

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

**School Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday March 9, 2015 at 6:30 to 8:00pm**

**Attendance:**

|                                   |                             |                            |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Susan Wansbrough (Vice-Principal) | Shameela Shakeel (Chair)    | Cherylynn Hunt (Treasurer) |
| Teresa Jacobs (Secretary)         | Barb Whelpley               | Mary Beth Mercier          |
| Julie McWilliams                  | Abby Kassar                 | Roni Silbershatz           |
| Cathy Miles                       | Karen Hodgkin (Teacher Rep) |                            |

**Regrets:**

Paul Oabel (Principal) and Trish Bethell

**Absent:**

Nadila Zaravinos and Gloria Lee

**Approval of Previous Minutes**

Minutes of the January 11th meeting were approved by School Council members via email on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Principal's Report**

Students in Grade 3 and Grade 6 participated in the VIP (values, influence and peers) program. York Region community police officers talked to the students about peer pressure, drugs, alcohol, being arrested, internet safety are other topics. The objective is to make the relationship between police officers and kids a friendly one.

Junior basketball teams are up and running.

There has been a shift to a modern learning focus for staff professional development. There will be particular foci on math for EQAO years (grades 3 and 6) and mental health.

An EQAO parent information evening will be held on April 4<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 7 PM in the school library. EQAO testing will take place from May 25<sup>th</sup> to June 7<sup>th</sup> for Grade 3 and Grade 6 students.

The drama club variety show will be held on April 7<sup>th</sup> with many students participating. Tickets will be sold soon.

The school has purchased 30 Chromebooks. We still need 12 iPads for the Kindergarten classes (cost = \$2,700).

The technology available in the school is really being used well by all students. The computers are always being signed out and there are actually classes always waiting for them.

Grade 8 overnight trip to Muskoka is April 20-22. Grade 7 overnight trip to Camp Arrowhon is May 28<sup>th</sup>-June 1<sup>st</sup>. Overnight trips are getting costly on families and we are keeping them closer to home now. School staff are also looking at trips that are more collaborative and team building.

February was Acts of Kindness month. There was an assembly to kick off the 30 days of acts of kindness and an assembly at the end. Classes made different things (e.g., quilts, pictures, and kindness chains with 300 links), the choir sang, students presented spoken word poetry, and the staff room was decorated. The bulletin board at the main school entrance featured paper hands with acts of kindness written on them. We are trying to teach the kids the difference between being kind and being polite. The event was partially sponsored by the Rotary Club.

The new health curriculum will be introduced in classrooms this May. Sue showed a short video about the curriculum and what changes have been made.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Cherylynn, Treasurer, presented a current report. At this time, we have just over \$10,000 in unallocated funds.

Roni motioned to approve the report and Julie seconded. It was approved by all School Council members in attendance.

### **Items for Voting**

School Council members discussed and voted on ways to allocate funds raised through fundraising initiatives. Decisions resulted in the following allocations (all approved by all 10 School Council members in attendance):

Technology – \$2,700 for iPads for Kindergarten classes

Sports Team Jerseys – \$1,000

Angel Fund – \$1,000

Grade 8 Graduation – \$500

Friendship Club for ASD Class – \$300

In total, \$5,500 was allocated. We will allocate more funds at the next meeting, once we have a wish list from school staff.

Karen presented other ideas: subscription for online books as a resource for Kindergarten and primary classes, math resources, and new games for the games room. Shameela suggested the possibility of allocating more funds for musical instruments, but we will wait until we receive the wish list.

### **Fundraising Initiatives**

Cathy presented the spring flowers fundraiser. There will be a selection of 8 baskets/urns will cost between and \$10 and \$28. There will be two Mother's Day baskets. Order forms will go out at the beginning of April, with a due date of April 25th. At the Cake Walk and Artisan Market on April 27th, however, we will set-up a table with samples and we will accept orders that day/evening. Final orders will be placed on the 28<sup>th</sup> so that we can receive our orders by May 3<sup>rd</sup> for distribution on May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> at the school. This fundraising initiative was approved by all 10 School Council members in attendance.

### **Updates and Discussions:**

#### ***Dance-a-thon***

The event went well. There were more pledges given this year. Pledges exceed \$6,600 and the school made over \$4,000 from the event.

#### ***PRO Grant Speaker Series***

The PRO Grant speaker series continues with Michelle Cassidy on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at Armitage Villiage Public School and Gary Dierenfeld on April 13<sup>th</sup> at Rogers Public School. The series is very informative and is going well. Shameela will collaborate with other local School Council Chairs in order to apply for the grant for the next school year. The focus will likely be on mental health issues and parenting strategies.

#### ***Lunch Program***

Made in Mexico is being discontinued because there are only about 25-30 students ordering each week and the restaurant owners can no longer deliver the food. Shameela has been picking up the orders each Wednesday.

Il Bistro will continue to provide pizza and pasta on Fridays.

### ***Collection for Syrian Refugee Families***

Three weeks before the meeting, Karen Beam, a parent of two students who attend our school approached Shameela to see if our school community could provide additional support for a new Canadian family. Shameela spoke to Paul about the possibility and logistics, and they both agreed that it would be a worthy cause for our school community. Shameela then sent an email to all School Council members and made a motion to undertake a collection of funds (gift cards and cash) and used clothing for a new Syrian Refugee family that has recently settled in Newmarket. Following three days of email discussion and voting, the motion carried (6 voted yes, 5 voted no, and 2 abstained). A request for help was sent to the Stonehaven school community. Within a week, families donated 10 large boxes filled with clothing, toys and books as well as over \$500 in cash and gift cards. With the help of Karen Beam, the family sent a letter in which they expressed their gratitude and amazement that a school community worked together so quickly to help them adjust to their new home. They indicated that they felt truly blessed to be part of such a welcoming and generous community. The letter was shared with our school community by email blast and was read aloud at the Acts of Kindness assembly for all students and school staff.

It is important to note that this fundraising initiative led to thought-provoking discussions regarding the roles of School Council and whether or not we should be collecting funds that are not directed to our students. There are differing opinions on this issue, which will be addressed during a future meeting.

### ***Yearbook***

Team picture day is March 30<sup>th</sup>. All photo pages need to be submitted by April 11<sup>th</sup> so we will be able to include the Variety Show this year. To date, we have sold 137. The school has committed to buying 175 from Josten's.

### ***Regional School Council Symposium***

On March 30<sup>th</sup>, Shameela, Trish and Cathy will attend the event with Paul and Sue. There will be speeches and workshops to attend.

### ***Calk Walk and Artisan Market***

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, we will hold our second annual Cake Walk (10 AM to 6 PM) and Artisan Market (3 to 7 PM). There are many vendors already committed. Information will be sent home mid-April.

### ***Junglesport***

From May 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, Junglesport programs will be in the school gym again. Shameela will make up the schedule for classes and volunteers. Information and consent forms will be sent home mid-April.

Last School Council meeting will be held on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm.