

Parent Council Zoom Meeting

January 11, 2021

Attendance on Zoom: Greg Blakeley, Marlene Macklin, Jenny Frans, Brie Robson, Angela Zirnhelt, Johanne Douma, Jessie Maclsaac, Bonnie Dermott, Carole Madsen, Jude Brown, Patrick Brown, Joanne Garratt, Charlotte Skanes, Melissa Dore, Michelle Munroe, Jason Waldman, Mary Lou Hopson, Amanda Davidson, Svetlana, Tracey Constant

Welcome

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

Principal's Report:

- Nobody likes where we are, nobody likes online learning
- 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.
- The new email sent out to parents caused a bit of a reaction from parents
 - It was simply an email from the board that was told to be sent to parents of students from K- gr. 12.
 - Greg will send out a new email in response for clarification; our school is doing well and no issues at all (**was done the next day and was great for families**).
 - High school students have hijacked lessons of elementary classes with swearing etc. in other Simcoe areas.
 - ECES has realistic expectations for our parents; the hope is that parents would have realistic expectations too of our teachers, many of whom have their own children home with them.
 - The admin is here for the families; there is lots of accommodating going on.
- The last chrome book was loaned out to a family, all 150 are being borrowed by students.
 - School can borrow from other schools if more need one.
 - School prefers not to purchase more because of maintenance fees and logistics.
 - Chrome books need to be replaced every 3 years!
- No confirmed cases at ECES! Yay, because it is lots of paperwork to communicate with everyone involved, and good for the health of everyone!
- Office staff will work on being upbeat on social media to show support to our families.

Teacher's Report:

- Teacher's thank us for online reading program, especially during this time as kids are using it even more than usual with online learning.
- Banting is offering a virtual open house to grade 8 students this week - Thursday is for our students.
- Several classes wrote letters to seniors homes before Christmas; many became pen pals.
- Ms. Godfrey and Mrs. Byl's classes walked over to Kingsmere to sing Christmas songs where residents could watch from their balconies - very amazing! They shared pictures with us.

Fundraising:

- Jessie - To clarify, there are 14 voting members, so 8 is majority.

- There is no time limit to vote, but the sooner the better. Whenever the majority gets reached, that decision is made.
- So far we have committed/used the following funds for
 - a. \$5000 library flooring
 - b. \$2436.34 Raz
 - c. \$810.15 Je Lis
 - d. \$2000 Forest of Reading, including K-2 digital reading through Sora
- Fundraising amounts:
 - a. MacMillan's Cookie Dough raised \$724 - way lower than previous years but still great during a pandemic (for School Enhancements/GSN).
 - b. Kidney Clothing - \$192 (for Character Education/GSN).
 - c. Raise the Dough Dominos Pizza - \$ 985 (for School Enhancements/GSN).
 - More pizza nights - Feb. 11, Mar. 10, April 14, May 12, June 9.
- Raise the Dough Dominos Pizza Coupon Books - \$20 for the book which includes a \$15 off coupon toward any order, and unlimited buy 1 get one 50% off for the month of March (for School Enhancements/GSN).
 - a. Parents can order on School Cash Online starting Feb. 8.
 - b. Pick-up night at the school is the week of Feb.22nd.
- Big Box of Cards - discuss next month. Jessie put a poll out on the FB parent page to decide if we are doing an all birthday box or all occasion box (for School Enhancements/GSN).
- Carole Madsen asked to know when Kidney drives open so she can arrange a drop-off.
- Michelle asked about evaluating the school by-laws to fine-tune it.
 - a. The elections process triggered the desire to update the by-laws.
 - b. 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.
 - c. Greg clarified that only the chair/co-chair position is voted on and it could be either a chair position or co-chair position shared by 2 people depending on what people prefer who are running that year. So it can change between chair and co-chair.
 - Secretary position is not voted in but could be.
 - There is no longer a treasurer position as it has to be a paid employee of the board to manage the money which is audited every 5 years - it is Bonnie Dermott who does this (Thanks!); Greg signs off on statements.
 - 15 positions is the maximum number for voting.
 - Teachers vote for their teacher rep.
 - d. Clarity would be good.
 - e. Anyone want to partner with Michelle to fine-tune this? Jude and Patrick Brown offered to review it as they both work on policy stuff in their jobs.
 - f. Brie asked if Michelle started, but not yet. Brie will connect Michelle and Jude by email. Michelle will bring a draft to the February 1st meeting.
- Online Virtual Events for Parents ie. Workshops.
 - a. Angela Zirnhelt could connect us, but wants to know topics.
 - b. Last meeting Jeni Pergentile mentioned student mental health at the November meeting.

- c. Greg updated: Mr. Parker contacted many families with kids struggling and spent time talking to kids, but the co-horts of students made it more challenging.
 - Public health nurse assigned to our school.
 - Social worker assigned by the board to our school too. Another support.
 - On Friday there will be a Virtual assembly by the author Eric Walters for grades 3-8. First want to review how effective it is as they are expensive, \$1200-\$1500 each. But if successful, maybe another one in February for Black History Month.
- d. Support for parents workshops? Or are parents tapped out of online stuff right now?
- e. Marlene recommended New Path walk-in programs to students/families that need it.
- f. Question: Michelle - what platform is used? Greg answered, whatever platform the presenter uses.
- g. Michelle suggested some workshop options: race conversations at home, support parents with what they need to know with kids being online.

Next Meeting:

Monday February 1, at 6pm

Brie motioned to adjourn the meeting

Amanda seconded it.