

# Stonehaven Elementary School Council Meeting Minutes

*Character Matters in our School and Community*

January 22, 2025 from 6:30 to 8:00pm

*The School Council was held in person with the following members present:*

## **Attendance:**

### **Staff Members:**

George Vellathottam (Principal)

Melissa Boulet (Staff representative)

**Voting Members (2024/2025):** Jennifer Strong (Co-Chair), Shiromy Persaud (Co-Chair), Rameza Hirsimaki (Treasurer), Julie King, Daniela Pereira, Inna Rapoport, Erin Gooderham, Deborah Amigo, Dianne Manning, Laura James

**Members At Large (in attendance):** Katherine Bougeois, Nisa Chaudhry

**Absent:** Jennifer Ley (regrets sent), Lyndsay Mokund (regrets sent), Lindsay McLeod, Jeaninne Cairns, Jenn Steinman

## **AGENDA ITEMS AND NOTES**

### **Welcome- Shiromy and Jen**

- Land Acknowledgement and discussion of treaty agreements
- Sharing a description and the intents of the Parent Council
- Meeting Norms
  - Start each meeting at 6:30pm and end no later than 8:00pm
  - Do not name individual staff, parents or students
  - Encourage positive conversations
  - Create an informal atmosphere
- Sharing of the Agenda

### **Minutes and Financial Report- Shiromy & Rameza**

#### November Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes were circulated for review and approval electronically. 14 Council members approved the minutes.

#### Financial Report (Rameza)

January financial report noted community class groceries and purchase of snack program bins as new expenses with a balance of \$4801.93.

***MOTION to approve January Financial Report made by Shiromy and seconded by Julie.***

**Staff Report: Melissa and George**

### **Summary of school events since November**

- Remembrance Day celebration
- Progress reports and Parent/Teacher interviews conducted
- Teacher/Student soccer game
- Spoken Word workshop for intermediate students
- Mindful Mondays
- Dental Screening
- Gifted Screening
- Food and clothing drive
- Lion dancing
- Arts night
- New school logo approved
- Secret staff spirit day
- PJ spirit day
- Teacher/Student volleyball game
- Bollywood dance workshops
- Attendance at Newmarket High School production
- Welcomed supply Vice-Principal
- New lunch programs introduced
- Snack bin program piloted
- Snow tubing
- Junior volleyball
- Display boards – Chinese history and education in the library

### **Upcoming**

- Lunar New Year celebration

### **Update on Spring Engagement Event- George**

- Team of staff are leading the planning for a spring event to celebrate the various identities at Stonehaven Elementary school and different cultural celebrations
- Aligned with school improvement plan
- Parent volunteer callout will be released
- More information to be shared

### **Council Updates- Jen & Shiromy**

#### **Sub-Committee Updates - Leads**

#### **Volunteer Committee (Dani, Katherine)**

- Reminder for teachers if they need assistance to speak to the volunteer committee
- Incorporate call out for volunteers for planned event in future communications from council

#### **Fundraising (Shiromy)**

- Spirit Wear
  - o New school logo approved
  - o Updates required to vendor website where families will make purchases for spirit wear
  - o Should be released to the school soon
- Terracotta Cookie Dough

- Raised \$788. Will be incorporated in to the next financial report
- Maple Syrup
  - More information to come
- Big Box of Cards
  - Plan for spring fundraiser

### **Engagement Committee (Laura)**

- Yearbook
  - Uploading pictures in progress
  - Aim for spring delivery
  - Will not include grade 8 graduation events due to timing of yearbook to ensure students have an opportunity to gather signatures
  - School will be provided with a free digital camera for students to take pictures
- Movie Night
  - Licensing costs for movies to consider
  - Popcorn and snacks will be available for purchase
  - More information to come
- Spring Dance
  - Date to be determined
  - Parent volunteers will be needed to help support non-dance activities
  - Pre-sale of snack packs to be determined

### **Food Committee (Shiromy)**

- Survey to parents administered. Parents would like to see lunch programs 5 days a week. As a result, we added a fourth day. Subway and Burger Priest are new lunch options.
- Snack bins – piloting snack bin program. Feedback from staff will be gathered soon. Communication to parents in the next newsletter
- Update on milk program – George spoke to staff about this possibility. Management of the milk program poses some challenges. Burger Priest does offer chocolate milk for purchase.

### **Grade 8 Graduation Update (Julie, Nisa)**

- Grade 8 grad planned for June 25
- Ceremony will be held at Newmarket High School theater and dinner and dance will be held at the Old Town Hall
- Sub-committees currently working on various components
- Graduation sweater will be available for purchase
- Poll released to gather feedback on field trips and food and theme for the event
- Fundraising plan includes community fundraising, donations, sale of snacks at sport events, basketball event, cookie sales

### **Communications (Shiromy)**

- Planning for February newsletter. Will include updated donation list and technology fundraiser reminder

### **Fundraising Plan**

- Fundraising plan developed in consultation with the Principal
- Plan will be shared with Council members

### **Student Leadership Update**

- Update provided on behalf of L. Wield and S. Moniz
- December Food Drive
  - o Very successful
  - o School supported the Newmarket Food Pantry as well as families at Stonehaven ES
  - o Donated approximately 400 lbs of food to the food pantry
- Upcoming Theme Days
  - o January 30 – Comfy clothes/PJ day
  - o February 21 – Stonehaven Star Day (more information to come)
- Valentine’s Cards for York Region Paramedic Services
  - o Student leadership is running this as a club at recess time
  - o Set a schedule for when grades (1 to 8) can come to make a card for paramedics and their senior staff
  - o Aim to deliver 100 cards

### **Pro-Grant Speaker**

- Discussed with George connection to the classroom (ie. daytime speaker for school staff and students and evening presentation for families) and building off the great work happening at the school
- Possible topics discussed:
  - o Mental health and anxiety
  - o Anti-oppression
  - o Wellness
  - o Embracing diversity and inclusion
  - o Respect and kindness
  - o Safety
  - o Bullying awareness
- Need to draw from board approved speaker list
- Council to short list topics. George to consult with staff.

### **Other Business**

- Would there be interest in offering self-defence classes to grade 7 and 8 girls? Council was supportive of exploring this further
- Can we ask for direct donation of snacks? Yes but best way is to contribute money through school cash online to leverage bulk purchases and coupons provided to the school
- Are we still planning for a spring arts night? Yes date still to be determined
- How are we ensuring that more heritages are being recognized/celebrated during the spring engagement event? School knows the demographics. This will be dependent on volunteers who come forward.
- Is there a requirement to complete a vulnerable sector screening to volunteer at the school? Yes. Please contact the office who will provide a letter to support the vulnerable sector screening.

### **Meeting Adjourned**