

Stonehaven Elementary School Council Meeting Minutes

Character Matters in our School and Community

Thursday May 23, 2019 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Tim Dunn (Principal)	Jason Eygenraam (VP)	Shameela Shakeel Chair*	Cathy Miles Vice-Chair*
Kara Bilo Treasurer*	Anne Scott Secretary*	Julie King Parent Member*	Roni Silbershatz Parent Member*
Lorna Coulter Parent Member*	Karen Dunn Staff Representative*	Joelle Clark	Rafaela Abraham
Cindy Persaud	Shokou Daneshian	Cerys Roberts	

*indicates voting member

Regrets by Celine Morrow, Evelyn Morgan, Karen Larkin-Hill; absence noted for Chelsea Yu

Welcome, distribution of Agenda, Meeting Norms, Administration Report, Treasurer's Report

- The role of facilitator was introduced this session to help with meeting flow and to enable time management. For this session Kara Bilo was the facilitator for the discussion on the Constitution.

Previous meeting's minutes were distributed, reviewed and approved by email prior to this meeting

Administration Report:

- The Staffing and Projection process continues. Our kindergarten numbers have risen once again. We were projecting 58 new JK students, however we currently have 70 registered and 3 new SK's as well. Our overall projected number is 664 as of yesterday.
- We hosted our Welcome to Kindergarten yesterday and it was very well attended. Thank you to Shameela for the introductions and invites to join Council and other activities within the school.
- Badminton Regionals – Our grade 8 team performed well at the area tournament. One boys' doubles. Team represented Stonehaven at Regionals
- Author visit for Kindergarten and Grade 1 students
- STEM – Tech Team students and Ms. Hulse attended the Yes I Can STEM Challenge, and built carts
- EQAO – Grade 3's this week and Grade 6's next week

- Track and Field – School and Police Fields – the rain held off, and all the events finished successfully. We are sending students to the Areas on June 10/11 – about 75 students on the 10th, 60 on 11th; regionals are held the following week
- Arts Night/Music Monday
- Gauss Math – About 25 Intermediate students wrote the Gauss Math test
- Jump Rope for Heart – currently we have made approximately \$5,500, but with online orders we are expecting to be over \$6,000
- Book Fair – the aiming mark was a gross of \$5,000, and we made just over that. We used \$650 for books, and the rest of the over \$1,300 will be used for Maker Space
- Wellness Week/Wellness Workshops/Music Workshop
- Artisan Market/Cake Walk – both events were very successful
- Autism Awareness Workshops – Daniella Sgro held workshops each day with students attending and learning about Autism, which included a sensory overload exercise

Coming Up

- Skilled Trades presentations for students in Grades 7 & 8
- Grade 8 transition to High School Event and year end trip
- Band visit to Wonderland June 12th
- Elders'/Grandparents' Celebration on June 12th at 9:00 – 11:00 AM
- Volunteer Tea on June 13th 9:00 – 10:30
- Grade 8 Graduation is June 24th from 5:00 to 10:00 PM
- Kindergarten update - Karen Dunn
 - The Kindergarten team has decided not to use the \$1,000 previously allocated. They feel the money could be better spent for outdoor education.
 - Kindergarten classes will be going on a field trip to the Seneca Outdoor Centre, using funds allocated by School Council last year
 - Karen pointed out that YRDSB has an Instagram account @yrdsb.schools

Treasurer's Report Highlights

- Evolve Skateboarding ended up costing \$21.32 more than the allocated amount of \$1,500.
- Music & Wellness workshop was \$225.00 less than the allocated amount of \$800.00.
- Not factored into the report is the Chapters gift card of almost \$800 for the library/hub

MOTION – motion to approve the Treasurer's Report

~ Motion made by Roni Silbershatz, seconded by Julie King, all in favour.

Earmarking of Allocation of Funds for September 2019:

- \$1,000 for Scientists in the School for primary grades
- \$1,300 for Forest of Reading
- \$1,000 for FDK Outdoor Education
- \$700 for Fruit for the office
- At least \$2,500 is still to come from the lunch programs for April through June.
- Shameela noted that pizza and popcorn are the biggest fundraisers, that a lot of work goes into the organization and distribution each week, and that there are only 6 volunteers for each. She noted that the one day events (dances etc.) seem to get more volunteers.

MOTION – motion to approve earmarking \$4,000 in Funds Allocation for September 2019

~ Motion made by Shameela Shakeel, seconded by Roni Silbershatz, all in favour.

Discussions/Updates

PRO Grant & Speaker Series

- Shameela reported that there were excellent speakers this year, but the low attendance was disappointing. As applications are usually due in May, and nothing has come from the government to date, it appears as though PRO Grants will not be given for the 2019-2020 year. There may still be a \$500 Parent Engagement allocation from the school board in the next school year. School Council can check with the principal in the fall, once the school's budget has been set for the school year. School Council can consider pooling funds with another Newmarket school in order to book a speaker, with the hope of increased attendance and parent engagement.

Recess/Field & Tarmac Space

- Tim reported that due to an increase in injuries, such as concussions, it was necessary to review the recess space to ensure safety. It has been divided into distinct areas according to division – Primary, Junior and Intermediate. Jason presented a graphic to illustrate this. It was noted that because Intermediates are often inside during recesses for various extra-curricular activities, their area is slightly smaller. It was also noted that this tarmac is a good size compared to other schools. The field has painted lines to demarcate the various separations of divisions.
- The area will be slightly reduced with the addition of two portables in the summer.
- The play structure has not been able to be used for several months due to the requirement for more pea gravel. Lorna expressed concern over the delay but it is in the Board's control.
- Rafaela inquired whether staggered recesses were an option, to allow for greater play area. Tim indicated that this would be challenging due to staffing and supervision duties. It would also impact various clubs and teams that regularly meet at recess.

Staff Appreciation Lunch

- Date set for Thursday, June 20. Families donate food and/or cash and volunteers are needed to help set up, manage the lunch, and clean up.

Constitution Review

Cathy Miles and Rafaela Abraham reviewed points and concerns raised by email by a few Council members. After some discussion, the following are the revisions:

- Grad Committee is formed by teachers, students, and parents of grade 8 students. This item will be removed.
- Monthly Treasurer's Report to be revised to coincide with Council meeting dates. There will be five reports, not ten.
- Amount of money in discretionary fund (i.e., not requiring Council approval for spending) to be removed from Constitution. School Council can vote to allow the Chair(s) and/or principal to spend a certain amount (e.g., up to \$500) with the understanding that School Council will pay for the expenses. A vote should be held soon after School Council is formed at the first meeting.
- Parents do not count money raised at fundraisers, it is done by office staff. This item will be removed.

A discussion was held regarding increasing cultural representation within School Council. The following suggestions were made:

- Have a table setup at the Meet the Staff BBQ, to provide information and to encourage more parents to attend the first School Council meeting
- Inclusivity Committee to reach out to parents of different cultural backgrounds, to ask them to consider volunteering

MOTION – motion to approve Revised Constitution, pending amendments as listed above

~ Motion made by Karen Dunn, seconded by Kara Bilo, all in favour.

Planning/Transition for Next Year:

- Shameela indicated that, after 5 years as Chair of School Council, she will not be seeking the Chair position next year. She will also not be coordinating the Healthy Hunger and Popcorn programs. Tim acknowledged her significant contribution to Stonehaven ES and School Council, which was echoed by many in attendance.
- Cathy Miles agreed to take on planning of the Meet the Staff BBQ in September, as well as the Healthy Hunger and Popcorn programs. Healthy Hunger and Popcorn usually start right away when school is back, before the first Council meeting.
- A tentative date for the first Council Meeting of 2019-2020 is Thursday, October 3rd.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm