



## **Whitchurch Highlands Public School Council Meeting**

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016**

### **Present:**

**Council Members:** Brad Derry, Therese Harris, Mary Zizakovic, Robert Carter, Tania Kedilerli-Boudreau, Cathlin Hennze, Julie Lepage, Jane Vivian

**Regrets:** Noula Halikias-Mintsoulis, Marlene Foran, Amanda Van Veen Pirie, Lorie Schoenrock, Jackie Steinmiller

**Non-Council Attendees:** Jen Worden

**Approval of January minutes:** Approved by Tania Kedilerli-Boudreau and seconded by Robert Carter

**Approval of March agenda:** Approved by Cathlin Hennze and seconded by Mary Zizakovic

### **Treasurers' Report – Rob Carter**

- \$11,629 in school account
- Payments still outstanding for Pita lunches and skiing

### **Principal's Report – Brad Derry**

#### **Kindergarten play area**

- kindergarten area has been an issue of concern for quite some time with temporary solutions of sandboxes and awnings which have started to deteriorate
- as part of a Board pilot we've been approved for 2 kindergarten enclosure sunshades at \$4,000 each; cost will be covered by the Board
- sunshades will be removed annually at a cost of \$350-\$400 which will have to be absorbed by the School

#### **Water bottle filling station**

- all schools will be required to install water filling stations
- will also be used as a drinking fountain
- the cost to install will be \$2800 – will be installed during the next school year
- water used will be the building water which is tested bi-weekly and monitored daily

#### **Staffing**

- enrolment numbers are down for next year
- currently we are at 254 students and are projecting 237 for next year – this translates to 1 less classroom for next year and a surplus of 3 teachers
- we will not be running the Fresh Start program next year
- we are getting another community class for autistic children in the early primary grades – a new teacher will be hired for that class; class will have 6 students, 1 teacher and 2 EA's

## **JungleSport**

- group discussion around possibly subsidizing the \$4000 cost
- all in agreement that Council could not cover any of the cost to run the program at this time
- we will subsidize for any students that may not be able to pay the cost to attend

## **Invest in Ed**

- not a lot of activity coming in for Invest in Ed - \$2140 in total (our goal is \$10,000)
- 14 families have donated to date (\$1480 in online donations and cheques totalling \$660)
- revise the communication piece to reflect the monetary goal, where we are at, what are our key goals as a Council
- reinforce the fact that \$40 per student will take us to our goal
- paper copies to go out immediately with attached donation envelopes and labels
- Invest in Ed to be displayed in the front office area
- should also be posted on the marquee outside
- locate the thermometer that was used last year to display our progress to date
- extend the campaign till the end of March
  
- Teacher Learning – teachers will be given release time for professional development, enhancement of technology and critical thinking
- Promoting positive mental health and well-being – Keynote speaker will be Michelle Cassidy (YRDSB Mental Health Lead – March 8<sup>th</sup> at Wendat Village PS
- Parent Symposium to be held on Wed March 30<sup>th</sup> at Sheraton Parkway – Jane, Tania and Amanda to attend with Mr. Derry
- EQAO dates for grades 3 and 6 scheduled for May 25<sup>th</sup> – June 8<sup>th</sup>

## **Homework Policy Update- Brad Derry**

- no changes to the current policy
- teacher guidelines - consistency amongst the teachers in terms of homework load each year (some of the juniors are getting more homework than the senior students at the school) - Brad to provide some feedback to the teachers

## **Teacher's Report – Julie Lepage (in Marlene's absence)**

- Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade 8 Quebec Trip - students had a wonderful time
- Feb 10<sup>th</sup> Grade 5s to Safety Village
- Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> Grade 7 trip to Camp Mini-Yo-We - students had the chance to experience many outdoor activities
- Feb 25<sup>th</sup> Mrs. Lepage and Ms. Lam's class had a visit from the Toronto Wildlife Centre
- March 1<sup>st</sup> Mrs. Lepage took her students to the Aurora Food Bank
- March 1<sup>st</sup> Kindergarteners hosted Scientists in the School
- Senior Boys Basketball came second in the Area Tournament
- Senior Girls Basketball missed the Area Tournament because the Grade seven girls were at Camp Mini-Yo-We but they did have some other games and a tournament. They had a great time
- Basketball tryouts – juniors boys and girls

## **Upcoming Events**

- March 9<sup>th</sup> – Kindergartners visit Bruce's Mill

## **Author Visits**

- April 8<sup>th</sup> 9:45-10:45 Wesley King, Author of Incredible Space Raiders from Space will visit Grades 4-6 \$200 flat fee
- April 20<sup>th</sup> 2:10-3:35 Emil Sher, Author of Young Man With Camera will visit Grades 7 and 8 \$300 plus HST= \$339
- April 27<sup>th</sup> 2:05-2:50; 2:50-3:35 - Sandra Bradley, Author of Henry Holton Takes the Ice will visit JK-Grade 3, 2 sessions \$400 plus HST = \$452 plus expenses about \$50?

## **Yellow Brick House Public Education Workshops**

- 2 workshops – one will be about Healthy Relationships and the second is Nurturing the Self
- workshops will be for grades seven and eight students - cost is \$200

Total Author and workshops \$200+\$340+\$500+\$200 = approximately \$1240.00

## **Community Engagement – Jane Vivian**

- Movie night – 40 families in attendance
- Jane planning another movie night sometime in April
- KNEX club starting the week of March 7<sup>th</sup> – to be run weekly by Angie Whittick and Kim Plato every Tues
- Markham Fair Craft Club to start once the KNEX club has wrapped up
- WHPS merchandise – Brad to review supplier from last year; parent feedback that the sizes were very small last year
- Spring fair and yearbook planning moving ahead – organized by Amanda

## **Communications – Discussion**

- Offer a babysitting option to encourage more parents to come out to Council meetings
- Council corner in the monthly newsletter – to be submitted to Brad by Mary; this means Council will need to vote on minutes shortly after the meeting via email
- Monthly newsletters are always posted on the parent board
- Brad to check with Rita about updating the current council members and meeting dates on the website

## **New Business**

- Learn to Skate program – Ms. Rowsell is looking into getting some ice time for primaries
- Lunch alternatives – Jane to look at Kids Kitchen for next year

## **Important dates for 2016**

Council dates

- ✓ Apr 28<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ May 26<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ June 16<sup>th</sup>

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm