

SPS Parent Council Meeting Minutes - February 23, 2016

Present:

Sabrina Kemp
Shannon Helleman
Ryan Dawe
Michael Malek
Donna Edwards
Kristin Harcoff
Kim Medaglia
Lorrie Hayes
Donna Boyle
Julie Smith
George Ingraham
Amanda Wittebol
Kristin Kilby
Cathy Coote
Debbie Seltitz
Debbie Goodleff

Indicated Absences:

Virginia O'Halloran
Maura Cuffari
Megan Baker
Jackie Connors
Coreen Tyers

1. Welcome - Sabrina opened meeting at 7:05pm.

- Motion to approve agenda as projected for everyone to see (Shannon, Lorrie) - approved
- Motion to approve minutes as prepared by Jessica Sultan and circulated by email before the meeting (Sabrina, Ryan) - approved

Several executive positions need to be filled due to shifts in volunteers and resigning members. Volunteers have already stepped up to fill positions.

- Secretary - Jessica Sultan has resigned, motion to approve Shannon Helleman to be the next secretary (Sabrina, Donna) - approved
- Communications Coordinator - Jessica Sultan held this positions as well, Jackie Connors has agreed to take it over, motion to elect (Donna, Lorrie) - approved
- Volunteer Coordinator - Kim Medaglia has agreed to take on the parent representative role for the Safe and Caring Schools Committee, and would like to step down from Volunteer Coordinator. Motion to elect Cathy Coote (Donna, Sabrina) - approved

PREVIOUS BUSINESS

2. Policy on Food Subsidies - Sabrina Kemp

Last meeting, we reviewed a form that Mr. Malek would have parents fill out for their children who they would like to have food subsidies. The form was shared with legal counsel at the OCDSB and there were a few minor changes made. Form would be shared with the food program coordinator and the treasurer, and

that is all. This information about the subsidy program would be circulated in the newsletters and on any food program flyers.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

3. Chair Report - Shannon Helleman

- OCDSB Budget 2016-2017. Last week, Budget Committee met to review a preliminary staff report regarding the 2016-2017 budget. Learn more about the budget process on our website or take a look at the Budget Report.
- Youth Substance Abuse - Support when you need it - February 25th
Are you concerned about youth and drinking, drugs, and substance abuse? Join us for an important presentation by Rideauwood Addiction and Family Services. Find out how the School Based Program provides support to students and their families.
- 2016 Capital Educators' Awards - Nominations Close February 26th
All educators who have classroom teaching responsibilities are eligible to be nominated for a Capital Educators™ Award. Anyone can submit a nomination by February 29, 2016 at 4 p.m. The Capital Educators' Awards recognize the achievements of outstanding educators and celebrates public education in our community - across the entire spectrum from kindergarten to PhD. Award recipients are announced at a gala dinner and ceremony each spring, aptly called EduGala.
- Raising Resilient Kids - March 3rd
On March 3 Joanne Boyd will present Raising Resilient Kids. This session will focus on enhancing parent's capacity for supporting the development of resilience in children through caring relationships and role modeling. Resilience building strategies such as thinking skills, self control, confidence and responsibility in children will be explored. Please RSVP here.
- Let's Talk Science Spring Courses - April 2-7th
Do you have a budding scientist? An energetic engineer in the making? Then the upcoming Let's Talk Science courses may be of interest to your child. Let's Talk Science, in collaboration with ABC Ottawa, will provide challenging extracurricular educational opportunities for bright and gifted 8-14 year old students on Saturday mornings from April 2nd to May 7th. Classes this spring range from chemistry in the kitchen, to physics, to forensics and mini-med school. Find more information here.
- 7th OCDSB CHESS TOURNAMENT - Thursday, March 10th
Register your school's teams any time before Friday, March 4th, 2015. Participating schools will be asked to pay a \$10 fee for each team entered to cover medals. Contact Marc Lucas at South March P.S. for more information marc.lucas@ocdsb.ca. Kristin Kilby has indicated an interest in this and will email our teacher reps about maybe getting this going for next year.

4. Principal's Report - Michael Malek

- Kindergarten Information Night - Thank you to Shannon and Sabrina for welcoming the parents at the SPS Kindergarten Information Night. Parents appreciated hearing about all the great initiatives the School Council supports for the benefit of our staff and students. We had approximately 50 parents at our presentation.
- Kindergarten Registration - We have 43 registered Junior Kindergarten students. We are projected to have 683 students for next year.
- Planning for Next Year - This is the time of the year when we start planning for the fall. Staffing and program viability are based on the number of students attending the school. If you know that you are moving out of the Stittsville Public School attendance area, kindly notify the school as soon as possible. We would also like to know if you are considering program changes for your child from Early French Immersion to English program as this affects our staffing as well. If you have not registered your child for Kindergarten at Stittsville Public School or Middle French Immersion at A.

Lorne Cassidy Elementary School, please contact the school. Staffing for next year is done based upon numbers of students registered for the next school year, so this information is very important to us.

- School Learning Plan - If we deliberately provide opportunities for self-talk and self-questioning during learning then students will identify, build and improve academic language.
 - Examples of Strategies:
 - Think Pair Share
 - Turn and Talk
 - Elbow partners
 - Literature Circles
 - Debates
 - Number Talks

5. Vice Principal's Report - Donna Boyle

- Our Lockdown practice on Feb 11th was very successful.
- Mme Reed is leading the poster contest for the Kids Help Phone for the page in the student agenda. Stay tuned for updates.

6. Teacher's Report - Maura Cuffari/Virginia O'Halloran

(teachers not present to report, Mrs. Boyle shared their report)

- Mrs. Lam (our wonderful retired librarian) came in to do her annual presentation about Chinese New Year to grade 2 students. She brought many items to share with students and let them explore. She taught them about the significance of Chinese New Year and many traditions.
- Grade 3 classes (Tessier, Slewidge, Doherty & Sheppard) are starting to prepare for their MOTOWN Dance & Music showcase which will be performed on Thursday, April 21st in our gym. There will be 2 presentations. One for the school and one for parents.
- Primary and Junior classes are very eager to be booking their Scientists in the School presentations. We thank Council again for the funding of this engaging program. Grade threes will be focusing on forces and strong and stable structures, and the grade 6s on electricity and flight.
- Melanie Reid (who is a parent here at SPS) will be coming in to do a workshop on healthy eating for all grade 3 classes. Also, dental hygienists from the Deschene Poitras clinic here in Stittsville will be coming soon to educate us on dental hygiene.
- Several teachers have been using iTunes to download apps to help diversify our instruction. As an example, many teachers (for example: Tessier, Goodyear, Cuffari) have been having lots of fun with our new Health & Physical Education curriculum by using an APP called "TGFU" where students learn and practice many skills all through various games.
- **TRACK & FIELD:** Mme Tessier will be starting to look for many volunteers to make our SPS track day a success. Events will take place during the week of May 16-20th. We will be running the 1500, 1000 & 800m races in the mornings. The actual date of the SPS track day for all other events (long jump, 100m, 200, and ball throw) will be determined in the next couple of weeks. Stay tuned!!
- French Immersion classes are working on their speeches. Class representatives will be presenting to their grade 3-6 French Immersion peers in the gym next week. The board no longer holds regional championships, so it will be limited to our school this year.
- Student Council has started a Drawing Club for students in grades 4-6. It takes place every Thursday at second recess. Students learn to draw from videos, or have free time to free-draw. It is very popular!
- Our Knitting and Crochet Club are in need of needles, both for crochet and knitting. We are fine for yarn right now, thanks to the donations earlier in the year however, we could really use some

knitting needles, especially in the sizes of 7cm, 8cm, 10cm and crochet hook. Pretty please and thank you. A motion was made to buy knitting needles. Donna will find out what they want and email Ryan. It will likely be under \$100, and won't require a vote.

- The Free the Children Valentine's Art Sale raised \$357!
- Grade 5 and 6 trip to Pakenham is quickly approaching on March 3rd. We are excited for this day, and are keeping our fingers crossed for good weather!
- Mock Trial Program. Mme Cuffari's grade 6 class will be participating in a Mock Trial Program supported by the Ontario Bar Association (OBA) where law students come in and prepare students for a Mock Trial. Students in the classroom take on various roles (The Crown, The Defense, The Judge, witnesses, the accused, jury, etc). It is a fun program and takes place over two 1.5 hour visits from the law students
- Mathletes was a huge success! All grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 participated. In total, over 2 days, they solved 7011 math problems! They work in teams to solve problems involving tangrams, pentominoes, mental math, etc. Students were super involved and had an amazing time. Math is fun! Big thank you to school council for funding these 2 days.

7. Safe and Caring Schools Committee Update - Kristin Kilby/Kim Medaglia

- SCSC has not met since before last meeting. Meetings are booked as needed, nothing scheduled right now.
- Questions about locked front doors, answered by Mr. Malek.

8. Fundraising Report - Donna Edwards/Kristin Harcoff

- Little Caesars order are in now, profit total to come soon
- Movie night was great - raised \$434. Discussion is being had about how many movie nights to have next year, they were very popular this year
- Pink shirt campaign coming up - new logo with short and long sleeve options available
- Vesey's Bulbs coming up
- Planning meeting for 2016/2017 fundraisers scheduled for March 31. This will be advertised on Facebook for anyone to submit fundraising ideas. By May, all fundraisers for next year will be scheduled.
- Need a dance coordinator for Spring Fling Dance scheduled for Thursday, April 14. VolunteerSpot request to be sent out.
- Fitness Bingo coming soon
- Cake Walk in May, Lorrie coordinating. Discussion was had about setting a max amount of tickets (has been set at a max of \$5 previously). Overall consensus was not to implement a limit, but teachers indicated that having kids write their names down so many times and spend so much time deciding what cakes to vote on could be an issue. Lorrie to email Fiona (previous organizer) as to why a maximum was implemented previously and will make a decision on how to proceed.
- Bake Sale/Car Wash - May 28 (May 29 as a rain date). VolunteerSpot sign-up coming soon.
- Fun Fair - meeting on Thursday. A few things booked already, meeting with all interested volunteers coming soon (not yet scheduled).

9. Treasurer's Report - Ryan Dawe

Ryan shared his report of recent revenue and expenses. It shows about \$35K left at end of year - \$3K, \$2K allocated for Buddy Bench, \$10K allocated for Outdoor Classroom = ~\$20K left at end of June

Discussion was had about how much money we should carry over from one year to the next. Current thought was to have one year's worth of fundraising in place to start the next year, but that is certainly open to discussion.

3 additional requests from school:

- \$1100 to complete projectors in kindergarten classrooms
- \$1100/portable to have mounted projectors in portables
- \$630 for yard painting (safety lines around lip in pavement, as well as several pavement games - 4 square, hopscotch, etc.)

Vote 1: Motion to allocate \$1100 to finish the inside of the building (Sabrina, Lorrie) - approved

Vote 2: Motion to allocate \$4400 to mount projectors in portables (2 current portables, and 2 likely to come next year) (Sabrina, Kristin) - approved

- Second votes to approve amounts over \$1000 will happen by email or at the next meeting.

Yard Painting vote:

Discussion was had about what to actually paint on the pavement. There were a lot of great ideas brought forward. Michael will approach the painting company for ideas, and Sabrina and Cathy will do more research. If you have any ideas, email Cathy or Sabrina. It was decided to wait until next meeting when we have the final numbers of cost to make the official allocation.

10. Volunteer Report - Kim Medaglia

Cathy is our new volunteer coordinator. There are a few upcoming things that are requiring volunteers, but the final details aren't in yet. The volunteer requests will be sent out once final details are finalized.

11. Food Program Report - Lorrie Hayes

New PA Day, and snow days have required the rescheduling of a couple of food days.

Email from pita pit asking to come in and share samples. Consensus was not to bother since we are happy with our current suppliers.

12. OCASC Report - Coreen Tyers

Coreen not present to report.

CONCLUSIONS

13. Adjournment - motion to adjourn meeting (Shannon, Kristin) - approved. Meeting closed at 8:34pm.