

Stonehaven Elementary School Council Meeting Minutes

Character Matters in our School and Community

Thursday February 4, 2021 from 6:30 to 8:00pm (Virtual Meeting)

Attendance:

Tim Dunn (Principal)
Jason Eygenraam (Vice Principal)
Melissa Boulet* (Staff)
Cathy Miles* (2020-2021 Chair)
Shameela Hoosen-Shakeel* (2020-2021 Treasurer)
Jennifer Strong* (2020-2021 Secretary)
Rafaela Abraham*
Omodele Ayeni*
Julia Beykun*
Kara Bilo*
Julie Brenner-King*
Karin Larkan-Hill*
Jennifer Ley*
Yuanshun (Alex) Li*
Lindsay McLeod*
Cindy Meintz*
Evelyn Morgan*

Absent: Cynthia Zheng*, Catherine Cao* (regrets sent)

**indicates 2020-2021 voting member*

AGENDA ITEMS AND NOTES

1. Welcome – Cathy Miles

- Land Acknowledgement
- Meeting Norms
- Welcome to New School Council Members
- Sharing Agenda

2. Minutes and Financial Report – Jennifer Strong and Shameela Hoosen-Shakeel

- December Meeting Minutes were distributed prior to the holidays for review by Council members. Feedback received has been incorporated and an updated copy was circulated in advance of the meeting.

MOTION: “I move to motion to approve the minutes”

Motion made by Cathy Miles, seconded by Rafaela Abraham, all in favour.

- Financial Report review as of February 4, 2021
 - Adjustments to financial report based on refunds from the 2020 Spring Market
 - Angel Fund contribution of \$250.00

- Chef Marie Tang online cooking class reimbursement of \$50.00
- Stonehaven School Council remaining funds (as of February 4, 2021) - \$1021.03

MOTION: “I move to motion to approve the Financial Report”

Motion made by Evelyn Morgan, seconded by Lindsay McLeod, all in favour.

3. Principal and Staff Report - Tim Dunn, Jason Eygenraam and Melissa Boulet

- Starting the process for planning for the 2021-2022 school year, though it will be on a modified timeline. It's too early to forecast what our numbers or class organizations might be, though we hope to have a clearer picture by the next School Council meeting.
- Minister of Education has announced that in-person learning will return on February 16, 2021
- School model change
 - The survey is still open until Monday February 8
 - Information about when the change-over will happen has yet to be released; it was originally scheduled for Feb. 16 but will be pushed further
 - Impacts to our students or staffing numbers and changes to homerooms will be determined next week
- One change to current staffing - Ms. Kim has taken over for Mr. Hutchison's Grade 7 homeroom. Ms. Tesfaledet has taken over for Ms. Kim as of February 2.
- Acknowledged that caretakers are using this time to go through the school to complete a thorough cleaning and are getting to many things that they typically could not do during the school year including laying new tiles upstairs, painting, etc.
- Parents have reached out to express gratitude to the teachers who are going above and beyond
- No requests from staff to School Council at this time

4. Chair's Report – Cathy Miles

- Communication
 - Continue to communicate through monthly newsletter which is sent via email and posted to our council website
 - Hopefully next year we can get the bulletin board setup near the office for posting of hard copies
- Sushi Night
 - Success...lots of fun
 - About 15 families joined
 - Photos included in the newsletter
 - Received thank you notes from three families:
 “That was so much fun! Thank you to school council for organizing this wonderful event. It is the best way to start the weekend. I haven't felt so happy on a Friday evening in a while. We liked the maki the best and ate them as fast as we could make them.”
 “That was awesome! Thank you so much for organizing this event. Our kids adored it and asked to have sushi for lunch.”

“I wanted to let you know that my children loved the class on Friday. Thank you to school council for everything you do and for keeping us connected.”

- Mary will be doing a Valentine’s special on The Social this Wednesday
- Artshine Fundraiser
 - Families spent \$749.00 on fundraiser purchases with 10% return to Council of \$74.90
- Movie Night
 - Movie night last week was a lot of fun
 - Hosted a call before the event to provide technical assistance and see friends
 - Second movie night to occur on Friday February 5
- Read-a-Thon and Virtual Storytelling Night
 - Not launched yet because we hit a hurdle
 - The teachers are onboard with the reading portion, and 11 teachers are planning to record videos of themselves reading for our virtual storytelling night.
 - With the Read-a-Thon company, funds can only be received via PayPal
 - School board said that they do not, and will not, have a PayPal account
 - Two options for moving forward:
 - 1) Create our own read-a-thon and ask families who wish to support it to make a donation through School Cash Online
 - 100% profit
 - Tax receipt issued for any amount
 - 2) Omit the fundraiser portion and just enjoy the virtual storytelling event at the end of the month
 - Council decided to move forward with a read-a-thon fundraising using School Cash Online for the collection of any donations.
- Snowman Contest
 - Contest closes Friday, February 5th
 - 7 - 10 families have sent in pictures
 - Photos will be recognized in the next newsletter
 - Send certificate in the mail (we would need permission from the school and the participants for this to happen) and give each family a package of expanding instant snow as their reward.
 - We could purchase the snow using our Chapter's gift card and it would cost approximately \$10-\$15 plus a couple of dollars for the postage.

MOTION: “I move to motion that we spend up to \$20 from our Chapter’s gift card to purchase super absorbent polymer to send families who participated in and submitted photos for the snowmen building contest. Families would also receive science experiment instructions, fun facts about super absorbent polymers, and a personalized participation certificate”

Motion made by Cathy Miles, seconded by Rafaela Abraham, all in favour.

- Spirit Days

- Rafaela created a Google form for the students to vote on themes for the coming months, and she also drafted a letter for us to send to the school community. We hope to have that out by early next week. Thank you, Rafaela!
- Plant Fundraiser
 - Jill got us up and running with our plant fundraiser which is scheduled for March. Thank you so much for taking care of that, Jill! More information to come closer to the date.
- Martial Arts Event
 - Rafaela made arrangements for us to host our virtual martial arts event on Sunday, March 28th at 2 pm. Mark your calendars! Confirmation of date and details are forthcoming.
- Discretionary Fund
 - Feedback sought on discretionary fund amount for the Chair to spend without Council approval

MOTION: “I move to motion to set the discretionary fund at \$100.00”
 Motion made by Cathy Miles, seconded by Omodele Ayeni, all in favour.

5. Upcoming Events and Activities – Cathy

- Pro Grant – Shameela
 - School Council representatives voted on topics of interest. Four topics were submitted including: Mental Health, Diversity and Inclusion with focus on Anti-Racism, Parenting Strategies during the Pandemic and **Screenagers: Next Chapter**
 - Once grant is confirmed, dates will be confirmed and information will be shared with the school community

6. New and Developing Ideas – Cathy

- Gratitude Letters for Staff - Cathy
 - Send each teacher a personalized letter thanking them for their hard work
 - Include quotes and/or comments from some of their students
 - If a teacher doesn't have a student who participates, they would still receive a kind note written by us on behalf of the school
- Update on the Recipe Book Fundraiser - Shameela
 - Waiting to hear back from Heritage Cookbook
 - Still planning for April fundraiser
 - Plan to engage families to collect recipes, photos and stories
 - Heritage Cookbook is able to ship directly to families (in accordance with YRDSB guidelines), price will include shipping costs, costs would be in line with annual yearbook

- Could time fundraiser with the Pro Grant Diversity and Inclusion speaker event or host a separate speaker event. No decision has been made at this time.
- Subject to Provincial Funding announcements, all schools will receive \$500.00 to support their School Council in facilitating parent engagement. Explore possibility of using these funds to host a parent engagement event on the topic of diversity and inclusion
- May consider using the YRDSB print shop to save on printing costs but need to explore distribution means
- Shameela will explore options

7. Sub-Committee Reports and Discussion – Sub-Committee Chairs and Cathy

- Constitution Sub-Committee
 - Members included Cathy Miles, Shameela Hoosen-Shakeel, Rafaela Abraham, Jennifer Strong, Tim Dunn and Jason Eygenraam
 - Reviewed proposed additions/changes
 - Comments/suggestions will be incorporated and sent to School Council members to review and vote on at the next Council meeting
 - Shameela recommended to reexamine the process for approving minutes. Proposed adding that after the minutes have been approved by School Council Executive and Council via email, the minutes (with draft watermark) could be posted on the Council website prior to the formal approval the next meeting. Final meeting minutes would later be posted. Cathy discussed how School Council highlights are sent to the school community on a regular basis. Rafaela is supportive of the draft minutes being posted and approved at the following meeting. Karin is supportive of posting the draft minutes provided that Executive Council members have reviewed prior. Jason suggested that we speak to the Board members to seek clarification on this issue.

8. Other Business

- School model change – asked for questions from council members

Cathy Miles motioned to adjourn meeting at 8:01 pm