

# Stonehaven Elementary School Council Meeting Minutes

Character Matters in our School and Community

December 6, 2023 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm

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*The School Council was held in person and electronically at 6:30 p.m. on December 6, 2023 with the following members present:*

## **George Vellathottam (Principal)**

### **Staff:**

George Vellathottam (Principal), Melissa Boulet

### **Voting Members (2023/2024):**

Lindsay McLeod (Co-Chair), Jennifer Strong (Co-Chair), Jill Clarke (Secretary), Rameza Hirsimaki (Treasurer), Shiromy Persaud, Kristina Ferorelli, Virginia Chan, Jennifer Ley, Julie King, Liyan Ting, Inna Rapoport, Moxi Zhang, Geraldine Acosta (online), Daniela Pereira, Erin Gooderham, Deborah Amigo (Community Member)

### **Members At Large:**

Cathy Miles, Polin Makarians

### **Absent:**

Ms. Lamy/Ms. Prince (Vice Principal), Moxi Zhang (regrets sent), Laura James (regrets sent)

## **AGENDA ITEMS AND NOTES**

### **1. Welcome - Jen and Lindsay**

- Land Acknowledgement (Jen & Lindsay)
- Meeting Norms (Jen & Lindsay)
  - Start each meeting at 6:30pm and end no later than 8:00pm
  - Do not name individual staff, parents or students
  - Encourage positive conversations
  - Create an informal atmosphere
- Sharing of the Agenda

### **2. Minutes and Financial Report – Jill and Cathy**

#### **May Meeting Minutes & October Meeting Minutes (Jill)**

Since the October 10th meeting the May meeting minutes were circulated to 2022/2023 council members and approved electronically by; Polin, Lindsay, Cathy, Shiromy, Rameza, Julie, Jen S, Jen L, Laura and Liyan - October 16th, 2023.

October 10th Meeting Minutes were circulated November 1st and were approved by every voting member by November 2nd, 2023.

#### **Financial Report (Cathy)**

- Cathy presented the financial report
  - Cathy presented the year end report with some explanations for some funds put into incorrect accounts
  - end balance from 2022/2023 was \$3275.01
  - Rameza unable to give updated report due to the system shutting down
  - Some financial discrepancies regarding the 25th Anniversary funds

***MOTION to be made by Lindsay via Email***

### **3. Staff Report - George and Melissa**

#### **Staff Report (Melissa)**

- Steel Pans with Joy Lapps-Lewis
- Picture Day
- Dance Class
- Halloween/Black and Orange Day
- Cross Country Regionals
- Treaty Recognition, Holocaust, Hindu Recognition
- Progress Reports and Conferences with Teachers
- Volleyball Started
- Area Volleyball Intermediates
- Book Fair
- Cyber Incident
- Gifted Screening for Grade 3

- Robotics Club Started
- Intermediates have been working with a local dance instructor - Lion Dancing
- D&D Club - Shameela suggested Goblins and Goblets
- Food Drive Started
- Arts Night
- Newmarket High School - Beauty and the Beast
- JK Observation
- Badminton Started
- The Band Started

### Staff Report Cont'd - Inclusivity and Engagement (George)

- Change in athletics to create more community engagement with different schools, as well as working with intermediates and juniors
- Welcome Board "How Do You Say Hello?"
- 50% of students at Stonehaven are MLL (multi-language) students
- Many new children attending the school are new to the country - core learning piece developed to help welcome and include these students
- Main areas of the school (library, office, gym) are identified in different languages to help accommodate
- Working on Personal, Cultural, Academic, Linguistic experiences
- Working on how to support staff by collecting feedback from staff regarding the inclusivity of students with MLL or IEP needs
- Practical strategies needed around CRP in the classroom
- Understanding CRP and how it impacts students
  
- Goal #1 - Well Being & Mental Health
  - validating students on social identities
- Goal #2 - Equity & Inclusivity
  - Continue to implement the dismantling AntiBlack Racism Strategy
  - Text provided to staff to help
- MLL & Special Education
  - Strategically analyzed student placement in the classroom so that students were clustered in groups that helped support their learning
  - Specialized MLL teacher at the school - working so well she presented her work to the whole school board
  
- Community Experiential Learning Fund - Affirming students identity by introducing programs like the Lion Dancing, Steel Pan, African Caribbean Dance
- Healthy Schools & Mental Health - wellness check ins, calming room, mindfulness colouring to be running soon
- Talking Points - digital tool to communicate with students and parents in their own language
- Student Leadership Opportunities & Extracurricular Activities
- Sankofa Series for Grade 4-8 - introduces stories over a variety of subjects
- Continued Professional Development - Equity and Assessment, Community Circles Training, UDL Training
- Goal #3 - Effective Instruction & Assessment - implementation of YRDSB's De-Streaming Plan at the classroom and school level

- Goal #4 - Effective Instruction & Assessment - Continue to focus on Culturally Relevant and Responsive Pedagogy
- Science of Reading - new sound walls
- Unlearn Wall - SK1 class would like bandaids change in the school to adopt more colours

#### **4. Council Updates - Jen and Lindsay**

- Principal Profile - no set date, will be circulated in the new year
- Constitution Review - no set date, will be circulated in the new year
- Would like to figure out fundraising and engagement ideas for the new year
- Request for previous calendars with ideas and previous events - Jen and Lindsay to provide
- Cathy suggested fundraisers that involve families

#### Nutrition Program

- Geri gave update on Nutrition Program - since last meeting, organizations that offer grants for schools to offer snacks and food to the school - we need to apply for the grants:
  - York Region Public Health - work with the school designated nurse
  - Student Nutrition Program - morning and afternoon snacks (part of York Region Public Health and designated nurse)
  - PC's Children's Charity - get Funding to afford nutrition for schools
  - Tnoonies for Tummies - work with a Grocery store in our area - Tnoonies for Tummies distribute the funds to the approved schools
    - Breakfast Voucher Program - allow you to buy food at half price
- ProGrant funds to be used for spoken word artist?
- Handbook for Student Councils to be circulated and reviewed by everyone
- Food Committee - would like to put out a food survey - January to March we can change vendors

#### **5. Any Other Business - All**

- Other methods of donation to the school?

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:01pm.**