field was also inspected and it was deemed unsafe, therefore it will be repaired for a cost of \$100,000 in the summer.
- There have been By-law officers patrolling the school parking lot as of late. The school did not ask them to come out but they have been ticketing people who park and leave their vehicles. It's important to keep the driveway clear so that emergency vehicles can enter and exit quickly and safely. They have also been ticketing cars in front of the school (on Clearmeadow) as well and they patrol at all times during the day. A compromise was reached that people who parked and stayed in their vehicles would not receive a ticket.
- Pets are a concern for people on school property. They can scare the younger children as well as leave little "presents" behind. Although there is no law stating that dogs are not permitted on the property, the school is encouraging people to leave their dogs at home and if they must bring them, to keep them away from the smaller children.
- As far as hallway traffic goes, staff is still encouraging parents to let the children be independent and do things themselves in order to eliminate high traffic volume in the halls.
- The Health and Safety Committee were in to the school for their annual inspection and we passed with flying colours. Mrs. Hill-Oren and Mrs. Macpherson inquired about the defibrillators and were told it was against the rules to have them in the schools with the exception being that if there is a specific child who has heart problems attending, the defibrillator could be installed.
- Curriculum Implementation: There are 78 supply teacher days. This year the focus was on writing programs and the time was well spent and the teachers were pleased. It was a good year in terms of implementing things for teachers but very difficult to find supply teachers.

- The kindergarten screening was very successful this year. The students coming to school in the fall were given a quick assessment that should help the teachers know where the children are with their learning skills.
- EQAO will be starting shortly for the grades 3 and 6. A question was raised as to what would happen in the split (2/3) class, ie. Where would the grade 2 children go during the test. They will be sent to another grade 2 class for the times required for the EQAO testing.
- The Special Education model is changing. We haven't had a resource model so have ended up with huge numbers in one class, all at different levels. It was decided that some kids won't need to be full-time in the SSE, but will be in the regular classrooms with parent helpers or EA's.
- Lots of activities have been happening at the school (performances, field trips, the eggs hatching in the kindergarten classes) and there are still exciting things to come (graduation, the grade 7 trip to Niagara, the grade 8 trip to Camp Olympia, the Fun Fair).

Treasurer Update

Monica submitted the reports. See attached. There are 12 families who received subsidized lunches which amounts to approximately \$1000. It was suggested that instead of that money coming out of the lunch programs, it would be better coming from the breakfast bucket as we received some unexpected money for that. It was discussed that most of the money we have raised during the year should be used by the end of the year. This will be the case with the exception of a small amount being carried over to the new school year as the fundraising money usually doesn't start to come in until October. A discussion ensued pertaining to the Pro Grant. Robynne and Sophia submitted 2 questions for the council to decide and vote on regarding the Pro Grant money: *"The application for the grant includes the 'Snuggle & Read' and 'Boys Read' workshops. We need to determine how we will complete the final steps of the program. We have \$150 left from the \$400 approved funding and we also set aside \$1,000 from our budget. So we are thinking of these possible options:*

- 1. Use the \$150 funds to add more books to our snuggle and read. Rollover \$500 of the \$1,000 Pro- grant council budget to next year and transfer the remaining \$500 to other needed expenses like field trips.*
- 2. Use the allotted funds to purchase books for Grades 2-3 to take home with them for father's day with reading flyers and evaluation sheets. Then use the remaining Pro-grant funds to purchase boys' library books for the older kids. (The Grade 1's have already received snuggle and read backpacks.)"*

A letter was also read written by Mrs. Rylander regarding the boys' reading program. She has seen great improvement in the boys' interests regarding books since this has been undertaken. The Snuggle and Read endeavour has been successful as well. Many ideas were passed around between the council members but it was decided to give Ms. Rylander \$1000 and to find a spot in the budget to subsidize field trips.

Other Business and Updates

The Fun Fair committee meets tomorrow night. Things are coming along nicely. Michelle passed out the Prize List and we have been very successful in receiving donations from all kinds of venues. There are still some that are pending and it is hoped they will all be confirmed before the Fun Fair on June 5th. Anyone who can think of people to donate (work places, family, friends, etc.) are encouraged to approach them. Every little bit helps! The teacher appreciation lunch is coming up on June 16th and we will need to start planning for this. Everyone was reminded to give Monica their receipts.

The meeting was adjourned by Robynne at 8:50 p.m.

Next Meeting

Tuesday June 10th at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Childcare available.

Thank you for coming!