

## ROBERT MUNSCH PUBLIC SCHOOL – PARENT COUNCIL

### September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Meeting Minutes

**In Attendance:** Greg Collins, Crystal Mott, Jonathan Mitchell, Sarah Loeffler, Tanya, Janet, Michael Neve, Jennifer Bolton, Kristina Iantria, Melodie Howard, Jan Vesna, Elaine Hunter, Sian

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#### **Treasurers Report**

- Approximately \$10,000 in the account
- How best to allocate this?
- \$5,000 was set aside for 'outdoor education' space so still some (approximately \$3,000) to spend ASAP
- Raised \$57 from the Mabel's Label's ongoing fundraiser
- Purchased the piano and stand/cart as requested by Mrs. Tripp

#### **2014-2015 Council Items**

- The 2014-2015 Parent Council was dissolved – new Council for 2015-2016 to be elected at October meeting – thank you to all members for their support/hard work
- Suggestion of having child care provided at subsequent meetings to help encourage participation? – High school students? Older MAPS students? Would we need to have an earlier meeting time to accommodate?

#### **Admin Update**

- School start-up has gone well – everything running fairly smooth
- 'context' makes a big difference – this year staff knew one another and the school so has made for a smoother transition
- Suggestions from some parents that all the tables can be together on the first day of school to avoid chaos of 1 parent needing to be in 2/3 different places to find out their childrens' teachers
- Can we advertise the pre-kindie program (Building Blocks for Kindergarten) more this spring? It is for the entire month of July, half days, no before/after care (makes it difficult for many parents to send their children)
- Early Years Centre to be offering programming at RMPS on a trial basis
- SKs are out in the big yard – JKs will also be allowed out into the yard once they've established some routines and gotten used to starting school and are better settled-in
- Mini-garden (Ms. Laroque's class)
- Positive feedback from parents so far
- Mr. Bott – new crossing guard
  - Most people not crossing with him
  - We should add a "get to know him" post to the FB page
- Work-to-rule – all union groups are currently negotiating – big picture items are decided at the provincial level and then needs to be ratified at the local level

- 2 unions at RMPS - both in legal strike position
- Currently only an 'administrative' work-to-rule – so instruction not compromised but teachers cannot collect money, send forms, etc.
- Meet-the-Teacher Night unlikely to happen – Mr. Collins will send information home closer to the date to inform parents

### **Additional Items**

- Banner – “young lungs at work – idle free zone” proposed – Melodie looking into the sign – to be hung on kindie pen to remind parents not to idle (some discussion over whether this would encourage parents to loiter further?)
- Buddy Bench – where students who are feeling lonely could sit and another student would join them.
  - Would the school build this?
  - Parent council?
  - Could Home Hardware make a donation?
  - Would students paint it?
  - There is a Social Skills group at the school – Mr. Collins to chat with person in charge
- Reminder to go out regarding no dogs on property
- Tues/Thurs – Lunchlady is set up and ready to go. Forms just need to go out – several volunteers to get this accomplished as long as it was not a privacy issue
- Discussion of pizza lunches – order forms are ready to go, could we just have bins in each classroom for students to place their orders in? Possible, but cannot do bank deposits, best to wait to see where the labour dispute winds up. For now – no pizza lunch orders – will promote Lunch Lady in the meantime
  - Jennifer B. suggested calling the pizza place to see how other schools affected by the labour disruption are running their programs (if they are)
  - Info about Lunch Lady to be posted on FB page
- Santa Claus Parade (December 5<sup>th</sup>)
  - Float vs. walking? (issues of insurance if there is a float and it is put on by Parent Council but not RMPS directly)
  - Connect with MAPS to see if they are interested
  - What is the deadline to apply to put in a float?
  - Elaine to connect with MAPS
- Scholastic Orders? Not technically supposed to be going home with students during the labour dispute
- Poinsettias Fundraiser?
  - Delivery date set for December 1<sup>st</sup> currently (can be changed)
  - Orders would have to go out in early November
  - Will need to decide somewhat soon if this is a go-ahead (given the labour dispute)
- Skating party – given that there will be no community gathering at RMPS during the labour dispute – did we want to host a Parent Council activity at the arena?

- Movie night – not for fundraising but for community engagement?
- Dance-a-thon – fundraising idea for the spring?
- Suggestions for potential committees/positions on parent council going forward:
  - Volunteers
  - Communications
  - Fundraising
  - Gardening
  - Seniors/inter-generational programming

**NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 7:00-8:30pm