

Mary Honeywell Elementary School Parent Council Meeting

January 10th, 2018

PARTICIPANTS

Sarah Steeves	Robert Crampton
Julia MacEwen	Pete Veurtjes
Denise St. Jules	Chandonette Johnson-Arovalo
Barb Simeone	Liz Popovich-Graham
Wendy Firth	Mark Diamond
Harprit Boiteaux	Carole Laporte
Angelina Nikkel	Delin Hayton
Sarah Misseri	

MINUTES

1. Welcome - Approval of Agenda - Approval of Minutes - Robert

- Additions to Agenda: Teacher Appreciation Potluck, Mathletes
- Motion to approve Minutes from November 8th Meeting – **APPROVED**

2. Finance Update - Wendy

- There is approx. \$24,158 cash in account now. Wendy will settle up January Pizza soon, then we will know income for first term.
- \$1500 was contributed to Pinecrest for new Jerseys – The school was grateful.
- Best of Season – went well, income from event was \$191.81. New Christmas trees were purchased for next year (from this year's BOS budget, as funds were still remaining).
 - BOS canteen income was negative \$23, as the Pizza was not all purchased (lesson learned-BOS event format not a good fit for Pizza, will try at a different event in future).
 - BOS gift basket auction made \$1692 (last year the gift basket raffle made \$2219)
 - The reason for doing a silent auction vs. raffle this year is that in order to do a raffle, you need to apply for a license (unless the tickets are less than \$1, then it is at the principle's discretion)
 - The most expensive gift basket went for \$110, and the least expensive for \$20
 - Gift shop financials is showing on our statement under BOS; however, the expenses have been paid to the holiday shop, and the profit is going to the school for the Grade 6 Field Trip.
- Movie night, canteen made \$37 (plus popcorn income). Movie night made \$75 (38 families attended)
- \$35 on clothes spent at the office

3. EQAO Presentation and Questions – Barb Simeone

- Barb Simeone provided a presentation on EQAO
- Barb noted that for children that don't write EQAO, while they receive an exemption, they still are assigned a score of 0 – which counts towards the school's overall score (though online, you can see scores with and without those students).
- There will be some changes this year around non-educational materials that can stay up in the classroom. For example, anchor charts/sentence examples can now stay up in classroom.

Commented [SMS1]: Can we include the Presentation and Data Handout along with circulating the minutes?

- There was discussion around factors that impact our consistently low scores, and our decrease in scores in 2017-18, such as:
 - Special Needs
 - Anxiety
 - Emotional/Mental Well Being
 - Nutrition
 - English as Second Language
 - Parent/Family Views
 - Teacher Support
 - Teacher/School Happiness
- Moving forward:
 - School is focusing on automatacity, and supporting kids to become more math fluent;
 - There is a free Math Professional Development available to all for teachers;
 - Teachers are now using MathUP online resources;
 - There is an upcoming Math Night for parents with kids;
 - Inclusion of weekly math activities in week in review email;
 - Linking to math in all subject areas; and
 - Supporting resilience for students working on math problems and transferable skills.
- There were varying opinions/discussions on homework – which will be discussed another time in more detail
- There was discussion around literacy skills whether or not the students can read and comprehend the questions being an important consideration – this will also be discussed another time in more detail.
- There was a question around the Ontario Focused Intervention Tutoring Program (OFIP), and the impact of that program on the students that participated and wrote EQAO last year. The school will do that data analysis.
 - Could parent council help in this regard with respect to providing additional funding for OFIP tutors (or private tutors).
- **ACTION ITEMS:**
 - Add Homework Discussion and Literacy Discussion to a future agenda
 - School Admin to follow-up with Council on how we can help

4. Winter Beach Party - Harprit

- Taking place on February 22nd
- There are lots of decorations and supplies on hand that will be recycled/reused
- Coordinators will need volunteers for the night of the event (email to be circulated)
- There will be canteen, and we will try selling Pizza again

5. Fundraising – Sarah M / Julia

- Boston Pizza Fundraiser
 - Next Fundraising Event will be taking place on Wednesday February 13th at BP
 - Kathy Bryden is the teacher contact, and she will round up volunteers next week
 - Council discussion was around keeping the event simple. Opted out of a raffle, perhaps having a 'tip the teacher' spare change container or something like that.
 - Communications to follow asap.
 - Council **APPROVED** moving forward with planning this event (no budget allocated).
- Book Fair
 - Following fundraising event discussed was a book fair

- Premise is that families donate books from home, books are received at school, sorted, and then students/parents can come in and buy the books for a reasonable price over the course of a day/evening or two.
- Sarah M and Julia M will organize the event, pick a date that the school is available (in April) and follow-up with more info online.
- Council **APPROVED** moving forward with planning this event (no budget allocated).
- Julia asked that people start saving books to donate.
- Fundraising Letter Report
 - \$2700 raised this year vs \$5000 last year
 - Lessons Learned – timing was not great this year with multiple conflicting ‘asks’ – holiday shop, BOS, Gift baskets, holiday season.
 - Next year: letter is ready to go (with a few minor edits), consider doing it more toward the beginning of the year.

6. Best of Season wrap up and discussion - Wendy

- Update already provided earlier in meeting (see above)
- Advised to start thinking about doing holiday shop again next year (and booking early)

7. Yard Sale - Wendy

- **ACTION ITEM:** Someone (co-chair) to reach out to the volunteers for the yard sale to start coordinating the event.

8. Event for May 31st - Wendy

- Wendy brought forward the idea of having a council planned event for the Grade 6s (separate from the leaving ceremony planned by the school)
- Proposal was a Grade 6 Leaving Dance to take place on Thursday June 6th
- Proposed budget of \$1500, to include: DJ/Dance, Photo Booth, Piece of Pizza/Drink
- Event would be chaperoned by a group of parents
- There was discussion around supporting an event that only targets a select number of students (there are approx. 70-80 Grade 6 students), but council was generally in favour of the event. There was discussion of charging an entrance fee, but this was not supported.
- Council **APPROVED** this event with a \$1500 budget for June 6th, 2019

9. OCASC Report - Martin

- Martin absent, report deferred

10. Principal's Update - Pete

- Pete provided updates on staffing and the School Learning Plan.
- Kindergarten Registration starts in less than 2 weeks, information night is on January 24th
- Report Cards go home on February 14th
- Admin is exploring turning part of the library into a maker space, Pete and Denise will be visiting other schools that have done this. A maker space is when you bring in different building materials and have children work on building things (could be via challenges, pairing up kids from different grades together). This is something that is gaining traction in many schools and boards. There is a cost associated with this. Pete and Denise are planning another Book Fair in the spring, the proceeds from which could be used to support this.
- Overall, Admin has been trying to modernize the school, have started with the entrance, some of the pictures, want to modernize the library with this maker space idea.
- **Mathletes**
 - Dates for Mathletes for next school year fill up quickly

- Not urgent, but admin inquired if we were planning to support Mathletes again next year, and if so, if we could confirm soon so it could be booked for next year.
- Motion: Up to \$3000 allocated for mathletes next year. **MOTION APPROVED.**
- Best of Season
 - Heads up. Teachers have varying opinions on format and whether or not it will continue in the same format as previous years. Admin will be starting a committee to review and discuss, and for the teachers to come to a consensus on what they want to do to mark the holiday season.
 - Feedback from BOS coordinator this year: we tried to make the event last 30 minutes past performance times; however, families just went home following performance times.
- Robert will follow-up on the school wish list, which will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Wendy to set up a finance committee meeting

11. OTHER

- Staff Appreciation Lunch – Sarah S
 - Taking place on Friday January 25th, same format as last year (parent potluck).
 - Communications have/are going out via: Facebook, Council distribution list and week in review email.
 - Small budget requested for supplies (tablecloths, plates, napkins, utensils, ice, items that we may run short on via potluck)
 - MOTION put forward to approved the event with \$100 budget. **MOTION APPROVED.**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:48PM