

Robert Munsch Public School

Parent Council Meeting

Thursday, February 5th, 2015

In attendance: Elaine Hunter, Crystal Mott, Greg Collins, Sarah Loeffler, Kristina Iantria, Janath Vesna, Jennifer Bolton, Jennifer Mackey, Jonathan Mitchell, Tanya, Julie Freeman, Michael Neve, Melody Howard, Sara, Christine Stewart (guest speaker)

Icebreaker/TRIBE activity

- Intros
- Plan to stay on agenda and be done by 8:30

Adoption of Minutes from January Meeting

- Mr. Collins – second page of minutes regarding parents feedback – caution using social media; – consider all team players new and old
- Minutes still need to be passed. . . (?)

Admin Report

- Mrs. Cresswell and Mrs. Gaudet – running soccer intramural – over 130 kids came out – more staff have stepped up to help and kids in grades 1 and 2 have been divided into teams
- Math materials have come in and we are in the process of sorting them and making math bins for each classroom – math manipulatives will help students learn with hands-on approach
- Sidewalks/school yard being plowed this year (exception for this year – not typically done) – this is creating large mounds of snow – have had some safety discussions with students
- Ms. Mott is starting Blue Spruce – students will read 10 books over 10 weeks and then vote; Silver Birch program for grade 3s
- Love-a-book Bingo also started
- Literacy Night a huge success – some concerns over feeling ‘rushed’ to complete all activities – will be more clear in the future that there are just options – not a need to finish all items. Thank you to all the families that came out and to all the staff involved in creating such a successful night
- Official opening – parent to sit on committee; some formality, questions re: capacity in the gym – figuring out engagement, displays, etc. Parent Council Chairs to come and speak (if so inclined) do we extend into after school so that working parents can attend.
- Wish list: Ms. Tripp is looking for a piano keyboard (recordable) – music program, helps students learn instruments etc. and background beats for performances etc. three different versions ideas provided ranging in price: \$2064; \$3329; \$4154. . . Can we look at Kijiji etc. or The Arts – other ideas? Should we connect with MAPS to find out what they ordered previously?

Communications

- Communications – newsletter – Jan will compile; Elaine will send around an Email to collect items to include; Jan will aim to have it completed by March
- Letter to Town Council – article in the paper this week; on front page – hopefully council will make a decision shortly
- Mr. Collins received notice that there are extra LED flashing school zone signs which can be installed as soon as the weather permits in lieu of a crossing guard for now

Guest Speaker

Christine Stewart – In Every Neighbourhood (community gardens)

- Funded through United Way
- Currently asset mapping process taking place
- Then look at gaps – what’s missing (aside from coffee shop, pool and skate park)
- Promote community engagement (10 target areas including schools)
- 5 groups wanting to do community gardens including New Leaf and Sharon Temple
- Looking to create something at the school – Lions Club is willing to donate funds; horticultural society is looking to fund garden as well; New Leaf grows their own food/plants in greenhouse – looking to share yield; horticultural society can also do workshops etc.
- Looking to do itty-bitty libraries; farm our yard; Flat Stanley project across EG; children’s choir
- www.networknorth.ca
- In every neighbourhood campaign (Candy Chang) – “in my neighbourhood I want”
- School ground improvement plan (Mr. Collins to send) so we can determine if this is something we want to go forward with. . . would need to be set up through the summer
- New Leaf also looking to donate bird houses
- Eco School committee already submitted application
- Council’s role would be – community engagement and having a member on their committee
- 20% goes to local food bank; register with York Food Network; rest is to be decided
- Open to any kind of projects – share ideas

Fundraising

Pizza Lunch

- 4 new volunteers from the flyer (total of 16)
- New schedule went out
- Melody took care of in school stuff; Jen and Tamara did data entry
- Orders are up quite a bit
- Parent Council will fund one extra pizza and round up of milk to ensure extra supply
- Jen will place orders on Mondays
- We’re good till end of April currently – should we extend to end of June? Decisions to be made.... send out next round on 30th of March
- Elaine will modify form to include a keep-it portion with dates for parents

Lunch Lady/Kids Kitchen

- First Lunch Lady was today – seems good
- Kids Kitchen forms went out today
- Confusion re: can we order from both (yes)
- We will do a little note to send re: information and explanation for teachers and parents. Sarah L. To do the note, Elaine to copy and distribute

Chapters

- Sale generated slightly over \$1000 so 20% of that will be send to Ms. Mott in the form of Chapters gift cards
- Great store staff to work with – can do another fundraiser in 6 months – discussion re: should we look at doing it before the holidays rather than during literacy week? Need to check on black out periods
- Recommend having council reps at the store on the night of the sale to hand out flyers, drum up business from the community shopping that night
- Super easy almost zero work fundraiser – would highly recommend doing this again – perhaps we can also advertise at local churches, groups to get the community more involved and increase overall sales

Treasurer Report

- \$1653 from poinsettias
- \$10000 MAPS donation
- \$13000 from pizza sales (funds still to be paid out) – so we make about \$8000 per order set
- Mabels Labels – flyers to go home; include in welcome to kindie bags

Update re: yard painting etc.

- Painting proposal – going with full colour - \$3000 to spend; took out 'welcome to RMPS', took out Character Matters, took out track in kindie, took out alpha/# squares, took out conflict squares
- Looking for extra funds to put that stuff back in
- Jan motions for \$4000 to go to yard painting – Jennifer seconds it.
- Kristina will come in and meet with teachers at lunch to have them decide which painting items are most used/wanted
- Jonathan to look into cost of pop up soccer nets to be used in the field when we're able to access it
- Suggestion of taking before and after pictures – costs of items – show parents through newsletters and bulletin boards – should create a bulletin board in front foyer before the grand opening

Additional Fundraising Events

- Sale of Easter flowers – Jen to do forms; Elaine to copy and put in boxes; Jan to do data entry
- Forms to go out Feb 17th – Feb 27th due back

- Will offer all plants this year to see what sells, what doesn't
- Jen will confirm delivery date(s)

Next meeting: Thursday March 5th