

## ROBERT MUNSCH PUBLIC SCHOOL – SCHOOL COUNCIL

### December 10th, 2015 Meeting Minutes

**In Attendance:** Crystal Mott, Jonathan, Jennifer Bolton, Michael Neve, Jan Vesna, Kristian Iantria, Melanie, Jennifer Mackey, Doug Bolton, Julie Freeman, Carly D. ,Melodie Howard, Elaine, Mr. Collins, Heather Vaz

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#### **Previous Minutes**

- December minutes approved (raised/seconded by Julie/Melodie)

#### **Admin Report**

- Regional School Council meeting – Wed. March 30 – opportunity to network ,attend workshops
- Playground – Dawn (Board rep) will be coming to meet with committee/Mr. Collins
- Parking lot – lunch supervisors helping in the morning – seems to make things run more smoothly; comments to ‘offenders’ from parent council members have not been well-received

#### **Treasurer Report**

- \$22000 balance (including MAPS donation)
- \$729 total spent on skating day
- \$106 total on parade (includes bookmarks)
- \$327 from Lunch Lady (earned; not paid out till end of year)
- Need to figure an easy way to track pizza money in/out
- \$2000(ish) in Zucca orders

#### **Lunch Programs**

- Zucca’s – trial run; 100 orders for each week; should we limit number of choices next time – currently trial ends at end of Feb. – extend?
- Pizza – current order ends in March – short turn around for orders works better

#### **SUB COMMITTEES/VOLUNTEERING**

##### OUTDOOR PLAY GROUP

- Lunch monitors are to be asking kids what they want to see in outdoor play
- Ideas generated by the group:
  - Swings
  - Teeter-totter
  - Balls (discussion about pumps – these exist; Ms. Coutanche takes care of it – balls have been brought in for the winter)

- Shovels/pails
- Lego Club (monitoring issue – would also be an indoor activity likely)
- One class at a time over to the park (would need supervision)
- Sand pit
- Basketball nets
- Slides
- Rocks
- Clipboards/paper
- Hoola hoops
- Additional logs to climb on (like in kindie pen)
- Related concern tabled – why don't some Kindie classes go out 2x per day? An issue of getting them all ready in winter gear
- Dawn Adams (involved in school sites/prep with the board) coming to meet with Mr. Collins and the committee
- Toboggans/sleds to go down the snow hill?
- Another suggestion – balance beams for outdoor play
- Can provide this list to Dawn for feedback – perhaps ask if other schools have had any particularly good experience with companies installing rec equipment
- Need a “target” item so that we can solicit companies for corporate donations
- Community builds (like Habitat for Humanity) – everything needs to be approved first through the Board
- Question raised – “do we really want a play structure”?
  - If the kids want it then yes
  - Concerns over cost and that it will need to be replaced
- Need a decision – what have other schools done? What are students interested in? layout?
- Can we at least get sleds now? – Elaine raised motion to spend a maximum of \$300 to buy Hot Seats; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michael – passed

#### TEACHER ENGAGEMENT

- Ms. Mott raised the question of how to bridge the conversation between staff meetings and council meetings since lots of conversations are the same
  - Grade team meetings?
  - Engage parents?
  - Have a teacher join the playground committee?
  - Suggested that we have a joint brainstorming session with teachers

#### FUNDRAISING

- Need to look beyond the school community for money
- Additional suggestions –
  - Movie night
  - Cookie dough

- Dance-a-thon
- BBQ
- Are we doing Spring Flowers again? Cookie Dough? Other? We should get on this soon and ensure no conflicts with MAPS

#### MOVIE NIGHT

- \$375 plus tax for 12 months right to show movies from a large database of titles. Jonathan raised motion to go ahead; Will seconded it
- This covers teachers too
- Cap on gym capacity is 480 people
- Could we do an outdoor movie in the summer?
- This license covers us only for the immediate school community
- Date selected – Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup> – movie starts at 7pm
- Charge or don't charge? Decided we should charge \$2 per person ahead of time so as to also get an accurate reflection on numbers of attendees
- (aside – school planning a Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> literacy night and book fair)
- Volunteers to help on movie night – Doug, Mel, Elaine, Jen, Julie)
- Will use a lottery system (to be determined by the committee) if oversubscribed

#### Effective School Councils

- Not many people responded to Elaine's homework – will re-send, please send your thoughts/ideas through
- Better communication ideas:
  - Facebook
  - Open forums
  - Monthly newsletter
  - Share with teachers
  - Events at night
  - Suggestion box
  - Having council members available at events to talk to parents
  - Send out a paper and online survey
  - T-shirts to increase visibility?
- We should celebrate what we do – on Facebook and elsewhere – make it a positive space not just for complaints
- Could we enlist 'guest bloggers' ?
- Front hallway bulletin board?
- Have school council at Literacy Night?
- Include something about School Council in welcome to kindergarten night? Have members AT the event?

- To promote involvement in council could we approach the daycare centre? Early Learning program?
- Have a 'bring a friend to council' night
- Use skype/online meetings/webinars to encourage parents who can't attend in person to still participate
- Use a shared document program (Google docs?)
- Rotating meeting nights
- Learning at home – can we see literacy night surveys? Add our own questions?
- Parents night – can we plan an info night to identify council members? Potential volunteers? Information on how to advocate for your child effectively?
- Other evening event ideas for parents – social media safety

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS:**

- Follow up on donation collections (sock drive, etc.?)
- Doug B. offered to facilitate meetings going forward to try and keep the conversation moving and on target
- Expedite some updates like treasurer's report; hot lunch program updates (can be sent ahead of time in writing so we don't spend so much time on them)
- Suggestion of extending the time of meetings – met with mixed reviews. Will stick with 7-8:30pm

**NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 7:00-8:30pm