

Mutchmor School Council
Thursday, September 24, 2015

Record of Meeting

Participants: Mike Todd(Co-Chair); Anna Wilkinson (Co-Chair); Mike Zureik (Treasurer); Chari Marple (Secretary); Kylie Taggart (Book Sale and Outreach Subcommittee); Dana Reid (Community Representative); Roselle Adler; Zoe Langevin; Nicole Giles; Melodie Gream; Dan Pham; Liisa Heikkila; Kate Swan; Heather Watson; Elizabeth Izaguirre; Sam Harris; Adrienne Annan; Kathy Cowan; Vanessa Gruben.

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

Co-Chair Update

Welcomes and Introductions were made.

Elections

Elections were undertaken for Co-Chair; Treasurer; Secretary; OCASC Representative and Community Representative. Most members from last year were carried forward as there were no new nominations. The exceptions were the positions of OCASC member and community representative which are currently vacant. The composition of the executive will be as follows:

- Co-Chairs: Mike Todd and Anna Wilkinson
- Treasurer: Mike Zureik
- Secretary: Chari Marple
- OCASC Representative: Adrienne Annan and Heather Watson will co-lead
- Community Representative: Vacant. A solicitation e-mail message will be composed and sent to daycares.

Principals Report

Principal Isabelle Flannigan remarked that the transition into the new location has gone smoothly. There are currently 537 students and 43 staff members. There were quite a number of later unanticipated registrations. We were allowed to break the 20 student limit cap in the younger grades to accommodate the new students to include four classes of 23 children. The Junior Kindergarten classes are at 29 and 30 students with an early childhood educator to assist. School Council would like to raise concerns about the fact that there is no cap for class size for senior and junior kindergarten. For JK and SK there is no cap. For grades one to three there is a 20 child lap. There is no cap for grades four to six. There are caps for high school children.

The kids are enjoying the larger playground space. Crossing the road for the older children is not problematic. We are down from four to one school bus.

Next steps include opening the library next week with one more shelf to be ordered. There is now a resource room for teachers to store teaching publications and materials.

School Report

Sports

Cross Country is underway. Mondays and Fridays will be for the older kids in grades five and six and Tuesdays and Thursdays are for the grades three and four students. As well as running, there are circuits added to. Oct 15th is the cross country meet. Parents are encouraged to volunteer for this event.

Soccer will start up. There will be a soccer meet. Dates to be determined. Teacher Grant McMann is leading this sport.

It was suggested that parents be informed of upcoming sports tryouts and events. It could be included in the e-mail to parents. There could also be a calendar of events created.

Other school activities

Choir will be likely take place Tuesday mornings.

Squirmies is a craft activity with clay and will take place at lunchtime for an additional fee. More details to come.

Philanthropy Club will also commence. Teachers Tracy Smith and Martin Paris will lead on this.

A school song (hopefully bilingual) will be composed by kids with the assistance of a teacher.

We are now looking at a new mascot. There could be an election.

The grade six students will lead the anti-bullying program at the school. WITS (walk away/ignore/tell talk it out/seek help) leaders will help with conflict resolution or helping kids who are on their own connect with others. There will be a buddy bench where kids can sit to indicate that they are alone and looking for someone to play with.

The t-shirts were distributed. As there were more children than we anticipated, extra t-shirts will be ordered.

Labour Relations

Regarding the teacher labour relations, bargaining includes class cap sizes and additional teacher supports as the biggest issues. Teachers want class caps to facilitate better learning. There is a media blackout on negotiations. Teachers are currently in a work to rule situation. This includes:

- Winn Wednesdays when there are no extra-curricular activities.
- School newsletters and other information are not being distributed by teachers.
- Teachers will not collect money and there will be no fund-raising (for example the Terry Fox Run has been cancelled).
- There are no school field trips currently planned.
- Teachers will not fill in for other teachers.

Teachers are still available to meet with parents during school hours. If parents would like to express their views on the labour relations they can write to our provincial MPP. Parents have requested that if there are any further actions, that they be informed in advance so they can plan childcare in the case of school closures.

Other Issues

There were concerns about water quality. Water is flushed every morning due to old infrastructure. It was confirmed that the water is safe to drink. Air quality has been also been checked (most recently September 4th) and it is good.

Treasurer's Report

A draft budget was distributed. Treasurer Mike Zureik reminded School Council and parents of some of the accountability procedures in place for managing school funds:

- Receipts are required for all reimbursements.
- There must be two signatures on all cheques. The treasurer is not one of the signatories.
- At the first council meeting the draft budget is presented and at the second the budget is voted on.
- For the school budget the school year spans August 31, 2015 to July 31 2016.
- The school is only allowed to have one bank account.
- An annual report must be submitted to the Board every September.

The school will be changing from Scotia Bank to a Credit Union. Some of the benefits include that: the credit union will not have banking fees; and will make a pick-up in the event of fundraising events such as the book sale.

A list of items for desired future expenditures within the school should be made. If there is school playground equipment to be replaced we will want to hold back some funds. Co-Chair Anna will look into the dates that various playground equipment should be replaced. We may wish to put funds towards improving the older part of the school e.g., painting.

Two lice checks will be done this school year: one in the fall and one in the winter. Based on the results, there could be a third check if it is needed. The cost for lice checks has gone up this year. School Council has set aside funds for these. This will be added as a separate and ongoing line item in the budget.

The Education Fund will receive a donation from the school. The Fund provides money to schools across the Board for children in need (for example provision of warm winter clothing.) The Outreach Committee allocates funds to Cambridge, Glashan and Hawthorn Schools. The Outreach Committee

funds local education related donations. The Philanthropy Club funds international and other projects. For the Philanthropy Club students fundraise and choose the charity they want to contribute to.

A parent would like to request funding for more readers for junior elementary students. School Council can contribute to books including English ones.

Contact Treasurer Mike Zureik for more details on the budget.

2015-16 Committees

a. Book Sale

The booksale will be held Thursday April 21st to Sunday April 24. As this is a new location we will have changes to make. Once we plan how things will be set up, we can determine what shelving and tables will be required. Planning begins in earnest in March.

b. FunFair

There is a new FunFair coordinator this year. We will consider whether or not to have the funfair offsite. There are many restrictions/constrictions in place when the event takes place at the school (e.g, We cannot have a dunk tank).

c. Outreach Committee

See Treasure's report for Outreach Committee information.

Other

There is a new Mutchmor School Council e-mail account.

Our Facebook page has been moved. About 75 people follow the facebook page. Mike Zureik is in charge of this. If there is any interest in adding information please contact Mike. This is intended to augment with secondary information with the Mutchmor website where you will find most key information.

The school's new e-mail address: Mutchmorschoolcouncil @gmail.com

Next Meeting

School Council Meetings will take place every fourth Wednesday of every month. The next meeting will be held Wednesday October 28th.