

**Stonehaven Elementary School**  
*Character Matters in our School and Community*

**School Council Meeting Minutes**  
*Tuesday, December 9, 2014*

**Attendance:**

Neil Gunathunge (Principal)	Sara Flohil-Purves (Vice-Principal)	Shameela Shakeel (Chair)
Cherylynn Hunt (Treasurer)	Karen Hodgkin (Staff/Council Member)	Lesley Mercer (Staff/Council Member)
Trish Bethell (Council Member)	Andrea Rolfe (Council Member)	Barb Whelpley (Council Member)
Rahila Iqbal (Council Member)	Shelley Reid (Council Member)	Mary Beth Mercier (Council Member)
Alanna Gulliver (Parent)		

**Absent Council Members:**

Elham Loghmani, Yijie Tang, Dan Terziewski, Robbie Lai

**Secretary Assignment:**

Yijie Tang, Secretary, was absent.  
Shameela Shakeel, Chair, took notes and produced minutes.

**Approval of Previous Minutes:**

Minutes of the October meeting were approved by School Council via email two weeks after the meeting.

**Principal and Vice-Principal Report:**

The holiday concert will take place Wednesday, December 10 at 1:15 p.m. and Thursday, December 11 at 6:30 p.m. Candy cane grams will be sold at that time.

Dates are set for the intermediate students' trips: May 20-22 for Grade 8 students to Ottawa and May 27-29 for Grade 7 students to Arrowhon Camp at Algonquin Park.

The Welcome to Kindergarten event has been scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup> in the evening, with an in-class opportunity for new JK and SK students on May 20<sup>th</sup> during the school day.

**Financial Report:**

Cherylynn Hunt, Treasurer, presented a current Treasurer's Report (see attached). At this time, we have just over \$2,200 in the account. However, with income from lunch programs and holiday card sales this month, it was estimated that we would have over \$3,300 by the end of December. Of that, about \$3,000 has been allocated for an arts presentation (\$1,200) and the Aussie X deposit (\$1,800). Shameela Shakeel reminded everyone that more money would be coming in from 10 weeks of popcorn and smoothies for January through March.

Neil Gunathunge explained that, with the \$3,500 allocated for the technology cost-sharing program, we were able to purchase 5 laptops, 2 document cameras and 1 cart for charging devices.

Shameela Shakeel made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. This motion was seconded by Rahila Iqbal and approved by all 9 Council members present.

## **Discussion ~ Events:**

### ***Chapters***

Shameela Shakeel reported that, as a result of a very successful family reading and fundraising event in November, Chapters donated \$6,300 in gift cards to Stonehaven E. S. Families also donated over \$200 worth of books directly to the library that evening and we raised about \$100 from the raffle. Based on discussions with Neil Gunathunge and Sara Flohil-Purves ahead of time, Shameela Shakeel proposed that we divide the \$6,300 in gift cards as follows: \$3,500 to the library for new books and Social Studies DVDs, \$1,500 for 2 iPad Air devices (32GB), and \$1,300 for School Council to use for prizes and gifts over the next two years. Cherylynn Hunt expressed concerns about the amount for prizes and gifts and suggested that we purchase 3 iPad Air devices instead. Shameela Shakeel made a motion to allocate the gift card monies as follows: \$3,500 to the library for books and DVDs, \$2,250 for 3 iPad devices (32 GB), and \$550 for School Council prizes. The motion was seconded by Barb Whelpley and approved by all 9 Council members present.

Trish Bethell mentioned that Best Buy also supports schools through family fundraising nights and we should consider such an event in the future.

### ***White Elephant Sale***

Shameela Shakeel reported that the event was once again successful and fun for all students. A record \$900 was raised from this event.

### ***Dance-A-Thon***

Shameela Shakeel reported that the Much Music kick-off assembly will be held on January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2 pm. The goal for this year's Dance-A-Thon will be to raise \$4,000 towards a water filling station for the first floor as well as Aussie X programs in the spring.

### ***Inn from the Cold***

Alanna Gulliver asked School Council to once again support Inn from the Cold by providing \$400 to cover the cost of a meal for 60 to 80 individuals. She volunteered to take the lead on shopping and prep for the event. Stonehaven E. S. is the only school that has participated at Inn from the Cold and it was a positive experience for all involved this past in June. We have a tentative date of April 17<sup>th</sup> booked for 4 students with their 4 parents to help with meal service, as well as 4 parent/staff volunteers to prepare dinner for disadvantaged and/or homeless people in the Newmarket community. Andrea Rolfe questioned who would decide which students would participate. Neil Gunathunge indicated that Heather Binnington (Grade 8 teacher) will work with the Equity Club to determine which students would be suitable to participate. Lesley Mercer explained that the Equity Club is open to all students who are interested in exploring social responsibility issues. Trish Bethell and Cherylynn Hunt expressed concerns that only 4 students will participate on that day and questioned how we can have greater student involvement. Alanna Gulliver indicated that all students can participate by holding a school-wide spring food drive to coincide with the timing of the event. Karen Hodgkin indicated that perhaps the Equity Club can help with the decision-making process through menu planning and possibly through grocery shopping. Club members can then vote for which 4 students will participate at Inn from the Cold. Shameela Shakeel motioned that School Council support the Inn from the Cold initiative by providing \$400. The motion was approved by Trish Bethell and approved by all 8 School Council members present at the time (note that one member had to leave the meeting early).

### ***Earth Rangers***

Neil Gunathunge indicated that school staff would like School Council support to bring the Earth Rangers presentations for Grades 1 through 8 students in January. He explained that Earth Rangers is a conservation group that focuses on wildlife protection and education for students. Their presentations are free, with a suggested donation of \$350. A few parents noted that we have had Earth Rangers at the school years ago and that the students really enjoyed the presentations. Shameela Shakeel motioned that School Council support this

initiative by contributing the \$350 donation. The motion was seconded by Trish Bethell and approved by all 8 Council members present.

### ***Cake Walk & Vendor Market***

Shameela Shakeel proposed an addition to the Cake Walk event to be held on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Two parents, Kym Sloggett and Wendy Ferguson, suggested that we have a Vendor Market where vendors pay \$50 per table to display and/or sell items. Some of the vendors would be parents and local community members, with Neil Gunathunge and Sara Flohil-Purves providing approval for vendors. The timing would be as follows:

12:30 – 1:15 ~ Cake Walk in ½ gym (cakes on display; students purchase tickets for cakes they want to win)

2:00 – 3:00 ~ Vendors set-up in other ½ gym

3:00 – 7:00 ~ Families attend to checkout cakes and vendor market

7:00 ~ Raffle for cakes (to go home with students that win)

All 8 School Council members approved these events.

### **Discussion ~ Lunch & Snack Programs:**

Shameela Shakeel indicated that we are on track to raise more money through our lunch programs this school year compared to last year. She also proposed that we try two new restaurants for Monday and Wednesday lunches: Nick's Famous Shawarmas and Quesada Mexican. These two options would replace Subway and Pita Pit. All School Council members agreed that it was good to try new choices until the March Break.

Shameela Shakeel also mentioned that, since we have a new lower-cost recipe for smoothies, we should consider reducing the price of smoothies from \$3 to \$2 per cup. All School Council members agreed.

### **Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

### **Next Meeting:**

Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the school library