

# ROBERT MUNSCH PUBLIC SCHOOL – PARENT COUNCIL

## January 26, 2017 Meeting Minutes

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Jonathan Mitchell, Jen Bolton, Sian McLean, Melodie Howard, Rhonda Pogue, Tanya Lewis, Greg Collins, Crystal Mott, Jen Mackey, Janet Denney, Meredith Clubine, Pam Sabell, Tanya Murray, Mike Troubridge

**REGRETS:** Elaine Hunter, Courtney Mackinnon, William De Villers, Stacey Thompson, Karen Miles

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### OPENING IN A GOOD WAY

- Pam opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of First Nations people and Chippewas of Georgina Island (only First Nation in the YRDSB)

### MINUTES

- Circulate in November, no changes indicated at the time

**MOTION** – Jonathan motioned to accept the minutes (Seconded by Jen B) – **CARRIED.**

### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

- Winter Solstice night was in December – had positive feedback, unique and great night, parents liked the interactive nature of the night. The risers looked great, but the lights need to be adjusted to focus on the children
- Family literacy night will be coming – note will be going home tomorrow. Love a Book Bingo is coming home again as well. Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> they are having a literacy event in the gym where they will set up different stations, flashlights are encouraged
- Challenge for our March meeting –Michelle Cassidy is the board Mental Health lead, she spoke at RMPS last spring. One of the highlights of the night was parents sharing quite openly about their experiences.
  - Group of staff is working on mental health within the school – this is a new focus area for the board and as a society as whole
  - Staff often comes to Administration asking for help with students that are in crisis or struggling
  - How as a community can we come together to discuss and share experiences – K to 3 school is challenging as the primary students need support all the time compared to older students
  - How can we support them as individuals in authentic ways – how do we come to understand that child, how can we look at the opportunity to bring parents together and reach out past this core group
  - Carry the discussion over Mental Health to the March meeting on how we can tackle this
  - How to set the conditions with parents to get them out to have the talk, how do we remove the stigma, how can parents share?

### Outdoor learning

- Mrs Murray has started an Outdoor Learning Committee – parents are welcome to join
- Success in outdoor learning may involve something like a walking club, or like the Winter solstice night have the outdoor story walk

- We can also teach outside – benefits many students especially those that may not talk in class, allows them a place to find their passion
- The school has a beautiful space with lots of great outdoor areas
- Would like to have a few Phases – Phase I was what would be easy to do. EverGreen Brickworks in Toronto is a good example, taking the concept of Loose Parts outside and how it benefits the students
- Outdoor learning also involves the children doing risk assessments of their environment and materials – fosters critical thinking skills
- Loose Parts could be done immediately, other things like a natural playground could still be a long term goal if that is wanted and board approved
- When we think of learning we think of different entry points – natural playground spread it out to different entry parts, and loose parts works much the same way.
- At this point it's ambiguous where we are going – we need a plan on where we want to go
- 3 Phases could look something like:
  - Phase I – loose parts
  - Phase II – stumps, logs and options for outside
  - Phase III – natural playground ?
- The forest the school has been using is not school property, it is town property
- As a committee what would they like to see between now and June, may want to put out a quick survey?
- Loose Parts – can send a note home asking for donations of items that would be needed
- Want to educate parents what any sort of outdoor playground (whether or natural or not) would cost, and then come up with a plan on how we are going to proceed
- Need a Master Plan on how we want to proceed – site plan would need to be approved by the Board. The \$15,000 for a Master Plan to be completed.
- Outdoor Committee preference would be to focus on Phase II – with different options within the school yard.
- Between now and June – let's focus on the plan for Phase I

**ACTION #1 – Mrs Murraray will make a list of what will be required for the Loose Part donations**

#### Treasurer Report

- Bank Account balance is \$14,913.04 without paying for pizza and milk for February
  - Mabels Labels we received \$95.58
  - Movie Night made around \$350
  - Cookies made \$5,581.20
  - Snoezelen room and the risers have been paid for

#### Snoezelen Room

- Rhonda completed the training on the Snoezelen Room
- Interesting fact she learned is that approximately 3000 bit of information can be processed by children, however children on the spectrum can only process 30 bits of sensory information

- Cleaning the room – absolutely no alcohol is to be used in the cleaning. In the summer take out the majority of the water from the column.
- Training person was surprised that Parent Council paid for the room, as she noted that normally the SEA Claims pay for the rooms. Need an Occupational Therapist that works for the board to prescribe the room, and the funding would cover the whole cost of the room.
- Rhonda will come in to meet with Mrs Abalos to go over the information from the training.

**ACTION #2 – Mr Collins will inquire about the SEA Claim and whether Parent Council could be reimbursed for the cost of the room**

## **FUNDRAISING**

### Lunch Program Update / Volunteers

- February orders just closed, somewhere around 350
- Pizza for January was overall down 30 slices from the fall orders per week, milk was about even (down 10 white but up 10 chocolate)
- Parent Council did receive several requests to help pay for families in need –currently helping four families with January and February lunches
- School Cash Online – number of families participating has increased (only 46 families not currently registered for SCO), there are 6 families who did submit paper orders through Mrs White. Parent Council will allow exceptions but they need to be for the same time period as the online orders and they need to be received by the cut-off date.
- Mr Collins wants to run the rest of the school year orders at once (March to June) due to the amount of time Mrs. White has been spending on the School Cash Online problems
- Concern over the cost to families for running the orders for the remainder. Lunch organizers (Melodie and Jen) prefer that the orders continue to run monthly, especially for June so any snow days can be built in
- Mr Collins will be having Mrs White edit the period for the March form to go until the end of the year.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE CONFIRMATION & PLANNING**

### Mental Health Night

- Sian has been in contact with Pascal from Arts Express (coordinator that works with the schools)
- Suggested dates - May 10 and 11<sup>th</sup> work for the company, with the parent night on May 10<sup>th</sup>
- When they run the parent night, they invite the kids to come with the parents and as long as we have babysitting services they have the license to Inside Out, so they show the movie to the children
- They can incorporate the Community Class to tailor certain activities – they would work with Mrs Abalos
- It will be for all the grades, they are going to incorporate portions of it to the kindergarten classes as well. The movement and story portion would be good with the kindergartens as well, they may use a different story for the kindergarten classes
- Will we do refreshments on the parent night?

- Sian to find out how long the presentation at the parent night will be so we can determine the timing and whether refreshments will be required

**ACTION #3** – Sian to find out timing and book the dates

#### School Dance-a-thon

- Will not be proceeding with this year

#### School Clothing

**ACTION #4** – Mr Collins indicated he will follow up on and get samples to bring to council

#### Movie Night

- License is expiring in February
- Would like to try and plan for a June movie night outside
- Mr Collins can look into whether we can do it on a Friday night
- Will discuss next month on whether to renew it

#### **TEACHERS WISH LIST 2016/17**

- They would like \$1500/grade or a certain amount/child?
- Will defer this decision to February meeting

#### **ITEMS to carry over to next meeting:**

- Mental health discussion
- School clothing options
- Teacher's Wish List
- Movie License

#### **NEXT MEETING**

- February 16, 2017
- Future meeting dates in 2017
  - March 23, 2017                      April 27, 2017                      May 18, 2017                      June 15, 2017