

# Stonehaven Elementary School Council Meeting Minutes

*Character Matters in our School and Community*

Thursday February 7, 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*	Karin Larkan-Hill Parent Member*	Evelyn Morgan Parent Member*	Karen Dunn Staff Representative*
Mohammed Haji Abdolali	Rafaela Abraham	Jillian Halkidis	Oxana Dawe
Anahita PourRazavi	Shokou Daneshian	Teresa Jacobs	Cindy Persaud
Antonia Kritikos (staff)	Bella Palombo (staff)		

\*indicates voting member

Regret submitted by Celine Morrow; Absence noted for Chelsea Yu

## **Introductions and Welcome to our new VP, Jason Eygenraam**

### **Meeting Norms**

- A list of Meeting Norms was added to the agenda and printed for all attendees to read. This outlined expectations in terms of items to be discussed and behaviour, with a goal of keeping the meeting on track. In particular it was noted that items of a personal matter concerning specific students or teachers, or items that were not of a school-wide concern, could not be discussed.

### **Girls Empowerment**

- Bella Palombo and Antonia Kritikos, teachers at SES, made a presentation outlining the objectives of their program for girls in Grades 6, 7 and 8. They presented to Council with the hope of receiving guidance as well as start-up funds for their initiatives.
- The club is a vehicle to assist girls in navigating issues of socialization, self-image and confidence
- They currently have 3 initiatives which may require some financial support from Council:
  - Making and selling character trait bracelets at the Friendship Dance, with proceeds going to purchasing apples for students (in the school office)
  - A brunch fundraiser for families
  - A food drive with donations going to Rose of Sharon – services for young mothers

- T-shirts for the girls and if Council has any contacts to do this
- Shameela indicated that she would provide contact information for two parents at our school, one with a restaurant (for catering) and one with a printing company (for T-shirts)

#### **Staff Report (previously called Principal's Report):**

- **Extracurricular** - many programs are underway including basketball (junior and intermediate), colouring club, yoga, STEM Minds etc...see Friday Week ahead email for list and timing of clubs) A new program underway is Reach for the Top, which involves trivia challenges.
- **Student Report Cards** - will be going home Wednesday February 13
- **Friendship Dance** – Thursday February 14
- **Grade 8 Fundraiser at Boston Pizza** - February 25
- **Planning and projections for 2019 – 2020 school year** – staffing process is underway – as it stands now, the projections show an additional need for more classes. We are likely to get 2 additional portables, and perhaps 3, for a total of 4 portables. Projections are based on 67 students graduating, plus about 58 JK students coming in. Also factored in are the students leaving for French Immersion (currently 18) and the gifted program. A current unknown is any directive coming from the provincial government related to the removal of the cap on primary class sizes. As it stands now, SES is projecting 5 full kindergarten classes for next year. There will be fluctuation in staffing based on the above criteria.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

- It was noted that the White Elephant Sale was even more successful this school year, in large part to the addition of the raffle this year. Funds raised \$1283.20
- Popcorn makes about \$100 per week
- The current balance is just over \$6,000, but it was noted that \$3,000 has already been allocated for the cost-sharing program for new technology

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

~ Motion made by Karin Larkin-Hill, seconded by Lorna Coulter, all in favour.

#### **Fundraising:**

- Lorna updated the Cobs Bakery fundraising idea. A card with a value of \$50 will be sold for \$15 each or two for \$20. All money goes to the school. This card is used for one item per visit, and items include a loaf of bread, scones, etc. There is no expiry date on the card. This initiative will be put on School Cash Online. Staff and families may purchase for cash from the office. We initially received 50 cards from Cobs, but are able to get as many as required. Cards will be go home with students, accompanied by an email from the school, in the first week of March. The deadline for purchase is Feb 28.
- Shameela reported that she will setup the Purdy's chocolate fundraiser for families to make purchases in March, after the Cobs fundraiser. This is done entirely online, via the Purdy's website, so it is an

easy fundraiser. Orders will be organized and distributed on the gym stage, for pick up by purchasers. This will occur over the course of one day.

- Cathy updated the Spring Flower Fundraiser. This is done with North 40 farms and again will be done through School Cash Online, as per last year. Flowers arrive before Mother's Day in May and will be distributed and organized on the gym stage for pick up by purchasers, over the course of one day.
- April 24<sup>th</sup> is the Cake Walk/ Artisan Market. Eight artisan tables have already been sold, at a cost of \$50 per table. Shameela spoke to Kym Sloggett, Lead Organizer of the Artisan Market, who indicated that she anticipates that we will have about 22-25 vendors. An email message will be sent to the school community in order to inform everyone about the market opportunity.

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

- **YRDSB Cost Sharing Program for Technology** Through the cost sharing program, The YRDSB matches all money raised by Council, up to a maximum of \$6,250. This would mean \$12,500 in funds for technology. Tim Dunn outlined the technology being requested, which includes more iPads, Chromebooks and Dash and Dot robotics. Tim suggested that Otter Boxes also be purchased to protect the iPads. Jason noted that iPad repairs are done by technicians at the Board, but there is still a cost attached to this repair. Jason also indicated that the Cost-sharing funds are usually depleted fairly quickly and that some schools qualify for a 1:2 ratio or even a 1:3 ratio depending on school size and geographic/demographic location. He suggested Council may want to allocate funds sooner rather than later to take advantage of the cost sharing.
- **Evolve Skateboarding** – In the past, Council has allocated \$2,000 for this activity for grades 1-3. This gives the younger grades an activity, as the older grades go tubing at Snow Valley. It was recommended that Council allocate \$1,000 for this initiative this year, and slightly raise the individual cost for students. As always, and families who find the cost prohibitive can receive help via The Angel Fund.
- **Grade 8 Grad** – Council historically gives \$500 towards this, to supplement their own fundraising.
- **Girls Empowerment Club** – start-up costs of of \$250 – \$300
- **Grandparents' Tea** - \$250 - \$300  
-an event inviting grandparents into the school for a tea and opportunity to tour classes
- **Special Presentations** - \$800 - \$1,000  
-these are usually character building, anti-bullying or musical presentations for students

**MOTION – “I motion the allocation of up to \$6,250 by April 1, 2019 for the Board cost-sharing program for technology”**

~ Motion made by Shameela Shakeel, seconded by Lorna Coulter, all in favour.

- It was decided that voting for other allocations of funds would occur via email, as funds become available following the various fundraisers that are happening.

- The school did not receive the Metro Green grant this year of \$1,000, but Shameela noted that funds from Tuck Shop and Girls Empowerment Club will go towards the purchase of apples.
- A PRO grant was awarded to seven schools in the area. As in previous years, the schools will pool their resources (7 x \$1,000) and have a speaker series. Currently they are looking at
  - Chris Vollum, a social media speaker (with daytime talks for students in grades 4 through 8)
  - an IEP/IPRC speaker for parents with children with learning disabilities
  - an additional speaker TBA

### **Constitution Review**

- The School Council constitution was last reviewed in March 2015. A sub-committee was formed to review and update it, if necessary. The committee consists of Cathy Miles, Evelyn Morgan, Rafaela Abraham as well as the principal and VP. They will meet and report back with proposed changes. School Council will need to vote approve any changes to the Constitution.

### **Communications:**

- Communications was added to the agenda in response to parents from Ms. Petejan's class (formerly Mr. Testa's class) approaching another Council member and requesting this. They wanted to better understand why they did not receive more support regarding the recent incident with their previous teacher. This was to provide parents with an opportunity to voice their concerns and for the Principals to also have an opportunity to explain what directives they must follow when fulfilling their role. Suggestions for improvements to communication between families and the school were welcomed.
- Tim reiterated the various ways the school administrators communicate with parents:
- -The Week Ahead- a weekly email that is distributed via email to ALL parents who have opted in to receive the email communications
  - Email messages (e.g., the recent communication announcing the transition to a new VP)
  - communications specific to a certain grade or class
- If a parent has an issue, Tim indicated that his preference is to meet one-on-one or to discuss the matter by phone, as many things can be misinterpreted by email
- Jason suggested that parents can email him with concerns, but he sometimes preferred to discuss issues by phone or in person
- In many cases, the school can communicate as needed, however in some situations they have to wait for a board directive
- Some parents noted that EDSBY is being used as a tool for communication from class to parent; however, some glitches have been noted

**Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm**

**Reminder of upcoming meetings: Thursday, April 4th and Thursday, May 23rd**