



# MINUTES

## Clearmeadow School Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: October 15, 2008

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### **In Attendance:**

Lynda Hill-Oren, Jane Macpherson, Robynne Hutton, Sophia Mullin, Heather Moffatt, Monica Brown, Susan Shaw, Michelle Rich, Marnie Clark, Terri Leach, Ron Clarke, Shelley Langer, Lynn Conforti, Trish Gunderson, Sharen Pismarov, Karen Green, Sharon Clarke, Ainsley Davison, Mirella Vendramin, Lea Calicchia, Deb Austring, Shelley Gross, Paula Braithwaite, Ruth Burgess, Kim Price

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The meeting was called to order by Heather at 6:40 p.m. She introduced our guests from the Student Council: Stephanie – President, Dominic – Vice-President, Brooke – Business Manager, Andrew – Treasurer, and Lucas – Spirit Coordinator. The Student Council is planning several exciting events such as a Toronto Maple Leaf day, a Hallowe'en dance and a door decorating contest. They have decided that any funds raised will go towards school trips and charities.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The September 23rd Minutes and the October 2<sup>nd</sup> Minutes were approved by Ron Clarke and were seconded by Terri Leach.

### **Special Presentation**

Jan Norwood and Anita McQuarrie gave a presentation – “How Boys Learn” – to the Council. They went to a conference on this subject and have started using what they learned in their classrooms. Handouts were passed around and a slide show was given. Several books were displayed, all that would appeal to boys. It was an excellent presentation with many interesting points regarding how boys learn, read and communicate.

### **Lunch Program Update**

Jane Macpherson passed out the results of the survey that was distributed to the Clearmeadow families regarding the lunch programs. Ms. Macpherson tabulated the 223 responses and broke them down into 4 categories: no lunch programs, pizza only, lunches as a service only, and lunches as a service and pizza fundraising. (see attached) Most votes were for the combination of lunches as a service and Fridays for pizza fundraising, therefore that is what will happen this year in terms of the school lunch programs.

### **Administrative Update**

- Lynda and Jane have been working hard to gather information on all the upcoming fundraisers and clubs/activities available at the school for distribution to the Clearmeadow community.
- The school reorganization went smoothly and the children have settled into their classes (grade 4's and 5's). As Mr. Smith is now teaching a grade 5 class, a new staff member has

been hired to take his place. Lisa Simpson is at the school on Mondays, Tuesdays and half day Wednesdays to do prep coverage, head up the DPA, and look after the drama department and the kindergarten lunch hour supervision.

- At the upcoming PA day (Oct. 24), the teachers will be looking into "at risk" information, as well as the EQAO results and children in special education.
- New and exciting things are coming to Clearmeadow. Mrs. Horner is heading a student technology team where the children who are interested and good at technology would be trained to help out with computers, smart boards, etc. This would be open for students from grades 6-8 mainly but could be available to younger students if they are technologically savvy. Miss Galea would like to form a woodworking club where children who are good with their hands could help out with various projects around the school (fixing the bench in the butterfly garden and other maintenance jobs). Since Miss Galea has training in guidance counselling, she is very keen on getting these programs up and running. A learning strategies program is underway for students in grades 7 and 8 to learn how to study, take notes and prepare for tests, etc. Ms. McKnight wants to start up a new mountain biking club this year, and the rainbows program and a social skills group will also be running this year.
- Ms. Macpherson has suggested that a Constitution Committee be formed this year to ensure that the School Council Constitution is in alignment with board guidelines. The committee will meet with Pauline Costello, a board representative who specialized in these issues, to ensure that the election procedures contained in our constitution are correct. Robynne and Heather volunteered to be on the committee, but other volunteers are welcome. Jane will set up the meeting with Pauline.
- The portable will be leaving us hopefully some time in November.

### **Chair Update**

Heather discussed some changes to the budget that were requested by Lynda and Jane following the budget meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup>. In summary, the section of the budget that is in support of the SPCI, specifically point b) Effective Schools, was reduced from \$10,000 to \$8,300. Heather also responded to the question that was raised at the budget meeting surrounding the use of the Start Up Fund of \$10,000 that was provided to the school in June and how that impacted the current budget. These changes will be formally reviewed and voted on at the November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **PRO Grant Discussion/Decision**

Heather wondered if we should go forward with the PRO Grant this year. The deadline for the forms needing to go out is next Friday (the 24<sup>th</sup>) and that doesn't leave much time for discussion, getting things together, etc. She has been talking with the "Chicken Soup" person who for \$500 plus GST would come into the school for a 1 hour session which would be given to parents. We would need something for the children to do while the parents are in the seminar. The "Snuggle and Read" program has been very popular and successful in the past, but it is just for the younger children. It was suggested that instead of focusing on literature this year, perhaps we could do something in regards to math. Lynda went to a math seminar which was quite successful. A discussion began regarding having a Family Math Night. Heather will look into this and see if it's feasible to prepare a proposal in time to meet the deadline.

### **Approval of 2008-09 Council Meeting Schedule**

The Council was given the option of whether or not the meetings should start at 6:30 or 7:00. After a brief discussion, it was decided that 6:30 was a better time. Terri Leach has 2 high school students who can be our babysitters for the meetings and has asked them to get a couple of friends as back-ups in case they cannot make it to one of the meetings. The dates for future

meetings are: Wed. Nov. 12; Mon. Dec. 1; Thurs. Jan. 8; Mon. Feb 2; Tues. Mar. 3; Wed. Apr. 1; Tues. May 5; Tues. June 9.

### **New Business**

It was suggested that the Minutes of our meetings be put on the Clearmeadow website. As long as there aren't any privacy issues, it could be arranged.

### **Next Meeting**

Wednesday Nov. 12th at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Childcare available.

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

*Thank you for coming!*