

## **Mutchmor Public School Council**

Meeting Wednesday, October 23, 2019

Present: Sheri Segal-Glick (Co-Chair), Sandra Walker (Principal), Marie-Pierre Roure (Vice-Principal), Kate Binnie (Treasurer), Sarah Dingle (Secretary), Kevin Smith (Engagement Coordinator), Kiersten Love (Outreach and Playground), Melanie Love (Playground), Alexandria Sjöman (OCASC), Liane Wray, Irene Pijuan Aragon, Zofia Olszowka

Regrets: Rob Gottschalk (Community Rep), Elizabeth Nicholds (Co-Chair and Pizza co-ordinator)

### **Approval of minutes from June and September meetings**

-Minutes of June and September meetings approved.

### **Approval of agenda**

-Agenda approved.

### **Co-Chair update**

#### **Council nominations**

-Kate Binnie endorsed as Treasurer; Sarah Dingle endorsed as Secretary.

-A second Ottawa-Carleton Association of School Councils (OCASC) rep is needed to work with Alex Sjöman. A call will be put out via next school newsletter.

#### **Parent involvement**

-Melanie Love responded to the call for a volunteer to look after the lost and found. Thank you Melanie!

-School Council will set up a table at parent-teacher interviews (November 14-15) to promote the council and recruit volunteers. There will be snacks. Each committee will have a sign-up sheet with a short description of the work. Kiersten will make signs. Sheri will send around a sign-up sheet for volunteers to look after the table. Book Sale will also have a dedicated table.

#### **Mazzola**

-Mazzola has reduced their schedule to two days/week because they weren't getting enough orders. Mazzola is available Wednesday and Friday going forward.

#### **Donation to Fielding PS**

-There was discussion at the OCASC meeting this month about how many school councils struggle to raise money to support their schools. Fielding Public School needed \$1,000 for their robotics club but were unable to raise the funds. A proposal came up at OCASC for four school councils (Mutchmor, Elmdale, Broadview and Rockliffe Park) to combine forces to support this activity. This would mean a contribution of \$250 from the Mutchmor School Council. This motion was approved.

### **Hockey rink @ Mutchmor Field**

- The School Board has agreed to allow the City to run a boarded community hockey rink on the field in Mutchmor's Junior Yard. The Glebe Neighbourhood Activities Group (GNAG) will operate the rink.
- There was discussion of the impact this will have on the students and staff at Mutchmor. Some of the negatives include significantly reduced play space in the yard and challenges supervising and ensuring safety.
- Several mitigating factors are in place. The rink will be smaller and be in a different location compared to when the rink was there previously, prior to the renovations and school switch with First Avenue in 2015. There will be snow fences set up.
- The rink will be in place from November 15 to sometime in March. The school will have access to the rink during school hours, and it can be used for the traditional winter skating field trips. GNAG may be able to offer the school some support for supervision.

### **Basketballs and hockey nets**

Last year school council agreed to pay for some basketballs and hockey nets for the school. The basketballs have been ordered by Rob Gottschalk, Community Rep, and they will be arriving soon. The hockey nets will also be ordered. Sandra will ask at the next staff meeting what kind of hockey nets we need.

### **Principal's report**

(Sandra Walker)

During the PD Day on October 11, Mutchmor staff participated in a training session from an organization called Commit to Kids, about recognizing and being aware of child sex abuse. All School Board staff received this training. The second half of the day was focused on student achievement and the conditions of learning. Three areas of focus were math, kindergarten and French language. The curriculum is provided by the Board.

Progress Reports go home on November 7<sup>th</sup>. The progress report is a snapshot, giving parents an idea of how their kids are settling in. The focus is more on the child's progress as a learner than on the content.

The Board is undertaking a survey to gather information from students and parents to identify systemic barriers and bias within the school system. It will be optional and confidential (but not anonymous). Messaging will be coming out soon.

### **School report**

(Marie-Pierre Roure)

-The cross country meet on October 22 went really well. Thank you to the parents for volunteering at practices and at the meet, which makes this activity possible. Special thank you to parent Sjaan Gerth, who served as the pace bunny. Over 150 kids from Mutchmor participated. Mutchmor placed first overall! School council contributed a tent as it inevitably rains.

-The We Scare Hunger food drive for the Centretown Emergency Food Centre is going really well. Thank you for your support!

### **Treasurer**

(Kate Binnie)

Kate reported back on her research into whether school councils are permitted by the Board to invest their budget balance. The Board doesn't have a policy about investing. In theory, school councils should spend the money they raise in the year it is raised. Mutchmor is permitted to carry a balance because it is saving money to pay for the replacement of our current playground, which will be needed in the coming years. Sandra and Kate will continue to research this question and it will be discussed at the next meeting. Sandra proposed that School Council work to establish a budget for the play structure soon.

The Council discussed the proposed budget. Parents asked about the discretionary fund, which is allocated to teachers for the purchase of materials for their classes and to support cultural and other activities at the school. Sarah Dingle provided information about the Silver Birch reading program and the Council discussed the merits of the program, and whether to support it.

Voting on the proposed budget was deferred until the next meeting. However, the following items were approved in order to release payment:

- School allocation (\$22,000)

- Silver Birch reading program (approx. \$700)

- \$250 mentioned above to support the robotics team at Fielding Public School

### **Engagement Coordinator**

(Kevin Smith)

Sandra has given the School Council access to the school council page on the Mutchmor website. Kevin has started to look at updating the site.

Families are continuing to register with the MembershipToolkit system. Parents are being reminded via newsletter to sign up for it. This essentially creates a school directory.

### **Book sale**

(Sarah Dingle)

As mentioned above, the Book Sale steering committee will have a table at parent teacher interviews to recruit volunteers.

### **Outreach**

(Kiersten Love)

-No updates at this time. See above re: support to Fielding Public School.

### **Pizza**

-No updates at this time.

### **OCASC (Ottawa Carleton Association of School Councils)**

(Alexandria Sjöman)

-There was discussion about what sources of Board and Ontario Ministry of Education money for school councils would be forthcoming this year. The message is that the annual \$500 from the School Board is coming, but that there would be no PRO grant or parent engagement money.

-OCASC discussed topics for future meetings. These included: playgrounds, the treasurer function on school councils, and equity across school councils in terms of involvement and finances.

-The annual parent conference is coming up on Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. These sessions are very good. Childcare is provided, though these spots are limited. The afternoon is dedicated to school council training.

### **Funfair**

-No updates at this time.

### **Community rep**

-No report this meeting. See above re: ordering basketballs and hockey nets

### **Playground committee**

(Melanie Love)

- Going forward, we will consider ways to engage the students in the planning for the new playground.

### **Forward action items**

-School Council to put out a call for a second OCASC rep via the school newsletter.

-Sheri to send around a sign-up sheet for people to volunteer at the School Council table at Parent-teacher interviews. Kiersten to make signs.

-Sandra to ask at the next staff meeting what kind of hockey nets are needed so that these can be ordered.

Next meeting: **Wednesday, November 27, 2019.**