

YORKHILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (Y.E.S.) SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

October 6th, 2016

The following is a summary of discussions. Order of presentation does not necessarily reflect the order of discussion or the extent of all discussions surrounding the topic.

In attendance: Catarina Burisch, Natasha Parsotam, Brooke Jacobs, Kim Sparks, Sharon Saporta, Neda Pilaram, Jennifer Angel, Jennifer Stemerding, Alan Morris, Ilana Keyes

Regrets: Rina Patel, Cath Hall, Yatri

Welcome/Establishing the membership:

- Kim discussed guidelines for determining members for voting purposes; members with voting privileges must attend a minimum number of 2 meetings;
- At tonight's meeting 6 people agreed to attend the min 2 meetings to meet quorum

Adoption of September School Council Minutes:

- members voted on and accepted Minutes from September's meeting

Treasurer's Report:

- Jennifer: current budget was opened with a balance ~ \$5,300.00 as of now we have 6,500.28 (this is a combination of drama, pizza and sub monies)
- Last year council fundraised ~10,000.00
- Currently we are lower than in previous years, is it because orders are now on-line?
- suggestions made to send specific e-mails and/or letters home regarding pizza
- profit of \$1.50 made off sub lunches and \$ 1.25 off pizza or around 10,000/year
- suggestions made that Kim and Natasha send e-mail blasts out to parents for pizza reminders
- members would like a "School council corner" in tomorrow's weekly update
 1. pizza and sub payments due this Sunday midnight
 2. Continue to sign up for school council volunteer activities

Sharing of Teacher wish list

- Jennifer Angel shared Teacher wish list
- School waiting on cost sharing report
- laptops for classrooms, Ipads and chargers, headphones, Irover (mini smartboard) we have 3
- basketball rims and posts need replacement
- painting of tarmac games, mini basketball nets, more primary equipment
- goggles for floor hockey, badminton, goalie equipment and other phys. ed. equipment
- *Scientist in School*
- arts performances (music, dance, drama)
- wellness day
- subsidizing busing for field trips

some members requested more information about pricing of the above items

Catarina explained that items must be bought through board approved vendors; will provide costs discussion on equitably distributing parent council money to meet needs/interests of entire school? and spent in a more balanced way and not so heavy on technology; perhaps more on emotional and physical well-being of students

members wanted to know what items council money was spent on last year;

Jennifer Stemerding to provide list of what council spent money on last year

Suggestion that teachers prioritize list of items they'd like

some felt that parents could pay for Scientist in School, performances, instead of using parent council fund (council would still subsidized parents who cannot pay)

other idea is to offer an 'art package': for example, \$10 for 4 trips. This was done in the past author readings can cost up to \$600, Kim suggested names of authors she knows
J. Angel to bring a list of performers and ask for student feedback as well

Principal's report:

- Catarina shared and clarified EQAO results for Yorkhill
- For example: in grade 3, 25 students wrote reading and writing sections, and 93 students wrote the math; FI grade 3's only write math not reading/writing
- Council wanted to know how the gr 6 fared this year compared to gr 3
- Yorkhill students are doing well; there are areas requiring further support such as math; this is a focus area throughout the province as well
- Council asked "where should the focus be"? Which strands in math, for example, did they score poorly or better on? Teachers work on the strands which students found most challenging as well as the category of the Achievement chart (knowledge & understanding, application, thinking, communication)
- The school doesn't necessarily compare results with province, as much as focus on where students are struggling and what can be done to meet those needs
- Catarina highlighted that assessment looks at the ongoing performance, including EQAO
- Alan posed a question regarding reading comprehension and math scores: has the school looked at this relation? Usually, you see this relation with students who have an LD
- Hiring process for a new FDK (kindergarten) teacher, will be finalized by next week
- Swim to Survive program for grade 3's; will occur in November/December
- Jennifer will provide info about Scotiabank skate subsidizing programs
- Bussing is back to routine/normal after a few hiccups in the first few weeks
- Safety week went smoothly
- Apple provided free of charge through grant will happen on Wednesdays:
- water bottle filling station installed on first floor is well used; another one on second floor?

Other:

- first pizza week went well, good response for volunteers;
- parents have until Sunday to sign up if they missed last date
- *Magen Boys* (cost around \$450) booked for Halloween Dance on Oct 27th
- Start at 6pm, DJ would go from 6:30-8:30pm; will send out a parent volunteer sign-up form
- Natasha would like to put together a package through *school cash on-line* for tickets, treats...
- Council agreed to \$5 packages from which parents can chose different options
- Ilana: looked into *Kids' Kitchen* as fundraising (\$1); to run on Tuesdays
- ex: grilled cheese and cookie \$5.00; she will try to negotiate lower price
- Ilana: looked into Marketplace idea in small gym; align this with holiday concert in big gym, invite small businesses, \$50 per table with raffle prize or \$75 per table without raffle;
- Vendors: jewelry, indoor playground rep, Kumon, Kids kitchen, city councilors....
- Idea to break up concert between primary and intermediate
- Some members felt that marketplace and holiday concert might be too much in one night
- Another idea is to have a spring barbecue/fun fair in the spring with a vendor fair
- Agreed to discuss this option in the New Year
- Kim to send Minutes to Catarina to distribute to council member; once approved, posted to school website

Adjournment:

-Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

