

# Stonehaven Elementary School Council Meeting Minutes

## *Character Matters in our School and Community*

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

### **Attendance:**

Paul Oabel (Principal)	Susan Wansbrough (VP)	Lesley Mercer (Staff)	Karen Hodgkin (Staff)
Shameela Shakeel (Chair)	Cathy Miles (Secretary)	George Halkidis (Treasurer)	Abby Kassar
Anne Scott	Barb Whelpley	Cherylynn Hunt	Jennifer Strong
Kelley Ciavatta	Lisa Podd		

**Regrets:** Julie McWilliams, Aliya Syed

**Absent:** Roni Silbershatz, Daisy Wei, Rahila Iqbal

### **Principal and Vice-Principal's Report:**

- **Climate Survey:** From March 20<sup>th</sup> through April 28<sup>th</sup>, students in grades 5 through 8 will be asked to take part in a climate survey to update board data.
- **Modern Learning:** First Nations Metis Inuit (FNMI) studies are being led by two teachers, Heather Binnington and Amber Marques. This is a cross-curricular learning process that combines literacy, drama, arts, etc. The purpose for this modern learning approach is to foster a school-to-world perspective. Students are asking in-depth questions and appear engaged with the topics being discussed. They are making a school to will connection. Teachers are documenting all learning and will present at Quest next year.
- **Math Professional Development:** Teachers are working together to enhance the mathematics program by creating an open forum for other teachers to see both their lesson plan and its implementation in the classroom setting. They are co-planning, executing and assessing all aspects of the program, including teaching techniques and student engagement/understanding.
- **Staffing for the 2017-2018 Academic Year:** Current projections indicate that we will have 22 classes next year. We currently have a surplus of one teacher (0.66). As final enrolment numbers come into focus, we may be able to call this teacher back to Stonehaven next year.
- **Grade 7 & 8 Overnight Trips:** Grade 7 students are going to Niagara Falls in April and Grade 8 students are exploring Toronto in May.
  - A few parents expressed disappointment in the choice of destination for the Grade 8 trip. Toronto is a destination that most families are familiar with and many students have already visited the attractions on the itinerary with their families. An alternative city, such as Ottawa or Niagara Falls, would have been preferred. The question was raised: "Is it too late to change the destination?" Close attention will be paid to the number of registrations for this trip. Parents were advised that getting approval for a destination trip is difficult with the board's regulations and were reassured that much thought and effort were put into the planning of this trip.
- **Guest Authors:** We've been fortunate to have a number of guest authors come into Stonehaven to speak with students across all grades. The teachers and librarian have done a great job building background knowledge about the books before the author arrive.
- **Snow Tubing at Snow Valley:** The trip was great! We had over 250 students attend as well as many staff members and parent volunteers. (see further notes about busing costs in the Allocation of Funds section below).

## **Treasurer's Report:**

- Balance as of March 6th, 2017 - \$11,476.06
- Balance by mid-March (with Healthy Hunger credit) - \$12,540.19
- Previous Allocations - \$3,063.25
- Motion to **APPROVE** by Abby Kassir and seconded by Karen Hodgkin, all 10 School Council members in attendance in favour

## **Discussion/Updates:**

### **1. Voting for Allocation of Funds**

#### **a) Buddy Benches**

- We must use board-approved benches and board-approved installers. The cost per bench is \$800 + HST. With the concrete pad and installation, the total cost per bench is \$2,400. This cost is higher than anticipated. Paul indicated that he will make some calls to the board about these expenses and will get back to Council with possible alternatives. As Paul said, "Let's move forward with it, don't bench it." Voting will be completed via email or at the next School Council meeting on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **b) Forest of Reading Library Books**

- Council traditionally gives approximately \$1,250 annually toward the purchase of books for the Forest of Reading program.

**MOTION – "I propose School Council cover the cost of \$1,250 for the Forest of Reading books."**

~ Motion made by Shameela Shakeel, seconded by Kelly Ciavatta, all in favour.

#### **c) Social Media Fitness Presentation**

- Jordan Axani and Tad Milmine, who are both part of the speaker series for parents, will also be guest speakers for our Grade 6-8 students. Axani's topic is social media and mental health. Milmine's topic is anti-bullying. There is a cost of \$600 for both daytime talks. This money is in addition to the \$300 already allocated for the special presentation with Chris Vollum, also a PRO Grant speaker.

**MOTION – "I propose School Council spend \$600 to cover the fees for Jordan Axani and Tad Milmine to speak at Stonehaven as guest speakers for the Grade 6-8 students."**

~ Motion made by Shameela Shakeel, seconded by Kelly Ciavatta, all in favour.

#### **d) Evolve Skateboarding**

- School Council usually provides some funding for an active, special event for students. Last year it was Jungle Sport. As an indoor event that occupied the gym for a whole week, this caused some conflict with the physical education classes.
- Shameela proposed that we consider Evolve Skateboarding as an activity this year. The event spans 2 days (possibly May 15-16) and, if the weather is good, it will be setup outdoors. Students are taught how to use skateboards and scooters, with an emphasis on safety. The event is for children in Grades 1-3 and about 20-25 students can participate simultaneously. The cost is \$2,000+HST.

**MOTION – “I propose School Council allocate \$2,000 for Evolve Skateboarding to host a two-day event at Stonehaven for Grades 1-3 students.”**

~ Motion made by Shameela Shakeel, seconded by Kelly Ciavatta, all in favour.

**e) Snow Tubing at Snow Valley Busing Costs**

- The fee charged for this trip was well below the actual costs of snow tubing and bussing. Students paid \$20, when the actual fee should have been \$28 per child. The discrepancy was the result of additional buses needed for transportation and more students than anticipated. The shortfall for the school is \$2,200.

**MOTION – “I propose School Council spend \$1,200 to cover some of the bussing costs for the Snow Valley trip.”**

~ Motion made by Shameela Shakeel, seconded by Kelly Ciavatta, all in favour.

**2) Speaker Series**

- March 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Chris Vollum at Stonehaven ES (topic: Social Media Fitness)
- April 18<sup>th</sup> ~ Tad Milmine & Una Wright at Rogers PS (topic: Anti-Bullying and Overcoming Life’s Challenges)
- May 8<sup>th</sup> ~ Jennifer Kolari at Glen Cedar PS (topic: Anxiety and Saying “NO” when the world says “YES”)

**3) Cake Walk & Artisan Market – We need for volunteers for these events**

**4) Plants for Mother’s Day – Shameela will ask Cathy to take the lead on this fundraising initiative again this year**

**5) Regional Parent Symposium – We have one School Council member, Aliya Syed (Kindergarten parent), who will attend this event on March 29th. There are 2 more spots for parents.**

**Reminder re: Final Meeting Date: Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM**