

HENDERSON AVENUE PUBLIC SCHOOL
School Council Minutes
Monday November 23, 2015
7:00 - 9:00

Present: Giselle Y., Laura S., Dorothy L., Julie P., Azi S., Jessica L., Alex P., Suzy B., Namdar S., Lily L. O., Parisa R., Sami S., Julie C., Shirley L.

Regret: Diana M.

Absent: Parisa J.

Meeting Commenced: 7:00pm

1. Approval of October minutes / Treasurer's Report as of Nov 11

Alex's name was misspelled; minutes approved as amended

Reviewed Treasurer's Report and financial activities since the beginning of school year; Halloween dance was a huge success and brought in more profits than prior years; donations to date totalled up to \$6,090, which was down \$1,000 compared to prior years; Alex commented that more students showed financial challenges this year compared to prior year.

Alex requested \$4,125 from school council for technology cost sharing with the Board; the Board will match dollar for dollar so total amount available will be \$8,250; plan is to purchase 28 Google Chrome Book (\$350 each, every 5 get 15% off; best value for the price (no disc drive; limited storage; mainly for word processing and research); the new Chrome books will replenish half of the old devices that are currently out of warranty (55); mainly for Gr 3 and up.

Sami concerned that kids spend too much time on devices even in school; Alex suggested parents to speak to their kids' teachers if they have any issues / preferences; EQAO will be moving on-line.

Support for technology cost sharing approved as requested.

Alex will ask fitness depot if they have a trainer to train teachers on how to use the fitness equipments purchased last year; Mr Watterworth is now more comfortable in using them; may be able to give Council a tour; Sami knows a fitness trainer and will inquire about the cost.

2. Chair's Report

Lily – echoed that Halloween dance was very successful; QSP forms will be going out to families tomorrow

Azi – Sub orders were a lot more this time; perhaps it was due to the short period and small payment involved; will consider breaking up to shorter periods next year.

Alex – online payment will be available very soon; 20 schools were pilot on this and 80-90% are paid on line; huge reduction on cheques and paper work; can use online payment on pizza lunch orders next Jan

Lily – provided details on Healthyhunger.ca, where families can order lunch on line from this website; restaurants available including Quiznos, Subway, Mr. Dairy; profits will be deposited straight into the Council's account; no paper/money handling by school staff/council members; spoke to a Subway restaurant (in Vaughan) and cost of a 6 in sub is about \$3.5-4; comparable to our current provider; Mr. Dairy is about 53- 60 cents per carton and can be used as a trial; Lily needs to confirm if they will do daily delivery.

Suzy – should contact our local Sub store and ask if they would be interested in signing up since they have been a long-time partner with the school; restaurants that are too far may not be helpful if a lunch is missing; need to find out if a rep needs to be present.

Lily – currently, Lunch Lady are on Mon, Tue and Thurs; Pizza – Wed; Sub – Fri; can add daily milk

Alex – Henderson Social Night may not get Board's approval since the school may appear to be endorsing a particular restaurant and the Board in general has been strict on being independent from businesses.

Lily – Movie Night on Jan 14; permit booked; need volunteers for the organization committee

Lily – Multicultural Night (Apr 20; 7-9pm); major event and need to start planning and need volunteers for the organization committee; first meeting will be in Jan

3. Principals' Reports

Alex- back to normal since job action ended; progress reports going home on Dec 10; interviews are scheduled for students with difficulties only; JK/SK will not get report cards; JK parents will get in-class observation.

Primary/Junior Arts Night will be on Dec 16 (Fri) from 6:30-8:30pm; kindergarten to Gr 6 students performing music, drama, visual art; information will be sent home soon.

Grow workshop will take place beginning of Dec; in-class field trip focusing on leadership, character traits, anti-bullying, etc.

Co-curricular activities are all starting up; intermediate volleyball is underway; boys team moving to area final; basketball team, junior mixed volleyball and mixed basketball are starting up too. Band is practicing in full force; get invited to play at the Marley's game.

Gr 7/8 after school program is in second week now; focusing on math and reading skills; Mad Science will come in Jan (Gr 1 -6) on Tuesdays; Lego robotics kit is available but need someone to teach.

Mask making workshop will be on Jan 11-13 across all grades; junior dance workshop will be starting as well for Gr 4-6.

Lice check took place and lice was found; will come back on May 18-19

Gr 8 year end trip will be between Apr 26-29 (Quebec City); cost will be around \$515 – 600; information night will be on Dec 8; no request for support from school council yet.

Gr 7 overnight trip to Lake St. George Field Centre from Feb 17-19; other grades will go to Swan Lake Outdoor Learning Centre in Feb; Junior and Intermediate teams met to discuss ski trip; Gr 4, 5 and 6 will go to Snow Valley; Gr 7 and 8 will go to Mt St Louis.

Namdar – enquired if we have student rep or teacher rep. Not at this point.

Alex – new portables are not here yet; currently reviewed by the municipality; applied for a permit for two portables, only need one for now.

Playground updates:

Previous contractor refunded our deposit; Namdar to look for another contractor

Giselle reported on research on different types of playground materials:

Woodchips – safe for falls, cost effective, easily replenish; however, need to check if they contain CCA as preservatives which is toxic, deteriorate quickly, open to dangerous objects, 20% replenish rate per year

Rubber – low maintenance, safe for falls, however costly, padding needs to be replaced every 2 years, temperature affects durability, if partly worn, needs to replace the whole piece.

Rubber chips – safest and longest lasting, however need to check if material is carcinogenic.

Alex to check with the Board if woodchips supplied by the Board contain CCA.

Stargazing will be on May 26.

Council will collaborate with the school to organize an end-of-school fun fair.

Council meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.