

Mutchmor School Council

Wednesday March 2, 2016

Record of Meeting

(This is the February meeting that was postponed due to weather)

Participants: Mike Todd (Co-Chair); Anna Wilkinson (Co-Chair); Mike Zureik (Treasurer); Chari Marple (Secretary); Adrienne Annan (OCASC); Kylie Taggart (Book Sale and Outreach Subcommittee); Kiersten Love (Fun Fair); Jeremy Thompson (Community Representative); Roselle Adler; Dana Reid.

Staff: Isabelle Flannigan (Principal); Christopher Wereley (Vice-Principal); Joanna Courtney (Teacher representative) Vanessa deHoog (Teacher representative).

Minutes from the January meeting and the agenda for the February meeting were approved.

CoChair Update

Play structure

Options around funding a play structure were discussed. Council will discuss and vote on this next meeting. Adrienne asked a Board representative about setting aside funds for projects like this and the response was that it is acceptable to do so.

Next year council members

It will be Mike and Anna's last year as Co-Chairs for School Council. They are happy to talk with those who may be interested the positions. Mike elaborated on how worthwhile the experience has been for them.

Budget

The Board was transparent and forthcoming with budget details. The Board used to have a significant surplus. The surplus no longer exists. There is now between seven and ten million dollars deficit. The Board is now trying to find efficiencies without impacting staffing.

Principals Report

Fun Fair

Our insurance covers basic events.

We are still seeking clarity on whether we are allowed to have the wine toss at the Fun Fair.

We should ask the bouncy castle for the TSS approved certificate insured for two million dollars.

Changes to Emersion

Next school year Jk and Sk will be 50/50 French and English. Math will be taught in English in Grade 1 (vs the current 100% of teaching in grade 1). Grades 2 and 3 will go from 80 to 60% of time in French with both English and math taught in English. The Principal is currently considering teacher assignments for the coming year. There will be additional resources to equip classes with English and math materials. There will also be training provided.

School Learning Plan (aka School Improvement Plan)

The focus for our plan will be mathematics. There will also be a focus on growth mindset which uses language focusing on potential vs innate talent. The Board wants us to choose one element of the plan and report on this. This week and over the next few, the school is providing a math problem to a number of classes to set a benchmark and identify kids who are having issues.

Traffic

The bus loading zone on 4th will be removed and there will be 10 minute parking. In terms of having zebra stripes - there are concerns with doing this as it is not an intersection. We have asked for a crossing guard but they are not going to provide one mid-day mid-block.

Boiler

Since the New Year the boilers have shut down on four occasions. The valve cannot provide enough fuel to the boilers on very cold days. One day the gym was closed down, the Blues in the School program was cancelled, and kids were kept in at recess.

Cross Boarder Transfers

Transfers are down from 111 to 63. Parents must make the case that there are significant personal or learning circumstances warranting transfers.

Webpages

There will be a different and common look and feel for all OCDSB school webpages.

Dance-a-thon

The event raised \$13,000. For the classes that won for fund-raising, kids get to pick an activity from GNAG. The winning individual fund-raisers will be the acting Principal and Vice-Principal for the day.

School Report

Sports

Girls won silver in volleyball today. The boys play tomorrow. Basketball and running club will start up after the March break. Different running routes are being considered. Parent volunteers will be needed.

Clubs

Philanthropy Club is hosting a movie night on Friday.

Last week we had pink t-shirt anti-bullying day.

We raised \$518. on Twoonie Tuesday.

Other clubs continue.

Treasurers Report

Mike was away today. If anyone is interested in being Treasurer next year Mike would be happy to mentor someone for 2017-18. Contact Treasurer Mike Zureik for more details on the budget.

2015 Committees

Booksale

The Executive Committee for the sale met. Adrienne has agreed to be the volunteer coordinator. Notices will be going out soon. We are also looking for volunteers for the Steering Committee. Kylie has a draft e-mail to be sent out to parents.

The Treasurer will be working on a policy for handing money at fund-raising events. Last year the grade 6s went into classrooms and helped younger students with filling out cake raffle forms and collecting money.

FunFair

The FunFair will be held on the school field. We are looking for School Board Policy on water slides. Need to consider that kids will be crossing the street to use bathrooms. Can we close off 4th Ave? We need to consider room for lineups for food trucks. FunFair date is Thursday June 16th. Looking for activities for older as well as younger kids.

Outreach

The Outreach Committee budget has been approved. A budget was prepared for the Committee. We would like to continue to donate to the schools we traditionally give money to.

Vanessa has communicated with a northern school and determined dates each month to send a letter to classes. We will write in French and provide a translation encouraging them to write in their own language. The end goal is to have a Skype communication at the end of the year. We are still considering providing money in support of the hockey program discussed last month.

Pond Inlet no longer needs a printer as the teacher purchased it from her own money. She would like to purchase an iPad for teaching in the class.

Philanthropy Club asked for a loan for the Movie night. They would like to pay it back. The School Council will match what is made.

We could donate money to Glashan Jr High School.

Money earmarked for the Education Foundation.

OCASC

An idea raised was that awards could be given to grade six students by making a donation in their name.

Budget

The presentation made at the meeting is on the OCASC site. There is currently a 7 million deficit. 2.3 million will be recuperated from French immersion changes. Another idea is that international students could pay fees.

Finance Guide

The School Council Finance Guide was prepared in 2014. We should not have funds left over in the budget unless it is earmarked for specific purposes.

Next Meeting: School Council Meetings take place every fourth Wednesday of every month. The next meeting will be held **Thursday March 31th**.