

Stonehaven Elementary School Council Meeting Minutes

Character Matters in our School and Community

Thursday December 6, 2018 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Tim Dunn (Principal)	Susan Wansbrough (VP)	Shameela Shakeel (Chair/VM)	Cathy Miles (Vice-Chair/VM)
Kara Bilo (Treasurer/VM)	Anne Scott (Secretary/VM)	Carl Oliver (staff)	Heather O'Doherty (staff)
Lorna Coulter (VM)	Celine Morrow (VM)	Evelyn Morgan (VM)	Kelley Ciavatta
Tara Jackson	Rafaela Abraham	Jillian Halkidis	Aliya Syed
Cindy Persaud	Nina Barton		

Regrets from School Council Members: Julie King, Roni Silbershatz, Karin Larkan-Hill, Karen Dunn
Absent School Council Member: Chelsea Yu

Principal and Vice-Principal's Report:

- **Extracurricular** - many programs are underway (colouring club, yoga, milk bag weaving, sewing/quilting, STEM Minds for grades 1 through 3, volleyball, basketball, etc...see Friday's "The Week Ahead" email for list and timing of clubs)
- **Character Room** - created for students in grades 1 through 4 to help with social skills, turn-taking, playing games with peers (on a referral basis); students in grades 5 through 8 will be trained as leaders; facilitated by teachers and EAs
- **Planning and projections for 2019/2020 school year** - there are currently 640 students, a number likely to increase and as a result there will likely be more portables required next school year
- **School Improvement Plan** - focus on three areas: Caring and Safe Schools/Well-Being; Math; and Equity and Inclusivity
- **Scientists in the School** - a parent from our school, Helen Kelson, is a new program facilitator and has offered to do a free trial run for the Grade 7 classes
- **Other activities:** Play for Grades 6-8 "The Little Mermaid" on December 14th at Newmarket Theatre, Day of Coding planning is underway, Grade 8 Pancake Lunch on December 20th in the school gym, Grade 7's Sibbald trip, Grade 3's have just been to STEM Minds, Primary Concert on Dec. 12th
- **Charity Initiatives** - Food Drive (including competition for grades 4 through 8), Hat and Mitten Tree and Toy Drive (a staff initiative for identified students that need support).

School Council Forum Update:

- Susan Wansbrough, Cathy Miles and Anne Scott attended in October
- Cathy Miles attended the Triple P workshop and felt there might be potential for them to conduct a series of three workshops for parents at our school
- Cathy also attended a workshop on Principal Profiles - see attached for reference to the document that was recently revised and updated by Shameela and Cathy
- Anne and Sue attended the Indigenous workshop and learned that every school in YRDSB has students who identify as Indigenous and it was discussed how this impacts our curriculum
- Anne also attended the School Council/Parent Engagement workshop about various ways to better engage parents to volunteer, as well as using social media platforms (e.g., Facebook) for School Council to communicate with the school community

Angel Fund Update:

- Many in the community have reached out to ask how to best support a child who has recently suffered from a tragic loss in the family. Currently, she is being supported with lunches every day through Healthy Hunger orders, Lunch Lady orders and a parent providing lunches every Monday. Hill House Hospice donated funds to help to cover the student's lunches until the end of the school year. Two School Council members also donated poinsettias to Hill House Hospice.

Yearbook Cover Contest Voting:

- Council members voted on 23 finalists to choose the top 13 for the students to vote on during the week of December 10-13.

Treasurer's Report:

- Submitted and reviewed, a discrepancy was noted in the poinsettia income amount; Shameela is to look into this; approval of report will be completed via email.

Discussions/Updates:

Fundraising:

- Chapters Night was a big success, with SES receiving a gift card of \$787.18.
- Poinsettia fundraiser raised \$379
- Lorna presented a Cobs Bakery fundraising idea. Cobs will provide free cards each with a value of \$50 to be sold for \$15-20. All money raised goes to the school. This card is used for one item per visit, and items include a loaf of bread, dinner rolls, scones, etc. School Council voted to try this fundraiser early in the spring. We will offer the cards for \$15 each or 2 for \$20.
- Upcoming events include the White Elephant Sale, Movie Night and the Friendship Dance in February. Movie night is pending whether or not there is a permit in the gym. A movie license is also to be investigated.

Allocation of Funds:

- The cost-sharing program happens from January through April. YRDSB matches all money raised by School Council, up to a maximum of \$6,250. School Council has previously allocated \$3,000 for the new year.
- The Snow Valley Tubing Trip for Grades 4-8 will happen February 20th. The major cost for this is the buses, as they are “chartered” for the day.

MOTION - “I motion the allocation of \$1,000 to offset the costs of the Snow Valley trip. (By Shameela, 2nd by Celine; all 7 voting members in favour)

- Evolve Skateboarding - May 14-16. Shameela suggested that School Council offset the cost by allocating \$1500, the same amount as last year. A decision was deferred until our meeting in February.
- Grade 8 Holiday Pancake Lunch is scheduled for December 20th. Dickies’ No Frills in Newmarket has donated a \$50 gift card to cover the cost of juice boxes, paper plates and napkins. We are still waiting for a quote for the cost of the pancakes.

Parent Engagement Ideas:

- Since PRO Grants are no longer available by the Ministry of Education, it will be challenging to hold events with multiple schools this year. While it is mandated that each school put \$500 towards Parent Engagement, it is not known yet if other schools are following this. Because of this elimination of grant money, various ideas for “economical” speakers and topics were discussed, such as Financial Literacy (Junior Achievement), Mental Health (Triple P) and Social Media (Crimestoppers). Carl Oliver noted that he has signed up for Junior Achievement, and will follow up.
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New Ideas/Q&A

- The Edsby platform was discussed; it was noted that it is slowly being phased in by the YRDSB and therefore it is not a seamless transition for all school staff. Some parents expressed frustration as the old program “Seesaw” used in the primary division, was user-friendly. Google classroom, which is used in the Junior and Intermediate grades, is an option to find out what is going on in your child’s classroom.
- The Week Ahead email was discussed and it was suggested that more information, such as celebrations and awards, could be added.
- Council is awaiting the Metro Green Apple Grant to pay for fruit in the office for students
- Tim Dunn and Susan Wansbrough addressed the concerns of the parents in attendance regarding the the timing of the email sent home earlier that day regarding the teacher under investigation by the York Regional Police. (The teacher has not been at the school since mid-November). Tim explained that it is an ongoing investigation, there was a media ban until late Thursday, and a communication ban by school staff. As such, the school could not communicate any sooner to parents and worked very closely with the senior team and legal team at the Board.

- Questions were raised regarding how to ensure the school is safe. It was noted that there are criminal background checks done for all staff and volunteers. Unfortunately no workplace or school can be guaranteed as 100% safe.
- The school staff will not be talking about this matter with students. Teachers are able to receive support from a board-provided social worker and psychologist. It was suggested by a parent that the school host a “Town Hall” type meeting with a psychologist or social worker to assist parents in learning how to talk to their children about this issue.
- Communication in general was discussed, with concerns and questions raised about classroom evacuations, hold and secure, and lockdowns. Various terminology was clarified.
- Mr. Oliver offered a suggestion for peer monitors/intermediate students who may be able to help with safety of students going to the bathroom alone (they should always go in pairs but sometimes this doesn’t happen).
- Sue will also have a meeting with the new group of Lunch Monitors in January, to review safety rules, expectations and responsibilities.

Reminder of upcoming School Council meeting dates in 2019:

February 7

April 4

May 23

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm