

# Robert Munsch Public School

## Parent Council Meeting

Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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In attendance: Elaine Hunter, Crystal Mott, Greg Collins, Sarah Loeffler, Kristina Iantria, Janath Vesna, Jennifer Bolton, Jennifer Mackey, Jonathan Mitchell, Sian McLean, Tanya, Julie, Jennifer Birtles, Heather Vaz, Kim Cresswell, Cara, Jocelyn, Tiffany, Laura, Brenda, Michael Neve, Amy

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### **Icebreaker/TRIBE activity**

- Intros

### **Adoption of Minutes from October Meeting**

- November – Jan motions to pass, Elaine seconds. Minutes passed (Jan will send the version with the proper names)
- December – Julie motions to pass, Elaine seconds. Minutes passed.

### **Admin Report**

- Parent engagement symposium – only 1 this year (vs. 2 in previous years) – April 15<sup>th</sup>, 5-9pm, in Richmond Hill (Sheraton Pkwy) – 2 reps can attend – can begin to register soon – let Mr. Collins know if interested
- Official school opening – Wed. April 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:15pm – meet and greet afterwards – YRDSB VIPs will attend along with town council members etc. – have a planning committee established – looking for parent involvement as well
- Questions re: ice out back and fences re: grass – fences won't come down till warranty ok's it. Makes it tricky since the back is very icy so there's limited space – is there an opportunity for plowing this year (not typical) – care taking clears a small portion – has been approved to have the plowing for this year to help with space until grass is useable next year
- Cold weather box – bins that will be in the office for snow pants, mitts, etc. in case students don't have the required outdoor gear. Note will go out looking for donations next week
- Administrative profile – opportunity for council to have input into qualities for Principal/VP they would like to see – Council should begin to think about this as it needs to be done at each school – can return to this later in the year
- Literacy night (Ms. Mott will elaborate)
- Positive climate for learning – conversation (including FB) regarding the lack of a Christmas/holiday concert – some staff and parents were taken aback by the tone of the messaging and there was clearly some concern over there not being a concert. . .
  - Moving forward – would want to see us working together (internally on council and with the broader community)

- Many assumed that since RMPS is a primary school there would be some sort of 'concert' around the holidays – disappointment to not see little kids in concert (sense of tradition) – small community – previously at MAPS there was always a concert – so seemed 'unfair' to not have one at RMPS.
- Other viewpoint – there was a lot happening for a new school with Remembrance Day, Good News assemblies, etc.
- Concerns over there not being something in the evening to involve working parents
- Concerns over families with kids at both schools – hard to explain to primary children why the 'bigger kids' got to have a concert and they didn't
- FB posts – as council we should steer clear of choosing sides
- Need better communication from the school – would help to alleviate some of the anger/frustration (for the concert, playground, etc)
- (Mr. Collins) – Who are we as RMPS? we need to figure out what that looks like; how do we reach more families to get input, suggestions, etc. – we do have a positive climates for learning committee – we want engagement from parents but the 'what' is still to be decided – and that hasn't been shared
- Family Literacy Night (Ms. Mott)
  - Started speaking about family engagement nights back in October – want it to be intentional, not just 'because'. Did a survey to help gauge interest of parents – literacy and community building came back as priorities. Data came back in mid-December. 63% would like to see evening events.
  - 5:45-6:45pm – 9 different centres for families to visit/work through – aim is to promote spending 15 minutes per day reading as a family. There will be literacy prizes and guest speakers as well
- Positive Climates for Learning (Ms. Jacobs)
  - Ministry mandated committee
  - Difficult to take every need into account
  - Try to have one large meeting monthly and then have sub committees
    - Parent engagement
    - Good news assemblies/misc.
    - Safe schools
    - Healthy schools
    - Eco schools
  - Work as a large group first and then break off to discuss specifics
  - Has taken time to coalesce as a group (new school = new team) – looking for a parent to join the group as well – to have a voice, not necessarily attend all meetings
- Suggestion of having a newsletter to highlight what the school has been doing
- Jen Mackey suggested having a Parent Council Blog to share what's happening, forms, send an Email to council members, how money is used, etc.
- How to use community strength to share info/ideas, etc. how to learn from MAPS as well
  - Bulletin board
  - Twitter
  - News letter

- Will revisit a family math night
- School zone signs – not happening this year and no crossing guard – need to lobby Town Council for support in getting these – Mr Collins will follow up with contact at town re: crossing guard
- Kiss-n-ride – at other schools have teachers come to the cars to get the children – could this help alleviate the back up? Concerns about speed in parking lot – sidewalk is now completed which helps
- Will start sending Emails around re: starting a newsletter – for February (Jan will compile)

### **Treasurer report**

- Including \$10K from MAPS - total \$16, 712.37
- Pizza Lunches - \$5,059.19
- Poinsettias - \$1,653 – Jen Mackey would like to update everyone in January Re: this fundraiser

### **Fundraising updates**

- Jen Mackey open to doing a Blog for Parent Council

### Poinsettias

- Thank you to all the volunteers
- Prices raised this year – any feedback? No – all good
- Could we look at doing this jointly with MAPS next year?

### Pizza Lunch

- Sarah B. No longer able to coordinate pizza lunches
- Note will go home seeking volunteers for Fridays
- Next round of orders are out
- Sian/Jen can help do it but not every day – data entry, call suppliers
- Elaine has a list of names of who can help
- Sian will send an Email around to highlight jobs that still need to be done
- Need volunteers to be here on Fridays to help
- Some issues with quality control – Sian will follow up
- Jennifer can volunteer on Fridays

### Kids Kitchen vs. Lunch Lady

Will do both.

Tuesdays Kids Kitchen

Thursdays Lunch Lady

Sarah L. will take care of it all.

Need to buy heating bags for kindie rooms

### Miko-Samko

- Made \$27.00 total ☺

### Chapters-Indigo

- Sale will take place Mon. Jan. 26 all day. Simply tell cashier you are with RMPS and 20% of sales will be donated to us in form of Chapters gift cards
- Jan will do up reminders to put in teacher mail boxes

### Fundraising allocation committee

Sian motioned – Michael seconded - \$3000 for line painting; \$2000 for triple-hoop systems

Council will cover the amount for the hoops above and beyond the \$2000.

Kristina will take care of line painting with support from teachers and Mr. Collins

Heather will take the lead on the hoop systems

### Other Ideas

- Mabel labels (Kristina to set up)
- Personal donations (tax receipt-able)
- Like the 'goodbye tree' but a 'welcome to RMPS'
- Plaques for the playground
- Canadian tire money donations

**Next meeting: Thursday February 5th**