

DATE	Tuesday, December 19, 2017	START TIME	7:15 PM
MEETING #	4 (2017-2018 school year)	END TIME	8:53 PM
MEETING LOCATION	school library	# OF INDIVIDUALS PRESENT	10 (incl. principal)
NEXT MEETING	Tuesday, January 23, 2018	# VOTING	8 (quorum = 7)

NAME	ATTENDANCE	POSITION	RETURNING MEMBER	NEW MEMBER
PRINCE, Dane	PRESENT	Principal	n/a	
ASIMI, Adam	PRESENT	Treasurer	X	
CHAN, Elsa	PRESENT	Chair	X	
MAHALINGAM, Sancha	PRESENT	Secretary	X	
AKALJAN. Kirushanthy	PRESENT	Member	X	
KANAGARATNAM, Akaljan	ABSENT	Member	X	
HO, Rita	PRESENT	Member	X	
KADAKIA, Bina	PRESENT	Member	X	
KHERA, Manju	ABSENT	Member		X
KOMALAFE, Bola	ABSENT	Member	X	
KOMALAFE, Peter	PRESENT	Member	X	
MALIK, Faisal	ABSENT	Member		X
PATIL, Vishakha	ABSENT	Member	X	
SHAIKH, Anushka	PRESENT	Member		X
SHAIKH, Saquib	PRESENT	Member		X
THINAGARIPPILLAI, Nathan	ABSENT	Member	X	

WELCOME: CALL TO ORDER (7:15 PM)

- sign-in sheet circulated by Secretary
- meeting called to order by Chair
- **Principal will email Minutes from last meeting (November)**

TREASURER’S REPORT

- Cost Sharing
 - our last meeting, SCp voted to do some Cost Sharing because of the looming deadline
 - \$3,034.15 was given out to the school
- pizza
 - \$1,185.44 raised through extra pizza slices, etc.
 - wrong cheques – twice in a row that we’ve had cheques that were voided
 - Pizza Pizza has since been paid
 - some parents still use the envelope method to pay for pizza
 - approximately 40% of families are now using SCO
- balance: \$4,754.99
 - this carries over to next month/new year
- Treasurer’s Report approved

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE: UPCOMING DATES

- Winter Concert December 21
- Winter Break December 22 – January 7
students return January 8
- Health and Safety Visit January 10
YRDSB attends school, inspects entire building and safety of the building and provides a report of school's safety (i.e. cord use, etc)
- PA Day January 19
another PA Day in February
- Milne Trips throughout January
Grades 2, 4, 7; outdoor trip but it's science related (i.e. pond study if it was warmer) and supervised by teachers

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE: DONATIONS

- donation letter draft reviewed
 - things staff want: bussing and technology and we've discussed it in SC meetings, too
 - contents of letter
 - what funds are used for
 - technology: laptops and document cameras
 - support for school trips: assistance with the cost of school bussing
 - how we are supporting school via fundraising (3 main areas)
 - Pizza lunches (school council)
 - Milk program (school does this)
 - chip sales (from school student council)
 - will look @ selling yogurt once it's warmer
 - added
 - an easy way to make donations is via SCO (NB: last year donations of at least \$500 rec'd via SCO)
 - Chair can look at last year's letter, review current draft and merge both
 - one of the things Student Council does with funds they generate is they donate (i.e. hospitals, have made backpacks for a community up North called Kashechewan that was in dire need of school supplies – this was organized by Ms. St. Jean who organized supplies in backpacks)
 - letter to go out in February
 - **Principal to send Chair a draft of donation letter so it can be tweaked, etc.**
- donation from Rate Payer's Association
 - **once we have a funding plan, Chair will reach out to RPA**, as she has in the past
 - have rec'd \$500.00 in previous terms (cheque made out to Boxwood Public School)

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE: COST SHARING

- Cost Sharing – update technology
- at our last meeting, we agreed to put forward 3k to take advantage of the Fall round of the Cost Sharing program (laptops)
- Principal submitted the order (\$3,034.15) to get 9 Dell Latitude Notebooks (savings of \$4,551.23)
 - these are full laptops, not Google Chrome Books that we purchased last year (which are still being used)
 - full laptops will be used to replace older laptops
 - in the higher grades, our goal is to have a laptop per 2 students
- in the Spring round, we have \$2k we can spend
 - specifically, we can spend \$1,965.85 in the Spring round without any penalty

- **Principal is to let SCp know when Spring deadline is**
- NB: there are no desktops in the school for kids

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE: MR. LEVINE TRIBUTE

- we followed board policy (#270.0) in regards to the passing of Mr. Levine
- there will be an environmental tribute for Mr. Levine at an unspecified location
- teachers have commented that the students are fine
- the adults in the building have agreed to meet on their own to remember Mr. Levine
- NB: it has been determined that the Board will no longer support plaques listing a student or staff members name be posted by a memorial tree or on benches – it has been noticed that over time these memorials have accumulated at some of our schools and created discomfort for current students as well as difficulties for administrators and school councils in managing ongoing maintenance or renewal of multiple memorial items

LUNCH FUNDRAISING OPTIONS

- pizza for comparison is just under \$2 if you order ahead (or a toonie for those ordering on the day of)
- last time we talked about lunches via Paramount (a restaurant in the Sunny plaza)
 - Member Saquib Shaikh spoke with vendor
 - \$5.50 for regular wraps OR vendor can do a 5" wrap for \$4.25 for chicken or vegetarian, includes everything + halal option
 - **Member Shaikh will continue to negotiate re: price and to also ask what their policy is regarding snow days (if we let vendor know, can we reschedule? Principal knows by 6 AM re: snow days)**
 - \$4.25 includes HST
 - everything will be labelled and boxed separately
- Swiss Chalet
 - Chair asked about a lower price and they didn't respond
 - Treasurer tried as well and didn't get anywhere
- Boston Pizza update (via Chair)
 - originally Member Khera or teacher Tina Smith brought up BP
 - small foil containers (for higher grades, like 7s and 8s, this may be a supplement for their lunch or they can order 2)
 - there are 3 lunch options (they are halal)
 - penne butter parmesan pasta or marinara in a tomato sauce or Bolognese meat = \$3.75
 - small personal sized cheese or pepperoni = \$3.75
 - chicken fingers and vegetables (broccoli cauliflowers and onions) = \$4.50
 - costs \$3 to deliver
 - they will organize everything by class and deliver it if we give them class lists
 - **Chair to double check if this includes HST or not**
 - potentially a good option
 - easy for us to integrate says Chair, based on her experience with the pizza program
 - peanut and allergy safe for school
 - no minimum order needed
- perhaps we can do trial dates for BP and Paramount
 - **by middle of February one trial for BP and one trial Paramount**
- can't alternate - gets too confusing
- other options:

- having volunteer purchase and assemble food is also no tenable (too complicated, messy, etc.)
- option of having Lunch Lady provide lunch on a different day (in addition to the day LD is already here) – perhaps a streamlined menu with a lower price?
- however, we have two things on the table: BP and Paramount- we'll explore these two options first and put LD on hold
- maybe we can do both in two small terms or one or other – we'll see how it goes; once we get the results we'll figure out what that looks like for the rest of the year
- NB
 - we do not want to have these lunches on Thursday
 - Lunch lady is either Tuesday or Wednesday
 - on snow days vendor can't get food to us so Principal emails parents letting them know no lunch that day (and to send lunch with kids)

EQAO

- EQAO data: 2016-2017 results
 - Grade 3 (presently grade 4s) - reading and writing BELOW the province and Board; math ABOVE province and comparable to Board
 - reading: 63%
 - writing: 69%
 - math – 66%
 - Grade 6 (presently grade 7s) – exceeding the province and Board in reading and writing; exceeding province and comparable to the Board in math
 - reading: 94%
 - writing: 89%
 - mathematics: 61%
- if you go on eqao.com, can get data on the school (type in Boxwood)
- when interpreting the data, it is important to remember that given the small sample sizes, each individual students counts for a lot
 - we had 35 students write the assessment in grade 3, so each student carries more weight
- our reading was lower in recent years
 - 63% of our students met the standard (level 3 or 4) last year
 - this means 37% were within one and two (two is approaching standard but they're still not there)
- general trend in the province: lot of focus on math and problem solving
- reading
 - when we are talking about reading, we are not just referring to a student's ability to read out loud
 - reading includes whether students able to make inferences about what they read, are they able to make connections?
 - based on story students reads, they should be answer whether the title is good, for example – this takes higher order thinking (to first think of everything they read in the story, compare it to the title and say yes or no and say why)
 - the because – so they have to justify their answers
 - Grade 3 results in R and W were different than Grade 6 (who did much better)
- math is another area where there is a lot of problem solving
 - our students do very well on the rote question (i.e. an addition or multiplication question)

- however, when you ask them a question with problem solving, it requires a different skill; they have to interpret the problem, think of a process or efficient process
- exemptions, etc.
 - even our students with learning challenges count in the results
 - Principal pushes back on exempting students
 - students with autism don't write the assessment
 - every single student who does not write the test counts as a zero (to prevent schools from leaving out students because they think they may not do well)
 - different principals do different things; Principal pushes students to write it – i.e. a student is new to Canada and doesn't speak English might be exempt or just do the math portion
 - during this particular test, were there any kids who were absent?
 - if student misses test, Principal has a catch up day so that they don't miss writing the test
 - in the past, some students don't write it because their parents don't believe in EQAO
- **Principal will provide detailed report to SC (how many students were exempted, etc.)**
- what do the results mean for us?
 - assessment for learning - what are the issues?
 - we have individual scores for each student; Principal wants to look at the data and have dialogue with teachers on where to go from there
 - attach it to actions
 - not just a Grade 3 and 6 assessment, but it starts earlier even in K – so they're prepared for the assessment (or more importantly, the curriculum)
 - math is where we are focusing
 - what are the strategies? if our students are not doing well in the problem solving situations, is our teaching aligned to address that need?
- other
 - every child who writes gets a document which contains the score
 - score doesn't count for report card marks
 - we do not get a copy of student's test (only score)
 - you can go online and check out past assessments
 - not meant to be a high stakes assessments
 - helps address general trends in school and identify students who are struggling
- Member Komalafe mentioned this should be presented to all the parents to school not just council (Principal did a presentation on EQAO last year, though turnout was very low)
- when are assessments done?

Grade 3	reading, writing, math
Grade 6	reading, writing, math)
Grade 9	math
Grade 10	literacy (only the literacy test is high stakes because students must pass it to obtain diploma)
- what is the school doing
 - addressing it earlier on, in the lower grades
 - one of the things we've done as Board, before we focused on literacy
 - some specific actions: Principal has brought everyone to look at the EQAO assessments (“here are some Qs and what kind of Qs can you ask in your classroom that are aligned with this type of thing?”)
 - exploring different genres of writing – just fiction or stories? nonfiction? poetry?
 - every year there is something about poetry on this assessment; so can prepare students better by including poetry in lessons

- having teachers look @ EQAO assessments – look @ their own practice and whether it's in support of the assessment
- look @ math practices – sheets of questions (rote learning) vs. focus on problem solving
- aligning practice with the demands of the curriculum assessments
- next meeting going further into EQAO
 - Principal wants to unpack above for us so we can absorb it and ask questions

YRDSB FOCUS

- board directives
 - mental health also a focus of the board
 - student confidence
 - making sure students have a trusted adult in the school
 - modern learning
 - math

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

- next meeting on January 23
- meeting adjourned @ 8:53 PM