Boxwood P.S. Parent School Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: October 28, 2014 (meeting #2)
Start Time: 7:14 pm
End Time: 9:15 pm
Next Meeting: Tuesday, Nov 18

	Name	Position	Returning Member	New Member
Attendees	Catherine Arnold	Principal	x	
	Dane Prince	Vice-Principal		x
	Bobby Panchu	Co-Chair	x	
	Adam Asimi	Co-Chair	x	
	Elsa Chan	Secretary	x	
	Pranab Mitra - Absent	Member	x	
	Bina Kadakia	Member	x	
	Taranpreet Sandhu - Absent	Member	x	
	Jaspal Deol	Member	x	
	Nappinder Dogra	Member	x	
	Kulvinder Rai – Absent	Member	x	
	Niroshi Moonemalle	Member	x	
	Anjula Sukumar – Absent	Member	x	
	Nathan Thinagarippillai – Absent	Member		x
	Jeyaruban Jeyalingam - Absent	Member		x
	Ifhat Rahman - Absent	Member		x

Opening Remarks (Bobby)

- Minutes from past meeting approved
- Not enough attendees for quorum but any decisions will be sent out via email

Healthy Schools update – Tina Smith

- Promote student physical activity and making it fun by starting program leveraging PanAM theme
- Passport for students to earn stamps for physical activity completed
- Once collect certain number of stamps will earn students prizes
- Walking Wednesdays to encourage student physical activity
- PARC Global Summit Follow-up
  - Promoting Active Transportation i.e. non-motorized forms of travel
  - Boxwood wants to achieve this status (4-6 month process)
  - First step to collect data – Parent Council to create survey questions for parents

Treasurer's Report

- Balance is $12 323.98
- We still need to account for last year's Grade 8 graduation expense ($30 per graduating student for a total of $797.65)
- We want to track Parent Council start-up budget provided by the Board provided
  - must be tracked separately from Council's account
  - a line item and balance added to spreadsheet is adequate
- $5845 Pizza Lunch Term 1 (expenses TBD) but based on experience we should make $1100-1200 in funds raised
- Oct Staff Appreciation Luncheon cost $60
- Treasurer's Report and balance approved

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School Admin update (Catherine)

- EQAO 2014-2015
- Grade 3 and 6 teachers attended training workshop on integrating EQAO best practices into the daily classroom (i.e. question testing format, guided practice, repetition, small group learning etc.)
- High level results summary:
  - Grade 3 Reading 92% at or above Provincial Standards
  - Grade 3 Writing 95% at or above Provincial Standards
  - Grade 3 Math 86% at or above Provincial Standards
  - Grade 6 Reading 84% at or above Provincial Standards
  - Grade 6 Writing 94% at or above Provincial Standards
  - Grade 6 Math 71% at or above Provincial Standards
- School Improvement Plan (SIP)
  - New template this year that is based on Theory of Action and focuses on main categories of:
    - Learning and Teaching
    - Building Leadership Capacity and Succession Planning
    - Equity and Inclusivity
    - Environment, Engagement and Well-Being
  - Parent Council needs to decide where to embed our goals within the new template
  - Based on key categories, Parent Council should be supporting all of them somehow

Funding Requests (Dane)

- Technology subcommittee had a meeting to determine this school year's technology priorities
  - Propose taking advantage the Board's cost sharing program i.e. what funds school provides, board matches at 1.5 (proposing 5K Council and 7.5K Board match for total of 12.5K available for technology purchases)
  - Need more laptops as many existing are becoming damaged due to high use
  - iPads 16GB are helpful in promoting cloud use, support educational apps, and all the Google technology available
  - goal is 10 devices per classroom
  - Wireless keyboards to use with iPads
  - Smart Boards are becoming obsolete. If we are going to invest in iPads, there is technology that will project images onto a white board with less cost
  - As we move towards bringing more iPads into the classroom, we should get cases for them to keep them in good condition and prevent them from getting damaged
  - future considerations - we should consider Android tablets vs. iPads for cost effectiveness (in addition there are no browsing limitations on Android such as Flash based sites)
  - important to shift mindset on "how" we are using technology vs. using it just because it is there i.e. leveraging Google Apps to facilitate collaborative learning
  - we need the costing of the iPads
  - deadline for Fall Cost Share is Dec 15 but ideal to get the request in sooner than later as technology is supplied based on a school first-come-first-served basis
- Lego League participation discussion (Nappinder)
  - Build robot devices and enter a provincial competition
  - Involves a registration fee $200, software $420, estimated total start-up cost $800
  - Purchase enough Lego simple and motorized mechanisms base kits for an entire class ($1168.95 per kit)
  - Winner within class enters provincial competition
  - Remaining robots can be entered in a classroom competition
  - We can even hold a showcase night and invite parents to see the students' work
  - Kits are reusable

Defer to next meeting
- School mics
- Bring up all discussion topics prior to each meeting so that we can cover everything in a reasonable time
- Subcommittees
- New business