

# Robert Munsch Public School

## Parent Council Meeting

Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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### In attendance:

Elaine Hunter, Melodie Howard, Rhonda Pogue, Tanya Lewis, Jennifer Bolton, Sarah Loeffler, Jonathan Mitchell, Sian McLean, Amy Leonard, Jen Mackey

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### **Adoption of Minutes from March Meeting**

- Elaine has changes to make to the minutes, she will send out via email for approval

### **Admin Report**

- School opening was a big success, was challenging to plan given the age but the children all did really well
- Opening of school grass by next Friday the fences will be down – will start with 1 to 3 on the grass and will keep the boundaries simple to start. They will teach the children to never go past the fence.
- Tri hoop systems are ordered, they have been surveyed and will be installed soon
- Parent Engagement session
  - Recap by Jen M and Jonathan (attended the Parents are Partners and Building Parent Advocacy Sessions)
    - Parents are Partners Session - reviewing questions to the ask a teacher and being an advocate for your child. The presenter was Lynn Ziraldo (Learning Disabilities Association of York Region) and she advocated having a communication plan and problem solving model when working with the school. Maybe think about next year having a workshop where she (or someone similar) can come one evening and speak to parents. It was a great session but both felt not long enough, would love to see how her advice would work in a case study. Mr. Collins advised the SERT team has considered bringing in parents to do this type of workshop
    - Building Parent Advocacy Session – was disappointing, as it really just explained the difference between the different levels of involvement a parent can take within their child’s school. This was hosted by board staff and had two parents talk about their experiences at their child’s school. Both parents talked about volunteering in the class and then getting involved with parent councils and committees. They were asked how they communicate to parents, and answered that they communicate via blog, email, social media (Facebook).
  - Would be valuable to learn from other successful parent councils to identify how they engage parents
    - Mr. Collins, will share the board Parent Council Best Practices document – we should look in it for ideas on how to effectively communicate with parents

- Mr. Collins suggested considering applying for the Parents Reaching out grant, may be too late this year, but perhaps something to apply for next year.
- Year End event – lions club would be willing to host a BBQ again (suggested date is June 17<sup>th</sup>), consider a time early enough for families with soccer, there will also be a video on the school opening they can play in the gym – can look at a having a parent council table with information and hand out freezies. Will run from 5:15 to 7:00.
  - Couple parent volunteers will be needed to help with the night
- Good news assembly on the May 29<sup>th</sup> and then the FDK team will be looking at doing something within the class at the end of the year
- They are considering a school picture of everyone from the roof
- Next Wednesday is the parent only Kindergarten night, during the day on May 27 & 28, there will be something for the soon to be JKs at the school during the day. Kristina is printing off the Mabel Label flyers for the kindie bags, Sian will look into supplying tea and coffee from parent council
- Can parent council be present during the two mornings to host – May 27 & 28, in the mornings (from 8 to 10:30), to discuss parent council and have tea and coffee, will be in the library
  - Not sure anyone was identified as definitely being there except Sian

#### **Year End Staff Appreciation Event**

- Year end Staff Appreciation Tea? Is this something we want to do? (decided Yes)
- Although next year, we should think about doing it earlier to tie into teacher appreciation week (which is this week).
- Sian will reach out council to plan.

#### **Newsletter**

- Elaine will put it in a format so that people can just add content, she can pull it together if it needs to be done

#### **Social Media**

- Can do a Facebook page for Robert Munsch Parent Council
- Can just be an information page.
- Question about whether anyone will be able to post to page - Elaine will look into how it can work and will report back

#### **Lunch program**

- Averages between 30 to 60 lunches a week for Lunch Lady
- Kids Kitchen not gone as well – they were late twice and didn't bring orders at all one day. They have been very late several times, and kindie kids were unable to go out for recess as lunch came after 1:00. General agreement around the table that we will no longer support Kids Kitchen – will continue this year but will not have next year. Wait until the end of the school to officially let them know
- We would like another Lunch Lady day – maybe she can work it out so we can have another day.
  - Sarah will contact Lunch Lady to see if another day is possible for next year

### **Pizza Lunch Orders**

- Many problems with the start of the new round of orders, many parents forgot to send in orders and requesting if it is still possible. Many children without lunches as a result. Extra pizza was ordered the first two weeks to try and make sure there was enough. Lots of calls to parents were made to parents.
  - Thanks to Mrs. Carlson and Mrs. White for their help in making calls and sorting issues with parents out.
- We should consider making the forms a different colour, so they stand out
- Can we put it on the blog?
  - Mr. Collins wasn't sure as anything that is monetary can't be sent out via email or on the blog
  - Is something we may want to consider via the Facebook page (if created)?

### **Playground**

- Look great – question asked about how often do they get repainted?
  - They get repainted within the warranty date – every 3 to 5 years we may want to pat to refresh them
- Getting lots of use by the community as well
- Soccer nets are in, Jonathan will bring them in next week
- Garden proposal will be coming forward shortly

### **Classes for next year**

- JKs and SKs will be split into their own classrooms, tentatively 1 SK/1 class and 5 JK/SK classes
- Other splits –1/2 and a 2/3 potentially
- Parents can provide input to teachers directly if there are concerns about the placement (no forms coming home to ask for input)

### **Kiss & Ride**

- Christine Stewart – runs the Seniors Program in East Gwillimbury, over 150 seniors that come to the programs. She has asked whether we like them to be valets in the Kiss and Ride next September? There are seniors willing to volunteer their time to do this.
- Could we look at having them at lunch hour maybe too as monitors
- Would prefer child to leave the vehicle on their own
- Would need to do volunteer screening as school normally would require
- Parking is still going to be a problem – in the evenings, and during assemblies, it will be no parking within certain hours
- Sian will meet with Christine to discuss more

### **Healthy school bins**

- Information from Christine Stewart also discussed creating Health School Bins
- Basically would be a basket of fruits and vegetables to hand out in the class, once a month
- Christine is currently running the program at MAPS and would like to see if there is interest in running it here once a month next year

- Perhaps we can engage the local farms?
- Sian will discuss this when she meets with Christine and will bring the information forward to the next meeting

#### **Miscellaneous**

- Both schools struggled with the Santa Clause parade – can we discuss at the next meeting or in September about working jointly on this next year.
- Confirmed money from council was provided to each division - \$500
- Will talk at the next meeting about allocating funds (Needs List)
- Kindie Night - Wednesday is still a go, no matter what work action is on-going
- If there is an escalation in the work action by EFTO, not sure what will happen with the daycare. The daycare staff are are exploring how this would work in event of a full strike.

**Next Meeting – Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm**