

Stittsville Public School Parent Council Meeting - March 22, 2016

Present:

Sabrina Kemp
Shannon Helleman
Ryan Dawe
Virginia O'Halloran
Maura Cuffari
Donna Boyle
Deborah Seltitz
Lorrie Hayes
Michelle Legault
Julie Smith
Cathy Coote
Jacqueline Davis
Megan Baker
George Ingraham
Ola Dziunycz
Kristin Harcoff

Indicated Absences:

Debbie Goodleff

Meeting was opened by Sabrina at 7:04pm. Sabrina introduced our guests from the board.

SPECIAL DISCUSSION AND Q and As

1. BYOD Presentation - Sandy Owens, Mike Partridge (representatives from the board)

- The discussion is to look at the 'learning' side of the IT Department and how to implement it in classrooms.
- In a traditional computer lab - each child would use the same type of device at the same time for the same purpose. The board is trying to help administrators to determine what life after labs looks like.

There are 3 types of tech involved in learning today:

1. Embedded tech - instead of taking them to a lab, keep them in classroom and add tech into their already rich environment. In each room they hope to have a projector, a tech tub (a bucket of different devices), and a wireless mouse and keyboard so everyone can interact. It's not a 1:1 ratio like in a lab. Teachers will plan differently to have tech as a resource continuously, as opposed to taking a 'field trip' to the lab.

2. Personal devices - kids learn best from their own device. A conversation with teachers and community is necessary to determine what works best. Kids work well within one device, it would be a shame to not let them use that device that they are comfortable with - like people bringing in their own tool. There are issues - loss, damage, theft, but there are many ideas on how to deal with them. Each determines what works best in their classroom. End goal is good tools for staff and students to use. Teacher is always in charge of when it is appropriate to use device...just like a soccer ball.

3. Shared devices/assess - ie. lab, library, etc.

- Concerns with implementation of BYOD:
 - How to keep devices safe - behind teacher's desk when not in use, this will be determined by teachers. Most items will be addressed the same way as a lost soccer ball, etc.
 - Will my kid feel left out without a device - no, other devices available
 - It has been noted that kids with devices used as part of Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) feel better using their devices when everyone is using devices
 - Will my child be uncomfortable with using different devices - no, only bring what they are comfortable with. Likely another child in the class will know how! Teachers are not going to take time to work out issues with devices they aren't familiar with.
 - Will the devices be a distraction? Rules will be specific to each teacher, ie. devices face down of the desk when instruction is happening.
- Our teacher reps shared a bit about how things like this work already at SPS. Maura and Virginia both shared how she does her best to keep things safe in her classroom and how she uses both the COW (cart of wheel - bank of laptops) and BYOD in her classroom.
- Sabrina asked about suggestions for parents on internet safety, apps, etc. A suggestion was made to visit mediasmarts.ca or read the article on digital citizenship on the board's website.

INTRODUCTION

2. Welcome

- Motion out approve the agenda for tonight's meeting (Michelle, Shannon) - motion approved
- Motion to approve the minutes from the February meeting as circulated by Shannon Helleman (Sabrina, Jacquie) - motion approved

PREVIOUS BUSINESS

3. Windowless Classroom Update - Donna Boyle

- No major updates at this time
- Air quality passed, heat was lowered

4. Outdoor Classroom Update - Donna Boyle

- We are still waiting to hear from rep from Evergreen
- Sabrina to continue looking into grants available
- New Teacher, Mrs. Nicholson, has a background in this area and is a great resource.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

5. Chair Report - Shannon Helleman

- Community Recognition Awards - Nominations Open! We are excited to kick off our community recognition awards. This is a great way to thank all our volunteers, including school council members, parent and community volunteers, who have coached teams, led clubs or activity groups, been members of advisory committees to the Board and more! This is our chance to show our appreciation for the contributions of our amazing volunteers. Now is your chance to nominate someone today. Then join us June 8th as we celebrate all our nominees! Nominations must be submitted by 4:00 p.m. Wednesday May 4, 2016.
- Proposed 2016-2017 School Year Calendar (Subject to Ministry Approval) - For those of you who want to start planning for next year, the proposed school year calendar for the 2016-2017 school year is now available.
- Upcoming Speaker Series Events
 - Inspire and Motivate Learners to develop Resiliency and Advocacy Skills through Technology with D.J. Cunningham of Learnstyle - April 7th 7:00 p.m. D.J.'s presentation is

centred on his personal life story and the lifelong impacts that his learning disability has had on him, also the vital role that educators, technology and differentiated learning have played. Furthermore, DJ's high level of acumen with SEA training and numerous products, the full suite of Google products and his own company's LEARNstyle technology/education products ensure a full picture presentation of the role of education and technology currently and in the future. For more information visit our website.

- W.E. Gowling Parent Workshop - Raising Healthy Eaters - NEW date - Wednesday March 30 Joanne Boyd from Connect with Kids will present "Raising Healthy Eaters" - a workshop on turning mealtimes into a healthy joyful experience on March 30 in the W.E. Gowling Public School library from 5-7pm. There is no cost to participate but please register 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.

6. Principal Report - Donna Boyle (Michael Malek not present to report)

- Parents wishing to have input on class placements need to send a letter to the Principal by April 15th. Considerations for placement will be based on balance of male and female students, mixed ability groupings, learning styles, academic needs and allergies.
- All teaching staff have been released for in-house staff development to discuss and plan activities to support our school learning plan which is focused on accountable talk. Staff will record their learning journey through the use of IPADS capturing student conversations and discussions about thinking.

7. Vice Principal's Report - Donna Boyle

- We observed Earth Hour, on Friday, March 11, from 1:00 – 2:00
- Our second rotation of Practical Nursing In the School. It involves 8 – 10 1st year PN students, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from March 23 until April 27. Their responsibilities include health assessments supervised by a nursing instructor (height, weight, blood pressure, heart rate, vision and hearing), interaction with the students and teachers (assistance with reading, math, sports at recess) and presentation of a health related topic (handwashing, bicycle/road/child safety, bullying, hazards of smoking, teeth brushing, lice screening).

8. Teacher's Report - Maura Cuffari and Virginia O'Halloran

- A poem from Mrs. Kerwin:

Valentines, valentines what do you see?

I see mailboxes, sight words and moms volunteering...

looking at me.

Planning and mapping and building with blocks.

Chinese New Year making us hop!

Counting and graphing candied hearts.

Making us feel really, really smart!

Acting and pretending and understanding,

How to be a good friend.

Showing and caring
That's what friends can be to the END!

February was big.
February was grand.
Lots did we learn.
With our wee little hands!

Now we're into March!
Counting with the ten frames.
Dancing Irish jigs.
Playing tally games.

Waiting for the spring.
Rolling all the dice.
Numbers are getting bigger.
Mixing colours with mice!

Experimenting with soda,
Vinegar and water.
How do things float?
We will be the spotter.

We are active.
We are keen.
We are growing.
We are something to be SEEN!

- Our library at SPS celebrated The International Women's Day by organizing a Quiz for grades 4/5/6. The quiz was voluntary and was held during the library time for the respective classes. The students used the displayed books as their reference and conferred with their teachers and fellow students for the answers. Naming of the authors, scientists, artists, politicians, astronauts, and sportswomen generated whole lot of excitement. Our boys did equally well compared to the girls. The enthusiasm amongst the students was great. The following are the students who won 1st and 2nd prize in each class.

Mme. Cuffari:

- Mackenzy Reid/Makenna Mackie
- Dilara Pamuk/Courtney Bowditch

Mr. Currah:

- Andrew Cameron/Connor Clark
- Noella Price

Mme. Evans:

- James Smith/Sophie Gower
- Hannah Wenger

Mrs. Goodyear:

- Jordon O'Neil
- Sydney Conlin

Mr. Grant:

- Nadina Adulovic/Katie Danis
- Evan Chaisson/Olivia Verge

Mme. Jackson:

- Ryan Cornell/Jamie Aitken
- Blene Allene/Amanda Jackson

Mme. Reed:

- Hunter Evans/Thomas Orr
- Heather McLaughlin

Mrs. Takahashi:

- Layla Al-Wazzan

- Our school finals for our French Immersion Speeches took place at the end of February. Our finals were very successful! This year the winner does not get to advance to the board level as they are reconfiguring their competition to involve spontaneous speech and discussions and not planned speeches. There were three winners.... 2 from grade 6 and one from grade 4
- 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.
- Our Knitting and Crochet Club are in need of needles, both for crochet and knitting. We are fine 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. (Council is in the process of supplying more needles and hooks)
- The Free the Children Valentine's Art Sale raised \$357! We are moving forward and planning three different events:
 1. Mother's Day Art Sale
 2. A student-planned and directed Mini We Day Concert
 3. I am exploring the possibility of doing another *Pie in the Face* fundraiser if there is staff interest. Last year it was a SUPER BIG HIT and raised a lot of money.
- Mrs Faux is back from her trip down south and working daily with students in preparation for Stittsville on Broadway!! The show will be playing on May 10, 11, and 12th. We will have ticket information at our April meeting.
- Mrs Doherty and Mr Currah will be coaching the Junior Boys and Girls Basketball teams this year. Tryouts start next week!
- Grade 5 and 6 trip to Pakenham was a WILD SUCCESS!!! The students REALLY enjoyed their day. They had the opportunity to go skiing, snowboarding or tubing/showshoeing. Our students received MUCH praise about their manners and respect. The staff at Pakenham and staff from other schools were very impressed.
- Mock Trial Program. My grade 6 class participated in a free 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 Rey solved 7011 math problems! They work in teams to solve problems involving tangrams, pentominoes, mental math, ect. I'll fill in more. Students were super involved and had an amazing time. Math is fun ! Big thank you to school council for funding these 2 days.

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

Nothing to report.

10. Fundraising Report - Donna Edwards/Kristin Harcoff

Completed Campaigns

- SCHOOL CLOTHING (Ongoing) - This includes the Pink Shirt campaign happening now, and we're already at \$718.00 with this (\$700 projected)
- MABEL'S LABELS (Ongoing) - Currently at \$146.00 (\$100 projected)
- MOVIE NIGHTS - Closed at \$640.00 (\$600 projected)
- PEROGIES & COOKIE DOUGH - Closed at \$1,059.00 (\$700 projected)
- FAMILY PHOTO MINI SESSIONS - Closed at \$0.00 - cancelled due to lack of interest (\$400 projected)
- FIRST AID COURSE - Closed at \$250.00 (need to confirm this number) (\$400 projected)
- PARENTS NIGHT OUT - Closed at \$360.00 (projected \$300)
- YOGA & YOGURT - closed at \$0.00 - cancelled due to lack of coordinator (\$200 projected)
- LITTLE CAESAR'S PIZZA & COOKIE DOUGH - Closed at \$855.00 (\$700 projected)
- ADDITIONAL EVENTS:
 - Samko & Miko *Closed at \$140.00
 - My Cold Cup *Closed at \$80.00
 - Tag Along Toys *Closed at \$75.00

CURRENT TOTAL: \$4,323.00

Upcoming Campaigns (\$5,900.00 projected)

- \$ 700.00 - VESSEY BULBS (March)
- \$ 800.00 - FITNESS BINGO (April)
- \$2,000.00 - CAKE WALK (Friday, May 6th)
- \$ 400.00 - SPS PARENT COUNCIL CAR WASH & BAKE SALE (May 28th/29th)
- \$2,000.00 - FUN FAIR & BOOK SALE (Friday, June 17th)

\$10,000.00 - GRAND TOTAL (Will be ahead of this if upcoming campaigns reach their target.)

Some discussion was had about why handouts aren't making it home. Teacher representatives said they would ensure that teachers are reminded to check their mailboxes regularly and ensure that things get sent down to the office as quickly as possible. There was also discussion about campaigns held around March Break and how that prevented a few families from participating.

11. Treasurer's Report - Ryan Dawe

- Ryan projected a report of where we are to date.

- Yard painting - \$630 covered what Mr. Malek had requested by done, but we sought other ideas from parents, so dollar figure may increase. The big hit from parents questioned was the mini stick rink. Mr. Malek to discuss with staff what they think will work here and we should have quote for April meeting.
- We are expected to spend about \$4K more than we hope to bring in this year, but will help diminish the bank balance (along with monies earmarked for outdoor classroom, buddy bench and remaining technology spending). We are projected to end with about \$18K in the bank.
- Remaining monies may be available for spending. Discussion to be had at next meeting about what that might be spent on: increased amount for kinder yard updating, or other initiatives teachers may present.
- Teacher's Allocations need to be submitted for reimbursement by May 1, 2016.
- Second vote to approve spending \$1100 for the final projector installations into the kindergarten classrooms (Sabrina, Ryan) - motion approved
- Second vote to approve spending \$4400 for the final projector installations into the portables (2 existing and 2 to come) (Ryan, Sabrina) - motion approved
- Vote to approve providing a deposit for Run Amok (for FunFair) of \$815.36 (Michelle, Lorrie) - motion approved

12. Volunteer Report - Kim Medaglia/Cathy Coote

- Cake Walk volunteer request will be sent out soon. We still need a coordinator for the spring fling dance.

13. Food Program - Lorrie Hayes

- Can we wrap up leftover food program items and freeze them for kids who need lunches later? There are issues with reheating and potential burning, etc. so not a great idea. Best to continue giving it away to volunteers, staff, etc.
- Teacher's mentioned that there was a LOT of food leftover on the Friday before March Break. Maybe that shouldn't be a food program day next year?

14. OCASC Report - Coreen Tyers

- Coreen not present to report.

EXTRA ITEM - PLUG

- IODE (the group that provides food for the snack cupboard for kids who don't have enough/any lunch) is having a trivia night and a few of the council members are making an SPS team. Let Sabrina know if you are interested in joining the team on Saturday, April 16 at the Barrhaven Legion.

CONCLUSIONS

- 15. Adjournment - motion to close the meeting at (Jacquie, Lorrie) - motion approved

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 7:00pm