

Parent Council Zoom Meetin

February 1, 2021

Attendance on Zoom: Greg Blakeley, Marlene Macklin, Jenny Frans, Brie Robson, Jessie MacIsaac, Bonnie Dermott, Carole Madsen, Jude Brown, Patrick Brown, Joanne Garratt, Charlotte Skanes, Michelle Munroe, Jaison Waldman, Mary Lou Hopson, Amanda Davidson, Svetlana Lazarev, Jeni Pergentile, Tracey Constant, Deshe Moondhi

Welcome

1. Welcome from Brie - Brie motioned to approve the Minutes from January 21, 2020
2. Amanda approved the motion

Principal's Report:

- Everyone is waiting to hopefully return to school soon (and the schools reopen on Monday!!)
- The school does not get info ahead of time. They learn the decisions from the government at the same time we do from the news.
- Staff is doing amazing work and are so dedicated. Nothing less than extraordinary!
- Attendance is better online, 96%, than in person, which has 60-120 children away every day
- But hard for kids - they have done well through this time
- February is Black History Month - there is a constant striving for more diversity and equity every day but still times to emphasize certain group and their accomplishments
- 2 presentations planned for February 10:
 - Michelle Newton to present for grades 7-8 about her personal journey as a black woman
 - Grades 5-6 - presentation on making change - equity and change, how students can help
- Jenny Frans has done bulletin boards for Black History Month
- Question from Michelle: how will this be presented?
 - Through a Google Meet but either to homes or school depending on where things are at
- Developmental Skills students are currently in the building since January 11; also around 30 students from kids of essential workers - they do their online work in the YMCA classrooms
- Principals and secretaries work in the office
- Great job everyone! Hopefully next week! (it's happening!)

Teacher's Report:

- Grade 8's have option sheets for virtual visits to Banting High School - there are currently conversations with teachers and parents
- There was a virtual author visit
- Virtual field trips such as the zoo and Simcoe County Museum
- Coding for math curriculum
- Forest of Reading Books have arrived and catalogued
 - First book was read Monday by Ms. Dore
 - She will read one per week
- Black History Month - accomplishments of black Canadians/americans; research projects etc.
- Feb. 3 is world read aloud day

Fundraising:

- Dominos Books - go on sale Feb. 8 through cash online

- \$20 per book, \$10 goes back to school; each book has a \$15 off coupon plus buy 1 get 1 free for whole month of March
- Big Box of Cards - 2019 made about \$4000; will be less this year for sure but still good
 - Poll on parent page people wanted birthday cards, not all occasion
 - When? Jaison said earlier is better; Jeni said life is overwhelming right now
 - April - first 2 weeks we all agreed
- Pizza night - Feb. 11 - all day - \$5 goes to school
 - So far we have made \$985

Questions/Discussion:

- Virtual parent sessions topic ideas?
 - Michelle suggested Scott Ste Marie, a speaker to talk to parents on how to nurture their children
 - UofT professor - talking race, perceptions, strategies, tips to discuss race with kids for K-12
 - Timing? ML thought so much online now; Michelle said parents were still seeking help these days
 - Jeni - shelter partnering with CMHA - could get contacts info; but won't anymore!
 - Greg said they are running sessions already on mental health; There is a mental health team; he will share resources (so Jeni won't need to)
 - Michelle asked and Greg confirmed that school speakers need to be board vendors - Greg will share the list of vendor based on topics
- By-law updates: Michelle had asked about evaluating the school by-laws to fine-tune it.
 - She would like to re-examine and clarify the number of members that make up counsel, personalizing the by-laws to encourage smoother transitions between years as parents who have been involved move on, the decision making process, positions such as chair vs. co-chair, secretary and treasurer.
 - a. Clarity would be good.
 - b. Michelle will present her ideas to the administration and co-chairs before presenting the ideas to the Council for next meeting

Next Meeting:

Monday April 12, at 6pm

Brie motioned to adjourn the meeting

Amanda seconded it.