

# Stonehaven Elementary School Council Meeting Minutes

*Character Matters in our School and Community*

Thursday April 4, 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*
Celine Morrow Parent Member*	Karin Larkan-Hill Parent Member*	Evelyn Morgan Parent Member*	Karen Dunn Staff Representative*
Sandy Sooklal	Rafaela Abraham	Joelle Clark	Cerys Roberts
Cindy Persaud	Shokoufeh Daneshian	Teresa Jacobs	
Jillane Smith (staff)	Dana Burton (staff)	Ian Correa (staff)	

\*indicates voting member

Regret submitted by Lorna Coulter; absence noted for Chelsea Yu

## Welcome, distribution of Agenda, Meeting Norms, Treasurer's Report and Proposed Allocation of Funds

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

### Staff Report:

- **Sensory Path Proposal – Karen Dunn**

-A Sensory path is a graphic and interactive path that is installed in common corridors in school environments, to give students a physical break from more sedentary activities and allows them some physical space to participate in movements such as a bear walk, hopping, skipping, etc. It would be in the form of a loop of floor decals and is about 100 feet total.

-This has been done at Discovery PS, supplied and installed by a local company. The approximate cost to install would be \$1200, which also includes the SES logo and star.

-Karen proposed it be installed on the second floor in the south corridor outside the ASD and MID classes. It could be installed in the summer. There is a possibility the floors are slated to be re-done so that would impact when this should be installed. The flooring on the main floor would not support this concept well as it would not adhere as well. However, small groups from the main floor could travel upstairs. It is fit for any students who need a break and would benefit the entire school community. The expected lifespan of this type of installation is 4-5 years.

- **Kindergarten Garden Proposal – Karen Dunn**

-The Kindergarten classes would like to install school board approved Caja garden boxes in the play yard. These boxes will be installed in the middle of the bike loop and are 80 x 30 cm. Parents have agreed to monitor and maintain the gardens over the summer. The containers retain water really well and the water source would be a rain barrel (donated by Karen Dunn). They currently have funds for 6, but would like to have 12, so they are requesting approximately \$1,000. The kindergartens already have worm composters which they will tie in to the project, and will be asking parents to drop off soil donations at the kindergarten yard and front of the school. There is also a plan to install mini fences around the boxes, to define the area.

- April 10 & 11 – Kindergarten concerts
- May 22 – Welcome to Kindergarten (will need a School Council representative to attend)
- June 6 & 7 – Kindergarten Outdoor Education trips (using funds allocated by School Council last spring)
- Shameela confirmed that she met with John Taylor and received a cheque for \$2,500 from the Newmarket Children’s Dream Foundation. These funds will be allocated for outdoor play projects and activities, to be decided upon soon.
- The back and side tarmac area was discussed. One basketball net was knocked down by a snow plow. Tim is looking into the cost of repair. It was thought that it would be beneficial to install primary-type basketball nets with three buckets. A parent suggested soccer goals be added, but Tim noted that they are prohibited on school grounds. There are painted activities on the tarmac that the students do not know how to use, so Tim is looking into Play leaders through York Region Health to teach a variety of games. There was a cart in the office that contained balls and toys for play, but it is out for repair. It was noted that balls are considered consumables and have to be replaced often. Tim is looking into a concrete bunker to store all toys, balls, etc but the cost is \$2,500-\$3,000 and is not in this year’s budget.
- **Grandparents’ Social Event Presentation - Jillane Smith and Dana Burton**

-This would be an event to honour the elders and to build our school community. It would be held in the gym for about an hour, and refreshments would be provided. The students of the elders would join them in the gym. There would be art displays, choir and band performances. Initially it would be for grades 1, 2 and 3, with more grades added in subsequent years. Potential dates are June 12 or 13. Invites will be sent home in early May and RSVP will be expected by late May. Students could bring their grandparents or another significant person in their community. A parting gift or memento would be handed out. It was suggested that an interpreter or cultural liaison might be helpful. It was also suggested that we ask a student to take photographs at the event. They are requesting approximately \$250 in funds for this event.
- Tim reported that the staffing process for next year is ongoing. Tim confirmed that two portables will be added, for a total of three. The tarmac play area will be reduced. There will be an additional 2 teachers. He could not confirm if more EAs will be added as well.
- Cost sharing order has been submitted and included iPads, Chromebooks, Otter Boxes, Tech Tubs, and robotics. Thank you to School Council.
- The Eco Club continues to clean up around the school. Mr. Borg’s class cleaned/picked up garbage in an area around the bus loop and school yard.
- The school participated in Earth Day by turning out the lights for a period of time.
- Many extracurricular sports and clubs continue.

- Grade 7 & 8 are working on presentations for their Heritage Fair
- Some important dates coming up:
  - Friday April 12th — Junior Character Matters assembly
  - Tuesday April 23rd — Our Grade 4 students will participate in international standardized testing as a result of Stonehaven ES being selected by TIMS, an organization that ranks 60 countries in Math. Test administration is overseen by the EQAO office. The testing consists of two 36-minute sessions online, plus a parent questionnaire. Jason explained that the benefit of participating is to compare how Canada fares with other countries and it also helps inform planning etc.
  - April 29th to May 3rd — Wellness Week organized by Ms. Marques, who has received a \$250 grant. Shameela has connected with her and offered to secure some free presenters. Shameela has also reached out to a choral musician, who has agreed to come to our school for workshops with our Grade 7 students during Wellness Week. In addition, Ms Smith noted that NHS students who have taken a course centered around wellness will be running workshops for our Grade 8 students during that week
  - Monday May 6th — Music Monday — All students will be singing an Oscar Peterson song
  - Thursday May 9th — Jump Rope for Heart (just had a successful kick-off assembly)
  - Wednesday May 15th — Arts Showcase Night with presentations, art displays, performances by choir and band

### **Treasurer's Report Highlights**

- Kara noted that the Cobs Bread fundraiser was very successful, raising almost \$2,400
- Using about \$60 from School Council dance funds, the Girls Empowerment Club raised \$300, which will help parent volunteers to purchase fruit, which will be kept in the office for students

### **MOTION – motion to approve the Treasurer's Report**

~ Motion made by Evelyn Morgan, seconded by Julie King, all in favour.

### **Allocation of Funds: Items currently up for consideration:**

- The Hub is looking to create a STEM Den, which would be located in the middle room in the Hub. It would have tools and activities. The tools have to be in carts that the students will build themselves. Mrs. Hulse, Mr. Rutherford, and the Tech Team have applied for a grant, and they indicated on the application that School Council has been a supportive partner. Shameela is also requesting a donation from Magna International to match our allocation of \$1,500.
- Evolve Skateboarding Subsidy - \$1,500. This activity happens in Mid-May. Cost per student was \$6 for the past two years, but will likely increase to \$8 this year (School Council allocated \$2,500 last year).
- Sensory Floor Decals & Application - \$1,200
- Outdoor Education & Gardening Supplies - \$1,000
- Angel Fund - \$1,000 (gave \$500 late in 2018)
- April Music/Unity Workshops for all Grade 7 students. - \$800. This is for two 2½ hour music workshops promoting cultural unity through music. The presenter is Hussein Janmohamed, a musician and

composer who is currently completing his PhD at The University of Toronto. If this workshop is well-received by students, we can apply for an Ontario Arts Council Grant to have more next year.

- June 24th Grad Party for Grade 8's – \$500
- Girls Empowerment Club - \$250 for supplies and t-shirts
- Grandparents' Tea - \$250 for food and supplies.

**Total - \$8,000**

**MOTION – motion to approve \$8,000 in Funds Allocation**

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

**Caring And Safe Schools**

- Shameela reported on the March 19<sup>th</sup> talk hosted by the Newmarket Parent Network, of which Stonehaven Elementary School is connected due to the collaboration with 6 other schools using PRO Grants. A summary document was reviewed along with a copy of a letter sent to the Director of Education, with a specific request to have a meeting with board officials and a group of parent advocates. The hope is to form a partnership and implement programs to help all students who are affected by violent incidents in classrooms.
- Shameela also reported on the next steps for students, parents, and school staff with specific reference to documents. Those interested in contacting the school board members, trustees and/or their government representatives can reference the following documents:
  - Ministry of Education's Policies and Program Memoranda 120, 128 and 145
  - YRDSB's Caring and Safe Schools' Strategy and Working Document
- A general discussion of the March 19<sup>th</sup> event followed, with comments and input from parents in attendance. It was reported to be a very positive discussion and next steps were discussed. Rafaela indicated she recently had a positive meeting with Kate Diakiw, Superintendent of Education, Student Services. She requested that a standardized letter be sent home every time there is an incident at school affecting a class (i.e, evacuation). The superintendent also indicated that there were resources available to families. Another parent contributed that it was recognized that this is a systemic issue and not just limited to our school, and that the event on March 19th was a positive evening of a collective group of parents looking for solutions. This parent also stated that the meeting recognized that there are victims on both sides of the issue.
- Shameela noted that the Newmarket Psychotherapy Team, led by Kristin Greco, will be offering a weekly support group for parents dealing with behavioural challenges and witnessing violent incidents in their children's classrooms. More information will be provided through Newmarket Parent Network.
- Shameela also noted that CBC's The Sunday Edition has had a series of radio segments and podcasts on the issue of violence in classrooms, looking at all perspectives (teachers, unions, parents, students with complex behavioural needs, and students who are witnessing violence in their classes and exhibiting signs of anxiety and trauma).

## **Constitution Review**

- The committee consists of Cathy Miles, Evelyn Morgan and Rafaela Abraham, with support by Tim Dunn and Jason Eygenraam. Two days prior to this meeting, on Tuesday April 2nd, Cathy emailed a revised draft of the Constitution to all Council members, for review. The existing Constitution was also sent out, for reference. As the meeting was running short on time and because it is a large document to review, it was decided that Council members should review and send questions and comments to the Constitution Review Committee via email, and cc all council members as well as Tim and Jason. The hope is that all comments and suggestions can be reviewed, discussed and incorporated as needed. Further discussion and voting to accept the new document will take place at the next Council meeting.
- Rafaela provided a brief framework for the revisions to the Constitution. They had taken ideas from various sources including other school council Constitutions, the YRDSB Policy and Procedure #262.0, the YRDSB Code of Ethics, the YRDSB School Council Handbook and the MOE's School Councils: A Guide for Members, along with their personal experience serving on various boards.

## **Communications:**

- Shameela reminded parents that any concerns they may have should be raised first with their child's teacher, then principal, then superintendent.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm**

**Reminder of next meeting date: Thursday, May 23rd**