

School Council Meeting Minutes

May 22, 2024

Attendees: Ria McNicholls-Ramrattan (Principal), Stefan Strecker (VP), Ashley Buligan (Teacher), Amy Telford, Andrea Hitchcock, Hillay Nabi-Shaikh, Sophie Weifang Yin, Fatema Bhabrawala, Nermeen Malik, Krishna Patel, Louise Young, Mosunmola Oshinboyeyo, Olugbewga Oshinboyeyo, Makarim S

Welcome:

- Thank you to Amy Telford for all her years of service! Amy's last year on council. Will be missed!
- Approval of last month's meeting minutes – approved unanimous.
- Land acknowledgement: Stefan shared story of student practicing authentic stewardship and taking care of the land in practice.

Principal/VP Report: Ria McNicholls-Ramrattan and Stefan Strecker

Welcome to Kindergarten:

- Welcome to kindergarten, parents met staff, asked questions, received a package, got to go into a kinder classroom and see what that would look like.
- Andrea and Fatema were there: very positive, 3 people might join school council

EQAO:

- EQAO happening over next 2 weeks. Pre-assessments for Grades 3 and 6 this week.
- iPads have been great for the Grade 6's. Thank you to school council.
- June 3 is Grade 6's EQAO. Grade 3's before break for the open, a few catch up days.
- Results will be available in the fall. Can discuss results in council meeting and results as always will be available on EQAO website.

Excursions:

- Excursions – great teachers at this school who love doing this for kids.
- Grade 8 high ropes in the midst of getting it approved. Also did baseball and movie theatre with 7s but high ropes Brock only for 8s hopefully June 3.
- Grade 7 movies
- Grade 1 funzilla
- Lots of work teachers put in for these excursions- thank you!

Basketnets:

- Basketnets originally weren't secured so kids took them off, called company to get them securely fastened, big hit on the playground for all students, and soccer posts big hit too.

MathUp Licenses:

- Today we did some MathUp training. The licenses stay with the school, lots of teachers got the training today and they liked it, gives teachers resources on how to build a math program. School Council contributed \$3160 towards licenses, school paid remainder.

Laptops:

- Laptops: for next year hoping school and school council can buy some for Grade 7&8, because as they transition to highschool good for them to be familiar.

Meeting dates for next year:

- Moving meeting to Tuesdays – we have to set date for September

Fall Fundraisers:

- Fundraisers for fall need to be discussed.

Open House:

- Open House and Spring Fling have been a big hit – September Open House will be September 19
 - o Weve been sitting around 700, late August rush where more kids come
 - o Ashley provided feedback: this year meet the teacher was too close to interviews
 - o This year we didn't have to reorg hoping same for next year

Ball Strike Pilot:

- The school is included in the 'Ball Strike Pilot'. This pilot is aimed at reducing instances of head injuries/concussions based on where they are standing for supervision. Red lines will be painted around the four squares, basketball nets during the summer so staff that is supervising and students who are not playing, know not be in that area.

Starting a Nutrition Program at Tiffany Hills:

- Advocating for applying to Tastebuds Grant – 3 weeks ago Ria went to Bennett's to buy apples. In 1.5 weeks, 60 apples were gone, bought another half bushel, and gone in less than a week and this week 120 apples gone. Feeling the need for nutrition program. Hoping school council will be interested in applying for the grant.
 - o Andrea question: paperwork?
 - o Reasa Diab is the Program Coordinator for the Nutrition Program at Ancaster Meadow and has offered to help us get started.
 - o Ashley: There are a few programs, Power full kids and Tastebuds, presidents' choice has a program too
 - o Ashley: Mr.Butterworth knows his class is interested to help.
 - o Its just a snack, delivered to the classroom. Someone has to load it up daily.
 - o The adult does the ordering, the students use the lists to pack the bins and unpack. Apples, muffins, cheese strings, crackers, yogourt, etc
 - o Purchase food, separate it up, somebody weekly ordering online.
 - o The parent would be the Program Coordinator – does all the ordering and reporting and managing of the food and items.
 - o School council can help: Hillay volunteered to lead program and will look at applying. Ria will connect Hillay with Reasa to shadow program at Ancaster Meadow and bring back

info to this group. Krishna, Louise, Nermeen, offered to help once we know more about how it works and what's needed.

- Hillay to coordinate with Ashley to run this with the older student's help.

Teacher's Report: Ashley Buligan

- Grade 4,5,6 are going to Canadian open next week – Ashley applied for grant and we got it. So no cost for students.
 - What should we do about pizza? We will put it in the office with Eliana. Class list on top of each stack. We need to tell parents that kids will need to bring their lunches.
 - Grade 8 trip conditional June 3, due to high risk so much paperwork and approval.
 - Funzilla Grade 1s
 - Rest of 1-3, 5-8, Movies: Inside Out 2. June 17/18
 - Grade 4 Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts June 18
 - Commencement is June 20 at Ancaster High then Splitsville
 - Erica Zucker junior French teacher – she's running a special experience for Grade 4 and 5, come in and cook genuine French meal with the kids, \$13/student, \$1900 total. Can accommodate restrictions for food. Looking for any amount so she can reduce the cost per student.
 - DPA equipment to replenish, request for school council funding – balls etc
 - Let's see how much money we have and then determine allocation
 - Principal: OMAC has been running a Martial Arts Character Development Program since May 7th for Grades 3,4,5,6 has been happening in gym twice a week during nutrition break
 - Principal Ria is working on having Big Brothers and Sisters' program in the building for September
 - June 3 Access Athletics event for kids with special needs.
 - Gardening in front of school - trying to plan Ontario native plants, needs weeding. Sophie says she can do the weeding so Andrea will get her in touch with Ms Kelly who will explain what are flowers and what are weeds. 'Flower garden tending party.' Fatema and Sophie volunteered. Just some weeding to get us through the summer and then students can pick it up in September, so we don't lose all the flowers.

Treasures Report: Sophie Weifang Yin

- \$1615.69 School Council profit from Spring Fling
- Combined effort \$7K profit
- Cash from ice cream and cotton candy
- Removing pizza money, spectrum math supplies, the Mathup licenses, PhysEd \$1500, robotics, library funds from coffee fundraiser, and \$1000 to grad we are left with \$9465.27 to allocate tonight.
- Basketnets we paid from last year's money. But installation we're not sure who's paying for that. It is \$1600 for installation.
- Should leave \$400 in the account as a buffer (needs to be allocated but can stay in the account).

Chair's Report: Andrea Hitchcock and Amy Telford

- Welcome to Kindergarten went really well. Fatema and Andrea attended.

Spring Fling:

- What worked, what can we improve on?
- Loved all the blow-up games. Feedback: They wished that they weren't blocking the gym doors
- Staff wetting game was loved, but needed more room, so last minute plugged them into the portables so things were more squished than intended. Really successful though.
- Melissa mentioned, we should have sold pizza at the event, people liked pre-ordering it. But we need to sell pizzas also or have a food truck. Louise started looking into food trucks in January, but food trucks weren't interested.
- 2 ice cream trucks were a hit, lines not that long, not as big of a profit as last year because weather was cold.
- Tickets people liked picking up tickets at the tables. Need a runner student – if you are picking up line up here, if purchasing line up here.
- Spirit wear wasn't there, could we do something at the open house with size samples for parents to be able to see just to look at? We did do that 2 years ago, will do for next year.
- Closing down photobooth was great and faster than last year.
- Next year do a QR code where students create videos of how hampers raffle and tickets work.
- Only made \$40 at photobooth after paying for it. Next year we should consider upping the cost.
- Cotton candy put with food next year.
- Pizza went really well all picked up
- Cake walk need a speaker for the music. Also need kids to volunteer that will actually be engaged in the event and talking to participants (this year they just talked to each other). But the kids loved the cake walk.
- Which booths and events are outside vs inside next year?
- Teacher feedback from kids: loved cotton candy, Art auction wasn't visible enough, more speakers, louder speakers, VIP parking lot experience suggestion. Lawn games were a huge hit, but the person running them needs to be tighter on time. This year gave too long to each group (45 mins).

Spending money:

- o French cooking experience -\$1000
- o DPA bins \$1000
- o Kinder outdoor \$1500 (\$3K school pays for half)
- o Installation for basketnets \$1600
- o \$800-900 per laptop, if school can buy 8 and school council buys 8. But this is a September purchase – School Council will buy 4 right now \$3600.
- o This leaves \$750 in the account – whatever is left over should go to books/novels for classrooms.

New FB Admin

- o Nermeen/Louise will help Andrea with FB

Communication for School Council Members:

- WhatsApp group for School Council – Andrea will create
- Fatema started sending us pizza day reminders through Google invite, she will do this for School Council meetings as well.

- Next year's meetings will be Tuesdays at 6:30pm
- Meet the Teacher/Open House will take place September 19 – School Council will run an activity – Connect 4 - for kids, while we talk to parents. Will have cookies, flyers. Shifts for School Council members to rotate at the table. September 19th 5:30pm-7pm. Won't be doing the food drive and book drive this year for Open House.
- Paperwork to sign up for School Council goes out first week of school.
- Fall fundraisers: mums and poinsettias, Spirit wear, cards or Laura Secord

Next Meeting: September 17: 6:30pm