

MINUTES FROM WILLOWBROOK SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

January 14, 2015

Present: Anushka Grant, Paula Lipkus, Danielle Williams, Chris Papanau, Erin Smith, Lucy Giannotta, Tonya Young, Boua Majidi, Rozanne Treger, Kim Armstrong,

1. Minutes from last meeting

Danielle suggested one change re jerseys. School council paid the full amount, as agreed upon, which was more than what was documented upon in last Month's minutes. It ended up being \$100 or 200 more than the original \$1300 amount noted in minutes

2. Caretaker's report:

Chris Papanau, spoke briefly about the Caretakers' roles at the school. He indicated that their job is more than just the work but also about connecting with the children and staff. Their main objective is to keep the school safe and clean. Chris has a building operations certificate so he knows how to run a building.

Lucy mentioned all the "behind the scenes" work that they do. There is a lot of mechanical work and intricacies that not everyone is aware of. Caretakers meet with Lucy and Tonya on a regular basis to review upkeep, challenges etc.

3. Principals report

Updates from the last School Council meeting:

- Ski trips have been implemented. Uplands was chosen for the grades 3-5 and Lake Ridge for grades 6-8.
- Any child who doesn't attend the ski trips will be given an alternative program that will be provided at the school
- Tonya, Mrs Cappe and Lucy met about the \$3,000 allocated to the library. Mrs. Cappe is in the process of surveying the teachers to see what new books they want purchased for the library.
- Cost sharing: The new laptops have arrived
- The second round of cost sharing will be presented to Council later this year
- The community Liason worker and Learning Disabilities Association of York Region are coming to meet Lucy /Tonya on January 26 to plan workshop that was discussed at the last School Council meeting. The workshop will be Feb 25 in the evening
- The donation receipts that Patti had not distributed have now been given out. She was holding onto them until closer to tax season.
- The Arts package letter went out this week. The cost is down to \$7 per child thanks to councils \$2,000 contribution
- Lucy may ask the Parent School Council to provide funds to transport Stornaway students to the arts program.
- If any parents chose not to participate in the arts program, another program will be provided

- The social media presenter Chris Vollum has been booked for April 29 and this will be funded by School Council. Neighboring schools will be invited. There will be a day presentation at school for the students and an evening for parents on same day.

New business:

- Swan lake outdoor centre trip took place for some grades but not for grade 2s because of the snow storm on Dec 11
- Grade 7 and 8 children were recently immunized (Hep B and Meningitis for grade 7. Gardasil for grade 8 girls)
- The Hour of Code took place recently - an hour of outdoor exercise
- Patti Dolan left at the start of the winter break and the new secretary Monika Krawczynski began work in the new year.
- There have been lots of indoor recesses. The York Region School Board's policy has a -20C threshold (with wind chill) for indoor recess. But Lucy usually draws the line at -15C with wind chill
- PA day on Friday Jan16, 2015 for staff to write report cards and EAs to do some continuing Ed
- The school was granted some funds for a midday nutritional program as another school declined it. It is still in the planning stages.
- *Parent Reaching Out Grant Program* is a grant that has to be applied for from the Ministry for the purpose of building parent engagement. Willowbrook applied for it several years ago. The grant provides up to \$1,000. It is too late to apply for the 2014/2015 school year but we can apply for next year. It is an easy application and a nice way to bring parents into the school and engage them more. The Ministry website has more information on Parent Reaching Out Grant. It has the list of the schools in Ontario that are already working on projects and have been granted the funds
- Student dress code: It may be worth visiting in the warmer months. The board puts out lots of policies and procedures and are always looking for parent, staff and student input. Dress code is usually discussed at school council so that children are informed the decision wasn't made only by administrators but also by parents. Danielle said that this has not been the case up until now but Lucy has traditionally involved school council in this discussion at her other schools. When there is a conflict between staff and children, it is easier for staff to let students know that the rules were made in consultation with parents as well as administrators. This would be a Willowbrook specific dress code.

4. Vice-Principals report:

- There is an info night for the Arts Program at Baythorn PS on Jan 15
- Kindergarten registration starts on Friday
- Yorkhill is also having a French immersion info this week
- Registration opens Feb 5 for the Regional Parent Symposium. Our trustees are usually there and there are spots for three parents per school
- First Nations Metis Inuit Education (FNMI): Willowbrook school is participating in FNMI. Representatives from our school have been to one of the meetings so far.

The FNMI steering Committee for YRDSB works to facilitate understanding of FNMI cultures/histories

- The FNMI Steering Committee helps educate administrators as to the process of Self Identification - when a child self identifies as having aboriginal ancestry.
- Willowbrook PS is committed to educate students about FNMI culture/history.

5. Fundraising report

- The pizza orders did go through and some new parent volunteers stepped in to help out.
- Late orders have and will be accepted
- Pot luck on March 5: No supplies are left from three years ago. We need new table cloths, forks, etc. We have knives. This year there will be a cost involved because of this but it will be under \$100. Forms for the Pot luck should go out mid February.
- The Spring Dance is moving along fine. No changes to dates.

Additional business:

- Making changes to the Ontario Sex Ed Curriculum: Petra and Danielle filled out a ministry survey. It didn't give any information about what the sex Ed changes were. The questions were only compiled for parents to give support for the changes. There were only 50 characters allowed for a quick comment at the end.
- The Ministry of Education tried to implement this new curriculum in 2010 but there was disagreement about the growth and development of the content so it was retracted.
- This time they haven't publicized what the changes are going to be so it was hard to comment for Danielle and Petra. There may be more content around mutual consent.
- There were some recent issues with girls in grade 8 and sanitary napkins in the washroom. So grade 6, 7 and 8 girls were brought to the library for an "in service" and showed them how to dispose of sanitary napkins

Confidentiality agreements were handed out at the last meeting and returned. Anyone who hasn't submitted/received one, please email Lucy and she will send it home with your child.