

## Clearmeadow School Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: May 5, 2009

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### **In Attendance:**

Lynda Hill-Oren, Robynne Hutton, Sophia Mullin, Heather Moffatt, Monica Brown, Sharen Pismarov, Shelley Langer, Susan Shaw, Marnie Clark, Terri Leach, Ron Clarke, Trish Gunderson, CaroleAnn MacDonald, Nancy Davie, Martin Van Beek

Regrets: Lynn Conforti, George Vellathottam, Michelle Rich

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### **Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order by Heather at 6:40 p.m. Guests were welcomed. Mr. Martin Van Beek was introduced to the council members.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The March minutes were approved by Robynne and Susan. There was a small change in the Mission Statement from the April minutes. Robynne also approved.

### **Administrative Update**

- Lynda distributed the latest news via a handout. (see attached).
- Mr. Vellathottam is in Ottawa with the grade 8's having a wonderful time!
- The 3 Arts Nights were a success and the teachers who organized them are to be commended for their hard work and hours put into the evenings.
- The RAYS Room is new this year. During the lunch recess (in room 134), students are encouraged to resolve issues they have had with each other on the playground or classroom. They talk about feelings, and situations, the purpose of which is to bring harmony back into their relationships. As some members of the community may not be aware of this room, Lynda will put the information about it in the next newsletter. A question was raised as to whether or not some grade 8's could be trained to assist the younger children with conflict resolution. It would be a great way to foster leadership in the older students. Lynda will look into this as it could be a great idea.
- Mrs. Hill-Oren, Mr. Vellathottam and Ms Paivio attended a one-day conference April 29<sup>th</sup> led by Dr. Leonard Sax entitled "Boys Adrift, An Emerging Epidemic of Apathy". They found it helpful and will incorporate the information they learned to encourage the male population of Clearmeadow to become more focussed and motivated.

### **Chair Update**

Heather mentioned that Ms. Horner would like to spend the money previously assigned for desktop computers to go towards purchasing laptops instead. She has the opportunity to purchase refurbished ones at a great price. Council discussed this and had a few concerns, ie. Would the laptops be Board-approved, what about theft and where are they stored at night,

would we need another cart and what would be the cost of that. Heather will ask all these questions when she meets with Ms. Horner and get the answers.

Ms. Paivio wondered if the council could allocate approximately \$700 for purchasing books on CD which could be sent home in the snuggle and read backpacks. They would be ideal for families who don't have English as a first language, and also be a different way of promoting and fostering the love of reading. A suggestion was made of keeping the original CD's and sending copies home with the children in case of loss or damage.

The yearbook was delivered to the publisher. Total order was 277 with 30 extras for people who may want to purchase later.

The milk program is having some issues with bags not being returned from classes for filling until the last minute. It was suggested that someone needed to be present between 12:15 and 1 p.m. to handle the issues. Susan agreed to be in charge of the milk program as she is at the school every day for lunch duty. Office staff also needs to know what is available in the freezer for students who come to school without a lunch. Susan volunteered to help with that as well and perhaps she can acquire the help of some grade 8's too. Thank you Susan!

An Election Committee needs to be formed to assist with the nomination forms and personal profile sheets for the next school council. CaroleAnn MacDonald has volunteered to be on the Committee but we need more people. If anyone who doesn't wish to run for a position in the upcoming school council would like to help out, please contact Heather.

Lynn and Heather are working on a grant application to acquire money for music programs. It would be helpful if we could get letters written by parents recommending the need for instruments.

### **Fun Fair Update**

Sharen reported we have 4 inflatables confirmed. Ron is to check for more from Scotiabank. Our next fun fair meeting is scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup>. The basket wrapping dates have been chosen. Terri has done a volunteer letter and sign-up form. Helen and Michelle F. have picked up games and prizes.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Monica distributed the Treasurers Report. Although the Lunch Lady and School Lunches are under budget, the pizza lunches, dance-a-thon and magazine drive are all over budget. The fruit bowls in the classrooms are going over very well. The breakfast bucket program is still running and a few teachers need to be informed of this as they thought the fruit bowls were taking the place of the breakfast buckets. If there is still money left from the breakfast funding at the end of the year, Metro gift cards could be purchased. Robynne is to put the budget on the website.

### **New Business**

We need to choose a date for the staff appreciation luncheon. We also need confirmation from the lunch programs as to whether they will be continuing on in September.

There was a discussion regarding the kindergarten area. New outdoor toys have been purchased. Money has been allocated and therefore it needs to be spent.

CPR training was discussed and it was suggested that it be offered to teachers and parent volunteers with the cost being covered by the school council. Training would have to be done on their own time (2 days to get certificate, 2 hours to re-certify when the certificate expires).

Council wondered whether there would be much enthusiasm for this, but if the cost was covered, it may be more attractive. Lynda will check into the costs, confirm if there's interest with the teachers and suggested that perhaps we start with the parent volunteers at the beginning of the school year.

Heather thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.