

Clearmeadow School Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: January 8, 2009

In Attendance:

Lynda Hill-Oren, George Vellathottam, Sophia Mullin, Heather Moffatt, Monica Brown, Michelle Rich, Marnie Clark, Terri Leach, Ron Clarke, Shelley Langer, Lynn Conforti, CaroleAnn MacDonald, Kassandra Mier y Teran, David Duncan, Dennis Ramsarran, Peggy Ingram

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Heather at 6:40. Heather introduced Dennis Ramsarran, our council rep (Ward 6) and Peggy Ingram, chair of Sir William Mulock Secondary School's parent council. Dennis spoke about the arsenic contamination in the soil found at the new house development south of Mulock as well as several other happenings and initiatives taking place in Newmarket. He answered several questions and suggested we email him if we had any further questions or comments after our meeting. Heather will send us his email. Peggy shared that she recently went to a workshop in Baltimore re: parent involvement equals student success. She stressed that it is important to foster that and involve as many parents as possible for various events.

Administrative Update

Lynda introduced our new Vice-Principal, George Vellathottam. The council welcomed him and listened attentively as he spoke about himself and a bit of his history before coming to Clearmeadow. Mrs. Hill-Oren then distributed the latest news to council since our last meeting. (See attached).

Approval of Minutes

With a few minor changes, the December 1st minutes were approved by Ron Clarke, and seconded by Sophia Mullin. Marnie will make the changes and forward them on to Robynne in order to be put on the Clearmeadow website. A copy will also be available in the council binder in the library.

Chair's Update

Heather will update the council regarding the meeting with Pauline Costello from the Board office on the changes to the constitution at a future meeting. The spirit wear has gone over very well with sales so far of \$1813 and a profit of \$492. Once the students

begin wearing the clothes, we should anticipate more sales. The deadline is March break for the next round of orders. Also, the track and field events should further boost sales. Heather asked the council for their opinion regarding Mrs. Macpherson's parting gift. It was decided to make a donation to the food bank in Jane's name and also purchase a plant which could be planted in the school's garden. A suggestion of giving \$60 for the food bank donation from the council and approaching greenhouses for a donation with regards to obtaining the plant was made. All members voted in favour of this. Heather had a meeting with Ms. Galea re: the Family Fun Night. Even though the PRO Grant has not been approved as yet, we are still going ahead with the Family night on March 5 for the intermediate classes (7/8). They are the least represented in any school function. Ms. Galea has done this before and has suggested having a beach ball or volleyball tourney or fun relays. Of course, these all depend on how many rsvps we receive. Ms. Galea would need help for the evening. Peggy mentioned that at the highschool, they have dodgeball tournaments which are quite popular. A special ball is needed, however if we don't have one, she suggested we call Sir William Mulock as they have many.

Fundraising Update

Michelle reminded everyone that the danceathon was coming up. Their first planning meeting was held. There will be an assembly next Friday. Donations are needed (raffle prizes, spot prizes, etc. especially for older grades). The Fun Fair needs to be thought about too but right now the focus is on the danceathon. Classes are practising their dances, the DJ is booked, the schedule is done. We still need a volunteer for the kindergarten DJ and Terri is looking. Someone suggested that perhaps a couple of grade 8 students could do it. Terri will ask. This year's theme is Winter Wonderland. The kids are encouraged to dress in silver, blue and/or white. Suggestions for decorations were discussed. (big blow up lawn ornaments, colours silver, blue, white, icicle lights, streamers, sparkly snowflakes). Prizes could be given out for craziest toque. Volunteers will be selling water and glow items to keep it simple.

New Business

Lynn spoke about the breakfast buckets. \$1800 was received at the beginning of the year, and another \$1800 will be coming. She still has money from last year! Lynn estimates close to \$4000 will be coming in since the inception of the breakfast buckets. She asked the council for suggestions on how to spend it. Some ideas were put forward: snacks for EQAO testing days, immunization days, boxes of Motts juices for each class, and cutlery were a few. A question was asked: are the foods that follow the updated nutritious guidelines for the breakfast buckets more expensive? Lynn and Susan have purchased fresh fruit – the clementines and apples are a big hit - and they have found that it is not a lot more expensive despite the changes. It just takes a bit longer to do the grocery shopping! It's tricky to find places to use the extra cash as the grant money is for those less fortunate and of course we need to adhere to that in order to keep the grant dollars coming in.

Heather thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm. Next meeting is Monday Feb. 2nd. All are welcome!