

Stonehaven Elementary School Council Meeting Minutes

Character Matters in our School and Community

Monday, May 1, 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)	Daisy Wei	Anne Scott
Cherylynn Hunt	Aliya Syed	Helen Kelson	

Regrets:

Julie McWilliams, Abby Kassar, Jennifer Strong, Roni Silbershatz, Kelley Lovegrove-Ciavatta, Barb Whelpley, Rahila Iqbal

Principal and Vice-Principal's Report:

- **Music Monday:** Held on May 1st, students across all grades participated in music-based activities. Even those who were at Sibbald Point for a class trip participated in Music Monday.
- **Sibbald Point:** Students in grades 2, 4 and 7 went on day trips to Sibbald Point in Georgina, Ontario. The weather was quite wet, but kids had a great time!
- **Kindergarten Concerts:** Kindergarten concerts will be held on May 2nd (O'Doherty, Marleau and Hulse) and May 3rd (Dunn and Samuel) from 6:30 – 7:00 pm in the school gymnasium. Staff and students put a lot of time and effort into the preparation for this event. It is much anticipated by all.
- **Pioneer Village:** On May 3rd, the Grade 3 students will be visiting Pioneer Village for the day.
- **Grades 3 & 6 EQAO:** The afterschool math and literacy tutoring program concludes May 3rd. It was an optional program designed to help Grade 3 and 6 students prepare for their EQAO testing. Grade 3 students will be tested on May 23-26th and Grade 6 students will be tested May 26-31st.
- **Wellness Day:** A full-day event scheduled for May 4th, students across all grades will participate in mental, physical and social wellness activities. Staff and parents volunteers worked diligently to organize the event staff. Everyone is keen and ready to go!
- **School Band:** The band will be performing at Canada's Wonderland on May 26th.
- **Welcome to Kindergarten:** Orientation for parents with children starting JK in September 2017 is scheduled for May 24th from 5:45 – 7:00 pm at the school.
- **Evolve Skateboarding:** The Evolve team will be at Stonehaven ES from May 15-17th teaching the Grade 1-3 students about scooter and skateboard skills and safety.
- **Grade 8 Trip to Toronto:** The trip is planned for the middle of May.
- **Parent-Guardian Survey:** A YRDSB initiative for parents to share input about their child's education. The survey is open from May 1-19th and the link was sent to families via email. Students in Grades 5-8 also did the survey.
- **Staffing for the 2017/2018 Academic Year:** Enrolment for next year is 50 students greater than our current enrolment. This means the board may give Stonehaven more staff and/or resources. Next year, five students are moving to the gifted school and 10 students are moving to Mazo de La Roche for French immersion.

- **Student Placement Requests for Next Year:** Parents may request student placement for the next academic year. Details are explained in the May newsletter. Note that staff is very good at placing children with certain groups of students and/or teachers based on their strengths and/or relationships. Teachers have transition meetings to ensure the best placements are chosen.

Treasurer’s Report:

- Balance as of May 1, 2017 - \$8,137.63
- Estimated balance by mid-May - \$8,234.77
- Motion to **APPROVE** the Treasurer’s Report by Anne Scott and seconded by Cherylynn Hunt, all in favour.

Discussion/Updates:

1) Voting for Allocation of Funds

- a) **Angel Fund** – At the end of the 2016/2017 school year, School Council added \$1,500 to the Angel Fund. All of the funds were used throughout the current school year and the fund is now depleted.

MOTION – “I propose School Council add \$1,500 to the Angel Fund to ensure funds are available at the start of the 2017/2018 academic year.”

~ Motion made by Shameela Shakeel, seconded by Cathy Miles, all in favour.

- b) **Buddy Benches** – Paul Oabel confirmed that the fee for Buddy Benches purchased through the Board ranges from \$1,600-\$1,800, plus \$800 for installation. School Council allocated funds to pay for one Buddy Bench and the school offered to pay for a second bench. Installation will happen after the school tarmac is repaved which is scheduled for this year. Note that the tarmac resurfacing is a \$100,000 job covered by the Board.

MOTION – “I motion School Council allocate \$2,400 toward the purchase of one Buddy Bench in anticipation for installation after the tarmac is paved.”

~ Motion made by Shameela Shakeel, seconded by Cathy Miles, all in favour.

- c) **Teacher Resource Wish List for 2017/2018** - Lesley Mercer shared with Council a wish list of resources the teachers would greatly appreciate. School Council agrees to allocate funds towards the following items:

MOTION – “I motion School Council allocate \$1,700 to cover the fee for “Scientists in the Classroom,” \$500 toward resources for “Forest School” and \$600 toward resources for “Maker Space”.

~ Motion made by Shameela Shakeel, seconded by Cathy Miles, all in favour.

- **Scientists in the Classroom (\$1,700)** – Last year, Council granted \$1,552 toward this program. Primary students and their teachers found it engaging and helpful. Grade 3 and 4 students also took advantage of this resource. School council grants \$1,700 toward this initiative.

- **Forest School (\$500)** – Next year, in conjunction with the Board initiative around Forest Schools, all kindergarten classes will engage in outdoor learning and environmental literacy programs. Teachers have requested funds for resources. This year, one of our kindergarten classes participated in Forest School. The feedback was positive. The curriculum is hands-on and students’ inquiry skills, questions and curiosity grew. They began taking new risks and actively exploring the world around them. In addition to the \$500 granted by Council, teachers are encouraged to apply for funding and supplies from corporations and organizations such as WWF and the Home Depot.
- **Maker Space in the Library (\$600)** – All grades will have access to the newly created Maker Space area in the library. Activities will tie into STEAM learning (Science Technology Engineering Arts Mathematics). The 10 Dash and Dot coding robots owned by the school will become a Maker Space resource. Teachers have also requested “Makedo” cardboard tools at \$16.95 per package, Light Tablets at \$180 per unit and Snap Circuit kits at \$134 per set. Council grants \$600 toward the purchase of these resources.
- Council also discussed Raz Kids for kindergarten students at a cost of \$2,000 and mental health literacy books for Grades 4-8 at a cost of \$1,260. Although each resource is equally beneficial to the school, unfortunately these items did not fit this year’s budget.

2) Parent Symposium

Helen Kelson, Aliya Syed and Tiffany Walker represented Stonehaven ES. at the YRDSB Parent Symposium on March 29th. Below are some highlights from the event:

- **Google Classrooms** - Helen attended a session about Google Classrooms which is a “blended learning platform created by Google to simplify the distribution and grading of assignments in a paperless way.” Student accounts are personalized and stay with them throughout their academic life. It was interesting to learn that mobile phones will be encouraged in class by the time our children enter high school.
- **Volunteer Training** - There are many different ways to GIVE (Get Involved Volunteer Education). Parents are encouraged to get involved with their child’s education. Helen learned that twice a year there is a free, 5-session training program at the Welcome Centre in Newmarket. It covers vast topics to familiarize volunteers with the school environment and branch out from the typical school initiatives.
- **The Benefits of Escape Challenges** – Aliya participated in escape challenges with a group of parents. This session taught collaboration and engagement, as well as persistence (for getting through a problem).
- **STEAM** – Tiffany’s first workshop was entitled “Promoting 21 Century Competencies using STEAM,” and focused on purposeful integration of science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics. She reported that attendees participated in groups of two to three parents with hands-on STEAM activities, such as creating a dog crate with newspaper and tape. They learned how STEAM activities engage students in critical thinking, collaboration, creativity and innovation.
- **Transitioning to Kindergarten** – Tiffany also attended a session that focused on smooth and successful transitioning into full-day kindergarten.

3) Year Book

Year books are expected to arrive in the middle of June. We ordered 185 copies, of which 174 have been pre-sold. Only 11 copies remain. Anne Scott explained that next the Year Book Committee would like to get more students involved in taking pictures for the publication. Council encouraged this idea.

4) Pro Grant Due end of May

Applications for the Pro Grant, which is the money used for the parent speaker series, is due by the end of May. Shameela will apply for the grant for Stonehaven ES, along with 9 or 10 other schools. Funds will be combined, allowing parents from all of the Newmarket schools to attend any/all of the sessions. The foci for the next school year will be on mental wellness and financial literacy.

5) Staff Appreciation Luncheon

On Thursday, June 22, Council will host a staff appreciation luncheon. Staff leaving our school will be acknowledged. This is a potluck and parents may donate and/or give money toward the purchase of food. Volunteers are needed to help with the event. Anyone who helps is welcome to eat afterwards.

MOTION – “I motion School Council give \$100 for drinks, plates, cutlery and napkins for the staff appreciation luncheon on June 22, 2017.”

~ Motion made by Shameela Shakeel, seconded by Cathy Miles, all in favour.

6) Fundraising

Everyone is encouraged to think of new fundraising ideas for the coming year. We will discuss them when we re-group in September 2017.

- **Fun Fair** - Every year Shameela is asked why does Stonehaven not have a traditional Fun Fair? In order for this to happen, a committee must be formed at the beginning of the academic year and contingency plans must be considered for inclement weather. One year we lost \$4,000 due to a Fun Fair that was rained out. Hosting a Fun Fair is an option, but a team and a plan need to be in place.
- **Cardinal Golf Mini-Putt** – Anne suggested mini-putt as a fundraising initiative for next year. Cardinal Golf Club will give 50% of the fees collected over a one-month period for anyone who says they're with Stonehaven E.S. This is a fun way to raise money and encourage family bonding outdoors, with minimal time and resource input from volunteers and Council members.

Closing Notes:

- Mr. Oabel and Ms. Wansbrough will host a Tea and Chat in the library the last Wednesday in May.
- Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm