

## **Parent Council Zoom Meeting**

**November 2, 2020**

**Attendance on Zoom:** Greg Blakeley, Markene Macklin, Jenny Frans, Brie Robson, Angela Zirnhelt, Johanne Douma, Jessie McIsaac, Jeni Pergentile, Bonnie Dermott, Carole Madsen, Jude Brown, Patrick Brown, Joanne Garret, Charlotte Skanes, Tracey Constant, Melissa Dore, Michelle Monroe, Jason Waldman, Mary Lou Hopson, Deshe Moondi, Amanda Davidson, Svetlana

### **Welcome**

1. Welcome from Jessie - thankful that her and Brie were voted in as co-chairs, especially since it's Brie's last year (tear)
2. Charlotte motioned to approve the Minutes from Oct. 6, 2020
3. Jeni approved the motion

### **Principal's Report:**

- Progress Reports - going home on Thursday, November 12
- Parent/Teacher Interviews are on Thurs. Nov. 19 to Fri. Nov. 20 but will be done virtually this year due to the pandemic - either through Google Meet or phone according to parent's choices
- There will be sign up emailed to parents this week to choose a 15 min. Time slot
- COVID update: no confirmed cases at ECES so far; they continue to follow health and safety protocol as outlined by the Health Ministry
  - Masks not needed outdoors, but most teachers do if close to students
  - Teachers wear a face shield as well if helping kids in a close proximity
  - Grades 4-8 students required to wear masks; Grades K-3 are only encouraged to but not necessary
  - A parent donated a couple of hundred cloth masks for students
  - Students are cohorted according to classes - no rotary for spec ed students but teachers visit them in their classroom
  - Only time students are out of their cohort is for on the school buses
  - Nutrition breaks kids are in their designated squares on the field 20 min to play for half the school, 20 min to eat for other half then they switch
  - Dismissal happens from those squares one class at a time
  - School is well equipped with anti-bacterial soap and hand sanitizer in all classrooms, one-way arrows; fire department said using only half the doors went against their safety code so all doors are used to enter and exit but only one thing is happening at the same time
  - Drinking fountains closed but water refilling stations open (good thing we bought them when we did!)
  - Bathroom break schedules, but emergency visits are allowed
  - Q. Michelled asked if high-touch surfaces were cleaned? YES 2X per day and more if time for custodians - door handles, tables, light switches
  - Q. are bathroom visits supervised or could students gather - teachers are not allowed in washrooms but are out in the hall and encouraging students to go quickly. Students with emergencies are expected to use washroom and promptly return to class

### **Teacher's Report:**

- Be sure to check out our school Twitter account to see photos of our classroom created pumpkins!

Nolan/Anderson's K's are doing a COOL inquiry about Skeletons. They started with walking to the Skeleton in town (GIANT) and this sparked some interest.

- Now they have real life x-ray's on the light board with doctor's "notes", skeleton puzzles, playdoh bone activities, and many Halloween dances involving body parts. SO cool. Love to see it evolve each day.

In Lynch/Kowlaski's kindergarten class they have been focusing on spending funds to enhance outdoor learning. We now have rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows, stepping stones, and as of this weekend, a newly built mud kitchen.

Intermediate classes - Mrs. Dore and the Intermediate teachers have been collaborating to work with the intermediates on a social media awareness unit.

- Students learn about why it is important to balance online time, how to reduce their digital footprint and how companies make money through social media apps. This unit links to both health curriculum and media literacy curriculum.

Remembrance Day - will be an asynchronous assembly on Nov 11th. We will hold 2 minutes of silence at 10:50 (right before recess/nutrition break). Some

classes have volunteered to read poems and complete artwork for the front lobby and for the assembly. Students are participating in the local legion poster and literary competition (Due end of this week). We also will be accessing video presentations from veterans through veteran affairs Canada (in lieu of face to face visitors).

- Requests:

Raz Kids: We would like to have the Parent Council cover the cost of raz-kids as they have in the past.

We have already paid for the program this year, just looking to have them reimburse the division the cost. \$2,436.34 is the cost for all licenses. This cost will be giving licenses to 10 of our classrooms so that is a lot of students who will benefit from these proceeds. 7 English plus 3 FI.

- Je Lis:

It is a French platform of online readers, similar to the English A-Z Reading Program. We purchased 5 licenses only because the Grade 3 & 4's opted for RAZ kids because it has both the English and French format. We're hoping that the Parent Council will cover these costs for us. \$810.85

### **Introductions:**

- People introduced themselves and described their role in school or what children they have in the school. It was great to get to know each other a little bit more!!

### **Fundraising:**

- Green light for selective fundraisers
  - a. Big Box of Cards -April 2018 was our last campaign and we made \$7,477.25. Just need a few volunteers to distribute in a similar style to end of year pick up of stuff - through the gym - Spring
  - b. Cookie Dough with MacMillans - before Christmas - just classic menu - brought in just under \$2700 2 years ago.
  - c. Domino's Raise the Dough fundraiser- Feb. - families can purchase fundraiser card and get \$15 off a purchase and buy 1, get one free for the whole month, multiple uses. School pays \$10 each and sells for \$20 each.
- How to use last year's fundraised money
  - a. \$3,247.19 for the reading programs requested by the staff (Raz and FI).

- b. Library Renewal continuation \$5000 for new flooring.
  - c. Character Recognition.
  - d. \$17,364,49 is sitting in the account
  - e. ML suggested more playground equipment similar to the tires since the kids really enjoy using them and many teachers would like to see more too
    - Greg reminded us that anything over the height of 24 inch needs special sand which needs to be graded once a year and inspections every year which are ongoing costs.
    - We can look into what options there are
  - f. Michelle asked if we can have virtual speakers this year, like workshops for parents? YES. Everyone asked to bring ideas to next meeting or over email.
  - g. Jeni asked if there are enough mental health resources for kids? Never enough but there are some.
    - She used to teach grades 4-8 students about positive mental health, and how to say no to drugs; CMHC gives free presentations
- Big Box of Cards - Bonnie and Meghan do a lot of work
  - Vista cards - Bonnie would do the work - explained in the email
  - Emphasize more this year that nobody needs to buy anything of these options. Completely optional! Many seemed to want to keep all 3 options
  - Vote through email - Brie and Jessie sent out email with 6 items to respond to
  - Another item to vote on through emails was #7- Forest of Reading library program \$2000. Awaiting enough votes to go with the majority.

**Next Meeting:**

**Monday January 11, at 6pm**

Brie motioned to adjourn the meeting

Amanda seconded it.

Greg reminded us in an email that fundraising money should be spent keeping in mind if it lines up with our School action Plan and helps meet its goals.

**School Action Plan:**

- a. Excellence in Teaching and Learning
- b. Well-being of students and staff
- c. Equity & Diversity & Inclusion
- d. Community

\*Communication over email after the meeting has everyone agreeing that we need more than the 1 hour limit on Zoom. Both Johanne and Jeni have offered for us to use their unlimited time accounts. School is also looking into other sources for our meetings.