

Stonehaven Elementary School Council Meeting Minutes

Character Matters in our School and Community

Monday, January 9, 2017 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Paul Oabel (Principal)	Susan Wansbrough (VP)	Shameela Shakeel (Chair)	Lesley Mercer (Staff)
Cathy Miles (Secretary)	George Halkidis (Treasurer)	Jennifer Strong	Aliya Syed
Abby Kassar	Lisa Podd	Daisy Wei	Roni Silbershatz
Barb Whelpley	Anne Scott	Kelley Lovegrove-Ciavatta	Cherlynn Hunt

Regrets:

Julie McWilliams, Rahila Iqbal

Principal and Vice-Principal's Report:

- Over 80 students plus some staff members were affected by norovirus in December
- Public Health was involved in management and strategies for containment
- As a result of the norovirus in our school, permits and our holiday concert were cancelled
- The holiday concert will be rescheduled for January 25th
- Tea & chat with Paul and Sue to be held on January 25th at 9 AM (topic: math curriculum)
- Teachers in all grade levels have been involved in professional development around math and modern learning. They have been focusing on a collaborative teaching model and observations in other classrooms using the inquiry/problem-solving model.
- Ms. Binnington and Ms. Marques have been involved in professional development through a new curriculum unit: First Nations, Metis and Inuit Studies. They will be using the arts (music, drama and visual arts) to teach students. The plan is to tie this curriculum unit into Wellness Day, with a school-wide focus on mental and physical well-being.
- Planning has begun for overnight trips for grades 7 and 8 students, with grade 7's going to Niagara and grade 8's going to Toronto. Waiting for superintendent approval

Treasurer's Report:

- Balance as of January 9th, 2017 - **\$6,508.18**
- Balance by mid-January (with Healthy Hunger credit) - **\$7,897.84**
- Motion to **APPROVE** by Anne Scott and Kelley Lovegrove-Ciavatta, seconded by Abby Kassar, all in favour.

Discussion/Update:

- **Artisan Market and Gingerbread House Tour (November 23, 2016)**
 - Event timing allowed shoppers to purchase unique gifts in time for the holidays.
 - Anne suggested that we provide babysitting from 3 to 6 PM, to allow parents to shop without children.
 - Not many raffle tickets were sold, so Kym and Wendy suggested that we eliminate the raffle baskets from the next event. Council members agreed.
 - The Gingerbread House Tour was a fun event, but did not generate as much revenue as the Cake Walk.

- **White Elephant Sale (December 9, 2016)**
 - The event was a success. We raised **\$827.45**
 - Unfortunately, one class did not get to participate because they had an in-class movie and when they came down the event was over.

- **Speaker Series with PRO Grant Funds (January through May 2017)**
 - The PRO Grant Speaker Series is underway.
 - **SPEAKER #1 - Alison Schafer - January 18th at Crossland ES** Her topic is empowering independence in kids. Parents receive advanced email notification about the speaker series through the school distribution list.
 - **SPEAKER #2 - Jordan Axani – February 27th at Newmarket HS** The topics discussed will be social media and mental health. He will do two presentations; one in the afternoon for high school students and an evening presentation for parents.
 - **SPEAKER #3 - Chris Vollum – March 22nd at Stonehaven ES** Want to know what your children are doing on social media with their phones? Chris Vollum will teach you! Bring your phones for this interactive step-by-step talk.
 - **SPEAKERS #4 & #5 - Tad Milmine & Una Wright – April 18th at Rogers ES** This will be a longer session than the others because two speakers will be presenting that evening. Tad Milmine is a Police Constable. He'll share his personal life story about bullying and teen suicide. Una Wright is with YouthSpeak and she will speak about the challenges faced by youth today. Each guest will speak for 45 minutes.
 - **SPEAKER #6 - Jennifer Kolari – May 8th at Glen Cedar ES** Sometimes you just need to say no to your kids. A therapist and author, Jennifer's keynote will focus on the benefits of saying "No" appropriately and tips for dealing with anxiety. This session will run for 1.5 hours.

MOTION – "I propose that School Council allocate \$300 + HST for Chris Vollum to present to students in grades 4 through 8 during the day on March 22nd."

~ Motion made by Shameela Shakeel, seconded by Cherlynn Hunt, all in favour.

- **Family Movie Night (January 19, 2017)**
 - Thursday night with PA day the next day
 - Barb volunteered to sell popcorn & water, with student volunteers
 - Shameela introduced the idea of fundraising to install buddy benches on the school playgrounds. A buddy bench is a strategically placed bench that creates a safe space for children to go when they need a moment of peace or feel they have no one to play with. Its purpose is to create empathy and feelings of security in children. The school will have a kick off assembly to explain what the buddy benches are about. We are working towards the purchase of four benches (one for the kindergarten area, three for the rock garden behind the school).

MOTION – "I propose that the proceeds from both the Family Movie Night and the February 14th Friendship Dance be used toward the purchase of Buddy Benches for our school play areas."

~ Motion made by Shameela Shakeel, seconded by Cherlynn Hunt, all in favour.

- **Friendship Dance (February 14, 2017)**
 - School Council discussed the pros and cons of a *Just Dance* set-up (free) compared to a dance with a DJ (costs \$452). With the sale of treats, we anticipate revenue of about \$200. Note that the cost for cookies will increase to \$1.50 from \$1.00 (our cost is 0.75). The price for the other treats will remain the same.

MOTION – “I propose that School Council cover the cost of the DJ for the Friendship Dance on February 14th.”

~ Motion made by Shameela Shakeel, seconded by Barb Whelpley, all in favour.

- **Snow Tubing / Skiing Trip (February 22, 2017)**
 - Sue has researched logistics and costs for a snow tubing and/or skiing trip for grades 4 through 8.
 - Snow Valley quoted \$18/person for snow tubing and \$40/person for skiing and snow tubing (helmets provided). Horseshoe is \$16/person for snow tubing. We are awaiting information about availability at Horseshoe for February 22nd. Transportation will cost \$5 to \$7 per student. Staff members have expressed interested in this school trip.
 - The ROC, located in Georgina, was suggested as another place to consider. They have snow tubing, skiing, tobogganing, skating and a chalet.
- **Grade 8 Graduation (June 20, 2017)**
 - Shameela explained that, traditionally, School Council has allocated \$500 towards grad. Students will fundraise as well, to help cover the costs of the grad party and to keep the ticket price below \$30.

MOTION – “I propose that School Council allocate \$500 towards grade 8 grad in June.”

~ Motion made by Shameela Shakeel, seconded by Cherylynn Hunt, all in favour.

- **Wellness Day (May 5, 2017)**
 - Shameela informed parents that the date has been set and planning will begin soon.
 - Aliya offered to have her husband, who works for Shoppers Drug Mart, provide donations for our Wellness Day. Ideas for possible donations will be discussed at the first planning meeting.

MOTION – “I propose that School Council allocate \$1,000 towards speakers and resources for the Wellness Day in May.”

~ Motion made by Shameela Shakeel, seconded by Aliya Syed, all in favour.

- Last two School Council meeting dates: March 6th and May 1st.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.