

Stonehaven Elementary School Council Meeting Minutes

Character Matters in our School and Community

February 9, 2023 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm

The School Council was held in person and electronically at 6:30 p.m. on February 9th, 2023 with the following members present:

George Vellathottam (Principal)

Monika Dogra (Vice Principal)

Staff:

George Vellathottam (Principal), Monika Dogra (Vice Principal), Melissa Boulet, Carl Oliver

Voting Members:

Lindsay McLeod (Co-Chair), Jennifer Strong (Co-Chair), Jill Clarke (Secretary), Rafaela Abraham, Kelley Ciavatta, Laura James, Julie King, Jennifer Ley, Alex Li, Shiromy Persaud, Polin Makarians, Erin Arsenault

Trustee:

Pamela McCarthy

Absent:

Cathy Miles (regrets sent), Liyan Ting (regrets sent)

Also in attendance: Not applicable

AGENDA ITEMS AND NOTES

1. **Welcome - Jen and Lindsay**

- Land Acknowledgement (Jen & Lindsay)
- Pamela McCarthy (Trustee) introduction -explained responsibilities including voting on budget, voting on policy and choosing director of education - she is 1 of 13 voters
- Meeting Norms (Jen & Lindsay)
 - Start each meeting at 6:30 pm and end no later than 8:00 pm
 - 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 Lindsay**

December Meeting Minutes (Jill)

December 8th Meeting Minutes were circulated to Council members via email for review and feedback. Minutes were then circulated for electronic approval. 11 committee members (Jennifer, Liyan, Laura, Erin, Kelley, Rafaela, Lindsay, Alex, Jen, Cathy, Rameza) approved the minutes. The meeting minutes were not posted on the school website and entered into record as officially approved.

After this meeting, will share the minutes with Monika and George to post on the website

Financial Report (Lindsay)

- Lindsay presented the financial report
 - Start Balance at \$5,918.79 and end balance is \$8,427.16
 - Healthy Hunger Income is still bringing in the most for the school at \$3,132.05
 - Expenses include \$1,500.00 for dance instructor and \$450.00 for the Airtame

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

Motion made by Laura for December Financial Reports

Rafaela Second

All In Favour

3. Staff Report - George, Monika and Melissa

Melissa:

- Lunch monitors in primary classrooms
- Remembrance Day Assembly run by the Grade 8's
- JK Observation Days have occurred
- Girls Empowerment Club has started up
- Suggestions from the Book Fair Proceeds include sensory objects, pillows and an author to come in to read to the Primary kids
- Grade 6-8's went to Newmarket High to see Charlie Brown
- Spirit Days in December started
- January started with anti-racism programs through the arts virtually and with consultants
- Charlene (dance instructor) came in for 3 days for dance instruction for the school
- Personal report cards coming out soon
- Staff has been doing a lot of professional development with ML (Multilanguage)
- Forest of Reading started in January
- February is Winter Walk Month
- Volleyball Tournament - Girl's and Boys got second
- Knitting and Crochet club/robotics club/chess club started
- Black History Month
- Africville play February 15th
- Information regarding Field Trip for Sibbald's Point for the 2 & 4's

Monika:

- Grade 8 Grad date change to Monday, June 26th at Newmarket Theatre/Old Town Hall

George:

- Funding Priorities - Lego Artist, Steel Pan Musician, Spoken Word Artist
- Each Artist is approx. \$500 a session
- 25th Anniversary for Stonehaven - suggested we could use it as an opportunity to make connections to who we were and who we are becoming with the artist initiative
- Proposal for a 25th Anniversary Celebration
- Playground needs repairs - commitment was made from school budget
- Basketball poles being fixed/moved - commitment was made from school budget
- Blinds being installed on teachers doors for the windows for safety drills - commitment from the school budget
- Request made for some outdoor paint on tarmac for 4 square etc
- Requests for Hockey nets for the gym
- Request for Spoken word Artist and Steel Pan Musician to come to the school

MOTION TO APPROVE THE ARTISTS STEEL PAN MUSICIAN for \$2,000.00

MOTION TO APPROVE LEGO ARTIST for \$2,000.00

MOTION TO APPROVE HOCKEY NETS for \$900.00

MOTION TO APPROVE FOREST OF READING \$1,300.00

Total: \$6,200.00

Motion made by Lindsay, Seconded By Rafaela, All In Favour

Current Balance: \$2,227.16

4. Council Updates - Jen and Lindsay

Polin - Fundraising Chair

- Fundraising Chair is Polin
- Gift card fundraiser didn't do too well - can't spend more than \$500 - a lot of limitations when it is online - it is being kept as an open fundraiser - \$75 has been raised so far - 6 people bought
- Maple Syrup Fundraiser and Label Contest to begin
- Proposing a Read-A-Thon - pledges and sponsors for the minutes or books that they read
- Proposing a Movie Night - sell chips, popcorn
- Yearbook will maybe just be for the Grade 8's - Ms. Burton is the main contact - Polin will be reaching out
- Stonehaven Spirit Wear with range of items some smaller value and some higher value

Rameza - Food Committee Chair

- Food committee updates
- Valentine's Day Popcorn - prefer cash in person \$2 - decided we would be giving both options for School Cash Online and in person cash
- Proposed doing another Popcorn day in the future and perhaps making it more common
- Lunch Box program proposal - Rameza to investigate further as another option for the school
- There is a new fridge for the snacks and snack program - perhaps adding baby carrots and mini cucumbers
- Initiative to bring more vegetables into the school - proposing a community garden?

Shiromy - Inclusivity & Engagement Chair

- Inclusivity Chair Updates
- Proposals for Movie night, school friendship dance, family day social (grandparents tea), land acknowledgment read by students, stonehaven newsletter, cultural event to highlight cultural communities

Jen & Lindsay:

- working on website updates for the school
- School council forms are taken care of
- Instagram has been set up for the school
- Volunteer group looking for a rain and cold weather clothing drive - bins, signage and items collected
- ProGrant voting has been completed

5. Any Other Business - All

- 300 computers away from goal number
- trying to get 4:8 ratio for tech to kids

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00pm.