



MINUTES

Clearmeadow School Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: November 12, 2008

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, Lynda O'Doherty, Carole Ann MacDonald, Mirella Vendramin, Lea Calicchia, Keren Duncan

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Heather at 6:40 p.m. As there were a few guests, she asked that everyone introduce themselves, council included.

Administrative Update

- Lynda distributed the Administrator's Notes for the council to follow as she highlighted and spoke about what has been happening since our last meeting. (see attached)
- November 10th was a PA day. The teachers had a productive day discussing how to value what children bring to the table and not necessarily needing to fix them. It's one way to make school a positive place for kids. Scott Milne, the guest speaker did an excellent job.
- The students put on a very moving Remembrance Day ceremony for the school and the parents.
- Elective forms have been sent out and now are returned. There will be 2 days of electives in February, the choices being heading to Snow Valley for outdoor activities, or a school-based program where the children participate in crafts, drama, etc. The forms returned indicate approximately 70 students are staying for the school-based program, while the rest have chosen to go to Snow Valley.
- The movie day is coming up and many volunteers have been recruited. At this time, volunteers for the intermediate movie time were needed, however the teachers would be on hand as well. Grade 8 students will sell popcorn and drinks to go towards their trip to Ottawa.
- Peer tutoring has started with 40 students from grades 6,7 and 8 tutoring students in need from grades 1-6.

Approval of Minutes

The October 15th Minutes were approved by Ron Clarke and seconded by Terri Leach.

Chair's Update

Heather and Ron attended a school council forum whose main focus was parent engagement to provide resources, and connections within the community. Heather would like to start a parental engagement/involvement committee and asked that if anyone would be interested in becoming part of this, to contact her. She also has contacted some people in the community to come to

our school council meetings and share with us their experiences and information from their lives and address things that are going on around and in our community. Peggy Ingram, Chair of Sir William Mulock Secondary School Council will be at our next council meeting, and Dennis Ramsarran, the representative for our district on the Town of Newmarket Council will also attend one of our meetings in the future. Jan Norwood is working on plans for the outdoor classroom and is hoping to find a lead parent to get things started. Heather also asked if anyone had anything to contribute to the newsletter that she has drafted and plans to distribute Nov. 21.

Treasurer's Report

In order to save on excessive use of paper, Monica made one copy each of the financial reports and passed them around for the Council to peruse. Already we have collected \$40 in interest from the money in the bank and we only started fundraising in October. Some numbers are in for the magazine drive but we will know the final count by the end of January. Pizza lunch orders were strong and she should know the numbers for that by December. It's a positive start to our fundraising efforts.

Fundraising Discussion

Michelle and Sharen have been organizing the Chapters Night. It will be held on Dec. 3 from 6:00 to 10:00 pm. Mr. Dinsdale will be the guest author/speaker and 10% of all sales purchased that evening by Clearmeadow families will be given back to the school. Chapters is also donating three \$10 gift cards which will be raffled off. Although the Shop and Support program is not being promoted, it is still running on-line and anyone who wants to use it will still be able to, with a percentage of the proceeds going towards Clearmeadow. At the Student-Led Conferences, there will be a table set up where the entertainment books will be displayed as well as information on Mabel's Labels and the Miko cash register tapes. The dance-a-thon date has been moved to February 6, 2009. A discussion regarding the Fun Fair and whether or not it was feasible to do it again next year began. Although it is a huge undertaking, the children love it. A motion was made as to whether or not we would go forward with the Fun Fair. All were in favour. The date was set for June 4, 2009 which is the same day as the primary playday.

School Council Budget Approval

Heather has received requests from Mr. Vandikas and Ms. Rylander. Mr. Vandikas would like to purchase more sheet music and a bass guitar for a total of \$741.16. Ms. Rylander would like to purchase chairs for the library for \$2560 plus tax. A sheet was also handed out from Ms. Horner requesting money to go towards computers and laptops for the school (see attached). Mrs. Macpherson explained that there are only computers in the library, each classroom has 1 or 2 but none are left in the pods. We have 6 laptops for the entire school and she would like to see 10 more for student use. Also, there are 2 SMARTboards in the school, but another one would be ideal. A sheet outlining the cost sharing for technology was distributed (see attached). The amount requested is \$561.55 above the \$10,000 that was already committed. The council discussed how to perhaps re-distribute money from various spots (department needs, kindergarten needs, parental and community involvement, breakfast program funding) in the previous budget in order to accommodate these requests. A vote was taken and the following was decided: Approved - Mr. Vandikas' request for \$741.16 for sheet music and the bass guitar. Approved - \$10,551.55 (technology cost sharing) plus an estimated \$3,850 for additional refurbished computers (hard drives \$199.00 x 10 plus monitors \$140 x 10, plus tax). Declined - \$2,560 + tax for chairs for the library. It was suggested that a note be put in the newsletter stating what the fundraising money was going towards, and perhaps even have a display made up for parents to see at the Student-Led Conferences. It was mentioned that all fundraising done in the school year needs to be tied to something and be spent before the end of that school

year with a set amount being retained and carried over to the next year's budget. The carry over money is to be for specific things only.

New Business

Trish Gunderson inquired about Clearmeadow spirit wear (t-shirts, track pants, shorts, etc.) and wondered if we could get some more ordered. It was suggested that sales from these items could be put towards special projects. They are great for promoting school spirit, could be worn on school trips, cross country meets, sports events, etc. Susan Shaw has a family member in the business and she offered to get quotes for us. Heather suggested that we have some samples and order forms in time for the Student-Led Conferences. Susan was going to do her best to see if this could be arranged. Trish has some bracelets left over from last year which could be sold during the conferences as well. She would be happy to bring them and put them on the table where the entertainment books will be.

Heather thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Thank you for coming!