

Clearmeadow School Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: February 2, 2009

In Attendance:

Lynda Hill-Oren, George Vellathottam, Robynne Hutton, Sophia Mullin, Heather Moffatt, Monica Brown, Susan Shaw, Michelle Rich, Marnie Clark, Terri Leach, Ron Clarke, Shelley Langer, Sharen Pismarov, Trish Gunderson, Glenn Burton, CaroleAnn MacDonald

Regrets: Lynn Conforti

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Heather at 6:40 p.m. She welcomed Glenn Burton, a member of the parent council at Denne Public School, and Lucas, a member of Clearmeadow's school council. Lucas spoke briefly about the student council activities: they have just opened the "Snack Shack" where they sell donuts, cookies or pretzels to the student population; the Valentine's Dance for the intermediate grades is on Feb. 13th; there are various performing arts activities going on with the funds raised going towards the grade 8 trip; student council members are willing to help out with the danceathon too and Michelle welcomed the offer and invited them to attend the upcoming meeting.

Administrative Update

- Lynda distributed the latest news via a handout. (see attached).
- Teachers at the January 30th PA day worked hard at focusing on students "at risk". A discussion followed regarding these students as well as the ratio of boys to girls who are in this group. Less than 30% of boys like to write and feel they are not good at it. The Board requires them to write, therefore they are "at risk" kids. More resources are needed to help boys. Clearmeadow staff has a writing continuum/task that they use with the male students.
- The newsletter to the Clearmeadow families is set to be distributed tomorrow.
- Sophia mentioned that she had spoken to Mrs. Horner who wanted to thank the council for the set of laptops. The students are really enjoying them.

Approval of Minutes

Heather pointed out a few changes that needed to be made in the Chairs Update section of the January 8th minutes. Marnie will correct these. The minutes were approved by Robynne Hutton and seconded by Shelley Langer.

Chair's Update

Heather had received a catalogue with several school focused ideas in it, some which could be used as teacher appreciation items. She passed it around for everyone to get a chance to look through. There was a question as to what date teacher appreciation day falls on. Heather thought it was in February but that could be the US date. She was going to look into this. It was suggested that we have another way of communicating with the Clearmeadow families. A bulletin board that focuses strictly on volunteer opportunities within the school was put forward. Council debated on where this bulletin board could be placed. It would need to be somewhere in the vicinity of the front hall and not be too large. The cost would be approximately \$200-\$250. The Council discussed this at length and it was suggested that we purchase one from Walmart or similar store for a cheaper price. MOTION: to purchase a bulletin board for communication purposes at an economical price. Motion passed. Other means of communication were shared as well – flyers in the office, flyers put into new kindergarten packages, email notices sent to parents, etc. were all discussed.

Susan was excited to tell the council that the spirit wear was arriving this week. The next deadline for orders will be just before the March break.

Heather told council that unfortunately the Pro-Grant money was denied this year. She will try again next year. Also, she and Marie H. will be putting together the yearbook. They met with the publisher and it looks like the cost to purchase a yearbook will be in the same neighbourhood as last year (\$18-\$20). Heather is also planning on putting out a newsletter and asked that all members who wanted something to go in it to email her by Feb. 13th.

A question was raised as to when the constitution committee was going to meet next. Heather had planned on presenting the information gathered at the constitution meeting at the March meeting. It was suggested that the constitution committee meet before they present to the council as there was still much to discuss, organize, revise and go over. Heather will email the members of the committee and set up a date when they can meet in the next few weeks.

Fundraising Update

Terry passed around the volunteer sheet for the dance-a-thon and asked council members to double-check if their spot was noted, or put in their names where volunteers are still needed. Michelle and Sharen are counting money every day and they would appreciate any help. Terry has been struggling to find volunteers. She has noticed the enthusiasm has waned. A discussion ensued on how to approach people to help out in the school. We will have enough parent volunteers to cover the dance-a-thon and sometimes parents volunteer at the last minute as well. It is time to begin soliciting volunteers for the Fun Fair in June. Heather is going to the Sir William Mulock SS upcoming council meeting and will let them know we will be needing high school volunteers for the Fun Fair.

New Business

Susan told council that they purchased a microwave for the milk room from some of the breakfast bucket money. She and Lynn are setting up a grade 8 helper to monitor the use of it and there are frozen entrees and soup for students who don't have lunches to heat up and consume. Concern was raised over hot soup being spilled on students. Susan is there every lunch hour and is available to help out and supervise.

Sophia spoke about the pizza orders. All orders are in and the second term has matched the first term. We have reached the \$10,000 goal!

Heather thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Thank you for coming!