

Stonehaven Elementary School Council Meeting Minutes

Character Matters in our School and Community

Monday, May 7th, 2018 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Paul Oabel (Principal)	Susan Wansbrough (VP)	Shameela Shakeel (Chair)	Cathy Miles (Vice Chair)
Kara Bilo (Treasurer)	Aliya Syed (Secretary)	Oxana Dawe	Karin Larkan-Hill
Evelyn Morgan	Michelle Deboer	Karen Dunn (Teacher)	Julie Brenner-King
Roni Silsershatz			

Regrets: Celine Morrow

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

MOTION – “I motion the approval of the April Meeting Minutes”

~ Motion made by Karin Larkin-Hill, seconded by Julie King, all in favour.

Principal and Vice-Principal’s Report:

- **Last meeting of the year** – Thank you to School Council for their work and dedication. Thank you for Cake Walk, Artisan Market and Wellness Day.
- **Field Trips** – Grade 7 students had a fabulous time at Camp Muskoka, Kindergartens enjoyed a day at the Science Centre, and Grade 8 students to go to Brock University May 16 – 18.
- **EQAO** – All grade 3 and 6 students will participate in Language and Mathematics assessment activities over a 4 day period each, during the last two weeks of May.
- **Jump Rope for Heart** – Taking place on May 11.
- **MADD presentation** – For grades 7 and 8, taking place on May 11 .
- **Audit** – Takes place every 5 years, where auditors review every transaction. The following recommendations were made:
 - When money has been made through fundraising, the full amount needs to be deposited
 - Each transaction has to balance – cannot show over or less
 - Each subheading that money has been raised for has to show in full
 - Take extra precaution when dealing with cash
- **Sports** – Badminton and Track & Field continuing; basketball ended recently with area tournaments
- **CRO** – Community Resource Officer has spoken to junior and intermediate students on topics such as substance abuse, safety, and personal space.
- **The Hub** – engaging activities and students of all grades continuing to use this great space.
- **Book Fair** – Taking place this week; books, stationary and more are available for purchase.
- **Graduation** – Taking place June 25th for grade 8 students.
- **Buddy Benches** – Have been delivered and are waiting for ground to thaw to install. Will have an assembly.

- **Class placement** – Starting to review and make plans for next school year. Stonehaven is growing and will likely need to create 2 new homerooms. Use of a portable is likely for next year.

Treasurer’s Report:

- Balance as of May 7, 2018 - \$11,792.61
- Actual balance with previous allocations/expenditures - \$4,718.19
- **Flowers Fundraiser** – \$1250 profit was made (30% of total sales)
- **Cake Walk** – Raised more this year than in previous Cake Walk events
- **Evolve Skateboarding** – Need more parents to pay for this on School Cash Online to break even

MOTION – “I motion the approval of the Treasurer’s Report”

~ Motion made by Evelyn Morgan, seconded by Kara Bilo, all in favour.

Environmental Literacy & Outdoor Learning with Mrs. Dunn:

- Last year Mrs. Dunn introduced Forest School program to Stonehaven by providing learning opportunities for Kindergarten students through play and exploration outdoors; this style of learning has been proven to have enormous benefits for children and is popular in Europe and other parts of the world.
- Now doing 40 – 80 minutes of outdoor learning for all students and 2 Kindergarten classes currently participate in Forest School.
- Forest School requires buses and currently families of children in the classes are being asked to donate money towards this; \$500 allows each class to attend Forest School 4 times per year (\$2500 is needed for 5 classes to attend 4 times in a year).
- Model of program including scheduling and location is being worked on and will be determined for next school year.
- For outdoor learning, tools and supplies are needed (e.g., mortar and pestle, thermometers, binoculars, leaf rubbing plates, animal tracks stamps/plates, and much more).
- Karen Dunn, Shameela Shakeel, Cathy Miles, and Celine Morrow on a new committee to change the Kindergarten play yard; hoping to have less pavement, more climbing apparatuses, areas to dig, etc. This is a large project that will take time for board approval. Will ask for more help soon too.
- SESKINDERS – Twitter handle for Forest School and Outdoor Learning programs

Fund Allocations:

MOTION – “I motion School Council allocate \$2500 toward Forest School and \$1000 toward Outdoor Learning”

~ Motion made by Shameela Shakeel, seconded by Kara Bilo, all in favour.

MOTION – “I motion School Council allocate \$1700 to The Hub”

~ Motion made by Cathy Miles, seconded by Shameela Shakeel, all in favour.

MOTION – “I motion School Council earmark \$800 toward Forest of Reading books”

~ Motion made by Shameela Shakeel, seconded by Aliya Syed, all in favour.

Discussion/Updates:

- **Speaker Series** – Best Selling Author/Speaker, Barbara Coloroso was here on April 17; held a workshop the next day for School Council Chairs. Extra copies of her books were distributed among members at School Council meeting.
- **Cake Walk & Artisan Market** – The entire gym was used, and was a smooth/success event.
- **Wellness Day** – Was a fabulous day for all involved.
- **Communication** – Some parents feel there is a communication gap between the school and families. A recommendation was made by Shameela to have a Parent Representative for each classroom to facilitate communication and for School Council to add “communication” to the meeting agendas, to allow parents to speak with school administration, staff and other parents in an open forum. Sue mentioned that suggestions to improve communication are always welcome and that parents are encouraged to talk to office staff and admin.
- **First day of school in September** – Feels unorganized and chaotic to parents and students as they don’t know which classroom to go to; Recommendation was made to group teachers by grade, and all should have each others class lists so they can assist students with determining whose class they are in. We also need big signs to identify by grade. Parents are willing to help with coordination/organization.
- **Tea & Chat** – Will continue next school year.
- **School Council** – Need to look at structure and determine positions; the school needs voices and needs council to continue and perpetuate.
- **Volunteers** – Parents needed to cover specific time slots for flower pick-up. Cathy will coordinate.
- **Suggestions:**
 - Barrier/zig-zag fence in front of school for safety of students
 - Mandarin speaking parent to attend School Council meetings; will be able to translate and communicate to other parents and may initiate more involvement from parents who normally do not participate
 - Dedicated night or welcome for newcomers

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm