

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

**School Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, January 11, 2016 at 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

**Attendance:**

Paul Oabel (Principal)	Susan Wansbrough (Vice-Principal)	
Shameela Shakeel (Chair)	Cherylynn Hunt (Treasurer)	Teresa Jacobs (Secretary)
Cathy Miles	Abby Kassar	Trish Bethell

**Regrets:** Barb Whelpley; Nadila Zaravinos; Julie McWilliams; Karen Hodgkin (Staff Representative)

**Absent:** Gloria Lee; Roni Silbershatz; Mary Beth Mercier

**Approval of Previous Minutes**

Minutes of the November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved by School Council members via email on November 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Principal's Report**

Paul reported that our school's projected number of students for next year is 565, but that number will likely increase. He indicated that there might be a need for 2 portables to accommodate students. A few of the students in the community class and the ASD class will graduate this year so we will have new students there. Those classes are capped at 6 to 8 students per class.

JK registration starts on January 15<sup>th</sup>. There will once again be 4 kindergarten classes for the next school year.

Lego club started in the school this week, with Grade 1 and 2 students on Mondays at lunchtime and Grade 3 to 6 students on Tuesdays at lunch time.

Chess club continues to meet every Wednesday at lunch recess.

The Grade 8 trip to Muskoka Woods will take place in April. The Grade 7 trip to Camp Arrowhon will take place in May. Dates will be confirmed shortly.

Using school funds, Paul purchased 30 chrome books for use by students on the first floor. He is hoping to purchase more chrome books with the help of School Council funds and the school board's cost-sharing program in the spring.

There will be a "refresh" for internet access at the school because it tends to be "spotty."

School staff members are going to be using Google Calendar to allow all to see what is planned and going on in the entire school.

The school is now on Twitter! The Twitter handle is @stonehavenes

Intermediate basketball teams have been formed and are gearing up for the playing season. The junior co-ed volleyball team will play in the area tournament at the end of January.

EQAO testing is scheduled for the last week of May and first week of June for students in grades 3 and 6.

Next week, Glenn Marais will be presenting in all classrooms as part of a "positive classrooms" initiative. There will also be an assembly next Tuesday to introduce students to a school-wide program called "Acts of Kindness."

Student Council and the Equity Club will be completing a "Speak Up" grant, which is like the PRO grant, but for students. Shameela offered to proof read before sending it in.

Sue introduced us to a new school board program designed to inspiring children to learn and love math. It is changing the modes of learning by using present day creativity and making math meaningful. It will likely be used for a math evening and resources for teachers.

Mr. Testa, Music teacher, purchased 4 xylophones with funds from School Council and Student Council.

The Welcome to Kindergarten event will take place on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Shameela will attend on behalf of School Council.

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Grade 7/8 band trip to Canada's Wonderland. Band members will compete with other schools and enjoy the park.

Grade 8 graduation has been set for Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at Newmarket High School and the Police Shed.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Cherylynn presented a current Treasurer's Report (see attached). At this time, we have just under \$2,500 in unallocated funds.

*\*Note that the Treasurer's report was amended to include the allocation of \$1,000 for 2 xylophones, which was approved by School Council in November 2015. We did not have quorum to approve the Treasurer's Report at the meeting so approval was completed via email a few days later. Karen made a motion to approve, Trish seconded and 11 of 13 members voted to approve. 2 members did not respond.*

### **Updates and Discussions**

#### ***Errol Lee***

On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, about 100 people enjoyed the Errol Lee family concert. It was a fun night for all that attended.

#### ***Chapters FUNdraiser***

On November 30<sup>th</sup>, this event raised \$761.29 in Chapters gift cards. Shameela reported that she gave Jan Safaric, Librarian, a Chapters gift card in the amount of \$400 and placed another Chapters gift card in the amount of \$361.29 in the school office safe. The evening of the event, Chapters didn't have the technology products well stocked. Going forward we will make sure there is more selection for purchase as that would have added to our percentage. The evening was fun overall and well-attended by our school community. Chapters staff were happy to have us there.

#### ***School Council Forum***

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, three School Council members (Shameela, Cherylynn and Barb) along with Paul and Sue attended the School Council Forum. They enjoyed a keynote talk by Michelle Cassidy, YRDSB Mental Health Lead. Michelle talked about striving to be mentally healthy, how to promote our own and our children's mental health, and how to examine our responses in times of stress. She stressed that a collaborative approach is essential and that families and school staff need to work together to support and promote child and youth mental health. She also provided some useful resources for parents:

Dr. Gordon Neufeld's book about connectedness and attachment...*Hold on to Your Kids* and his talk about how kids need parents more than friends...[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UIMkWJY5T\\_w](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UIMkWJY5T_w)

Dr. Shawn Anchor, Psychologist, with humorous stories about childhood and parenting...see his TED Talk at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXY\\_\\_kBVq1M](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXY__kBVq1M)

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

The sale made \$908.55. It was a busy but great day and the kids loved it!

### ***Yearbook***

Trish reported that 78 of the committed 175 yearbooks have been sold so far. She indicated that there is no need to panic yet, as there are always last minute sales. Reminders will go out soon. Trish reminded all to send photos from classrooms and class trips.

Two dates need to be set to complete all team photos.

Grad ads resulted in \$460 towards graduation. Last year, grad ads resulted in about \$500.

A Grade 7 student won yearbook cover. Artwork and names of the 12 finalists will be placed on the back cover. Thumbnail pictures of all the 25 remaining non-finalist entries will be placed on the inside cover.

### ***Speaker Series for Parents***

Shameela reminded everyone to RSVP and spread the word so that we increase our attendance at all 4 events. So far, we only have 70 people confirmed with tickets for Dr. Karyn Gordon's talk on January 20<sup>th</sup> at Stonehaven ES. Donations will be collected for Inn from the Cold. Volunteers will be required to welcome attendees and collect donations.

### ***Dance-a-Thon***

A kick-off assembly will take place at the end of January or early February. Pledge forms will go home by the end of January. The Much Music Video Dance is booked for all day on Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. Parent volunteers will be needed for sales of candy, chocolate, chips and cookies.

### ***Cake Walk & Artisan Market***

Events are scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup>. Shameela will provide more information at the March meeting.

### ***Jungle Sport***

Programs are booked for the week of May 9<sup>th</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup>. Consent forms will be sent home mid-April. Parent volunteers will be needed to help students on equipment.

### ***Fundraising Initiatives***

Cathy presented 4 new initiatives for School Council to raise funds this school year and next year:

North 40 Farms (Bradford) - selling plants and hanging baskets; prices range from \$6 to \$17 and then we set our price; decided that we need pictures of the plants and timing information before we make a decision to go ahead

Candles - purchase price \$0.60, sell price \$2 to \$4

Samko & Miko Warehouse Sale – school will receive 10% back when people give in receipts after they've made purchases at their Richmond Hill location

Gift cards - varying percentages earned by school

Paul also mentioned another possible fundraiser where Stonehaven staff would "work" for an evening at a local McDonald's and we would ask the school community to go for dinner; 10-15% of sales go to the school

We will discuss these initiatives further at the March School Council meeting.

**Adjournment:** Shameela motioned to adjourn at 8:07pm.

**Next Meetings:** Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>