

Clearmeadow School Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: April 1, 2009

In Attendance:

Lynda Hill-Oren, George Vellathottam, Robynne Hutton, Sophia Mullin, Heather Moffatt, Monica Brown, Lynn Conforti, Susan Shaw, Michelle Rich, Marnie Clark, Terri Leach, Ron Clarke, Trish Gunderson, CaroleAnn MacDonald, Maureen Ciccone, Keren Duncan, Flo Azulay

Regrets: Sharen Pismarov, Shelley Langer

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Heather at 6:40 p.m.

Approval of March 3rd minutes

We will review and approve the minutes at our meeting in May, along with the minutes from this meeting.

Approval of Constitution

Heather had previously sent out the amended Constitution to all members of the council and asked for their input. A council member re-worked the Mission Statement to read: Clearmeadow School Council takes pride in uniting parents, school and community to enrich the learning environment of our students, and promote positive student learning. A motion to approve the constitution with the amended Mission Statement was put forward. All council members were in favour. Motion passed.

Administrative Update

- Lynda distributed the latest news via a handout. (see attached).
- Subjects discussed were the upcoming honour roll reception (April 2), the kindergarten screening (April 21, 22, 24), staff changes, Arts night (April 28, 29, 30), the Kinark Autism presentations (April 14-17), and the Snuggle up and Read evening (April 2).
- Discussions were had regarding the purchase of more risers to accommodate all our performers; a possibility of serving tea/coffee/beverages for parents on the first day of school; suggestions for some changes on the meet the teacher/curriculum night; and the muddy playground.
- Concern was raised over the junk food that is being sold at the "Snack Shack" by the student council. It seems the younger students are buying the most. Student council has looked into the preservative issues of the food, but not the nutritional issues. Lynda and George will follow up and try to find a solution.

Chair Update

Heather has been working on the 2008/2009 yearbook. She is using the same company as last year ("Y is for Yearbook") but hasn't ordered as many this year as last year due to the economy. Already there are 81 yearbooks sold and all the ad spaces are taken. Cost of the yearbook is \$19 (a \$1 increase from last year). There were 66 entries for the yearbook cover which made it difficult to choose the winners. First place went to a student in Miss Galea's class, runners up were from Mrs. Zander's class and Mrs. Hillier's class. All win a yearbook.

Spirit wear has been popular. Term 2 sales were \$621 making a total profit from Term 1 and Term 2 \$655. We have one more sales period still.

The questionnaires from the newsletter have been coming back. Most suggestions have been to organize some kind of talent show or musical for the end of the year, initiate a walk to school program, and to offer after school help. It also appears that Clearmeadow parents prefer hardcopy as the means to communication.

Suggestions for the letter to parents regarding next year's council election were made and it will be sent out shortly to the community.

The cost of the upcoming Snuggle and Read night needs to be covered (approximately \$50). It was suggested that the money come from the healthy food program. A motion was passed to have Lynn take the funds from the program. All were in favour. Motion granted.

Fun Fair Task Allocation

Michelle passed around a duty sheet to the council for volunteering in various areas at the upcoming Fun Fair. We are just 9 weeks from the date! Sponsors are needed and we need more help this year from parents, high school students looking for community hours, and Clearmeadow students. A meeting will be held April 23 to discuss various ideas and options for the Fun Fair. Michelle encourages everyone to attend.

Treasurer's Report

Monica distributed the Bank Reconciliation and the March Treasurer's Report. We are earning less interest this year from the bank. Fun Fair donations are starting to come in. The magazine drive made more than our target. The fruit for breakfast buckets are using up the money from our grant. We were able to give the school money for budgeted items and we still have a healthy balance in our savings account.

Council discussed the milk program and the lunch programs. Concerns were raised as to whether payments from each program were being received in a timely fashion. All efforts are being made to make sure no payments are in arrears.

New Business

A Clearmeadow parent asked about the lockers and how often they are cleaned. Apparently there is a large amount of rust that forms in the lockers and when it gets on the childrens' clothing, it is nearly impossible to remove. Lynda informed council that there is a special process to re-painting the lockers and that they are washed every year (in the summer). A parent asked if we could get a spray to seal the lockers in some way. Lynda will look into the options but all would have to be Board approved.

Issues regarding school safety on the playground were raised. A question was asked: is there First Aid training for the volunteers? Only 3 people are trained in the entire school. It was suggested that we try to arrange some St. John's courses to be held at the school.

Lynn mentioned there was a business owner parent in the community who wishes to bring fresh produce to the school on certain Saturdays in the next few months. Produce would be sold in the kindergarten area and could be a fundraising opportunity for the breakfast bucket program.

We would need staff to help out, we may need the school to be open, and there could be caretaking matters therefore it would all have to be approved by the Board. A parent suggested that a bake sale could also be held at the same time with the funds to go to the grade 8 graduation evening. Everything would have to be marked clearly as to what ingredients were used and nut products would not be welcome. Another question was raised as to whether or not a garage sale in the school parking lot would be feasible. A discussion ensued regarding all ideas.

Heather thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Thank you for coming!