

Stonehaven Elementary School
Character Matters in our School and Community

School Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday November 4, 2015 at 6:30 to 8:00pm

Attendance:

Paul Oabel (Principal)	Nadila Zaravinos	Trish Bethell
Susan Wansbrough (Vice-Principal)	Gloria Lee	Abby Kassar
Shameela Shakeel (Chair)	Roni Silbershatz	Julie McWilliams
Cherylynn Hunt (Treasurer)	Cathy Miles	Mary Beth Mercier
Teresa Jacobs (Secretary)	Barb Whelpley	Bonnie Diep

Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes of the September 29th meeting were approved by School Council members via email October 19, 2015.

Principal's Report

Paul Oabel introduced himself and gave some background about his career. He has been in four different public schools in Markham and looks forward to his time as principal at Stonehaven E.S.

The current labour situation has been resolved. All unions will be voting to ratify soon. There will be meetings in the coming days and moving forward.

Concerned about the parking lot safety for our students, Paul reported that he and/or Sue will continue to direct drivers in an effort to keep traffic fluid. In particular, they are hoping that parents will adhere to the kiss and ride process. Kindergarten parents are allowed to park and walk students into yard.

On Remembrance Day, November 11th, Kindergarten through Grade 6 students will participate in a school assembly. Grade 7 and 8 students will go by bus to participate in a ceremony at the Newmarket cemetery/cenotaph.

Picture retake day is November 12th.

The fall School Council Forum has been postponed. Sue will advise when rescheduled.

Chess club is up and running every Wednesday at lunch recess. Students in Grades 3 through 8 are being coached by Chessmaster Tibi Andronache. He runs chess programs in several York Region schools.

For Grade 8 students, the transition to high school process has begun. There have been open houses at a couple of high schools already, with more on the way. Guidance counsellors will also be coming to Stonehaven.

Treasurer's Report

Cherylynn, Treasurer, presented a current Treasurer's Report (see attached). At this time, we have just over \$3,500 in unallocated funds.

Shameela explained that Healthy Hunger has switched from weekly to monthly cheques. Shameela asked our admin assistant, Mais Dagher, to check with the school board's credit union if we can sign up for direct deposits from Healthy Hunger, since this is a new option.

Shameela made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. This motion was seconded by Mary Beth and approved by all Council members present (12).

Updates and Discussions

Errol Lee

He gave three high-energy, successful presentations during the day on October 6th. The evening program will be held on November 23rd from 6:30 to 7:30 in the gym. Errol and Rhonda Dimma from iDance will coordinate to include hip hop dancers in the routine that evening. School Council members will sell popcorn and water as a fundraiser. Kids will sit on the floor while parents will sit on chairs behind kids. Shameela is waiting to hear from a local dental office regarding sponsorship for this event. *Note: Shameela emailed all School Council members on November 5th to indicate that the event will be sponsored by Dr. Karen Lederer and Dr. David Brown.

Chapters FUNdraiser

The event date was changed from November 23rd to November 30th and will run from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Jan Safaric, School Librarian, will provide a list of staff members in time slots to read to the children at this event. There will be a large board of teachers' favourite books on display. There will be gift baskets and books picked out for direct donation to the school. School Council will receive 20% of all sales from that evening. Funds will be in the form of a Chapters gift card. Barb made a motion to divide the amount onto 2 gift cards, one for library resources and one for School Council to use as needed in the future (e.g., for Dance-a-Thon prizes). The motion was seconded by Cherylynn and approved by all Council members present (12).

Last year, Chapters funds were used by Jan for library resources. Cherylynn indicated that there needs to be accountability for how the gift card is being used, just so we know where the money is going. Shameela agreed to follow up with Jan (Librarian) and Mais (Administrative Assistant) regarding a list of purchases to date.

Halloween Dance

All agreed that the kids had fun and the dance ran very well. We ordered 400 cookies, but ran out by lunchtime. More cookies were purchased at the SuperStore. We should order 500 next year. Dance made \$218.55.

Tuck Shop

School Council was going to run tuck shop, but now that school staff are back to normal in duties, tuck shop will be run by three Grade 1 and 2 classes and Student Council every Thursday at morning recess. School staff will supervise. They will be selling cookies and milk (chocolate and white). Student Council will also be selling frozen yogurt every Friday.

Mary Beth asked on what Student Council will be spending the funds. Paul and Sue indicated that there will be accountability and that they will report to School Council regarding fund allocations. Shameela indicated that tuck shop and frozen yogurt sales have traditionally impacted popcorn sales, which means that School Council should expect a decline in revenue in the new year.

Fundraising Initiatives

There was a discussion regarding the smoothie samples that students tried at the Halloween Dance. While Cherish Bartlett, who provided the Juice Plus smoothies that day, felt that about 80% of the kids who tried the smoothies enjoyed them, other parents who volunteered at the dance felt that students gave mixed reviews. Ultimately, School Council members decided not to go ahead with Juice Plus smoothies as a fundraiser for this school year.

Cathy said that she would be willing to help out with a milk/yogurt/fruit smoothie program, like the one Shameela ran last year, perhaps in the new year.

The White Elephant Sale will take place on Friday, December 11th from 9 AM to 1 PM. Shameela will send info and a request for items to be donated in early December by email.

PRO Grant

Shameela provided an update regarding speakers to be booked: Alyson Schafer, Therapist; Dr. Karyn Gordon, Psychologist, Gary Dierenfield, Social Worker and Therapist; and Michelle Cassidy, YRDSB Mental Health Lead. Three participating schools were awarded PRO Grants of \$1,000 each, for a total of \$3,000. The total cost for the four speakers is \$3,600. Shameela motioned for School Council to use \$200 from our school's parental engagement fund to help with the speakers' fees, with the understanding that the other two schools, Bogart and Rogers, will be doing the same. The motion was seconded by Barb and all School Council members present voted in favour (12).

Yearbook

Trish explained the process for the cover contest. Students must submit entries by Monday, November 9th. Trish will save all entries as PDF documents and will send them to School Council members via email. We will then vote within two days, by email, in order to narrow the list to the top 13 entries. All 13 potential covers will be posted outside the library and Jan Safaric, Librarian, will coordinate the voting process for all students. The winner will be announced the following week.

Trish reminded all parents to send pictures so they can be included in the yearbook. We want as many children as possible to be in the yearbook.

Staff Funding Requests

Note: Two School Council members, Cherylynn and Mary Beth, needed to leave the meeting prior to this discussion. 10 voting members were present.

Shameela outlined the following funding requests from school staff/School Council:

\$1,300 for Forest of Reading books;

\$2,000 for 4 orffs/xylophones for primary students' music classes;

\$1,000 for 32 sports teams jerseys; and

\$500 deposit for Junglesport program, which is tentatively scheduled for May 9th through 13th (with the understanding that School Council will allocate another \$2000 in order to keep the cost of program at \$5 per student)

After much discussion, Barb motioned to spend \$500 for Jungle Sport. The motion was seconded by Shameela and all School Council members present approved (10).

Trish motioned to spend \$1,300 for Forest of Reading books. The motion was seconded by Shameela and all School Council members present approved (10).

Shameela motioned to spend \$1,000 for 2 orffs. The motion was seconded by Barb and all School Council members present approved (10).

All agreed that we should wait before allocating funds for new jerseys, until we see where we stand with funds in the new year. We are committed to helping with the cost, perhaps through a targeted fundraiser such as a movie night.

Shameela motioned to adjourn at 8:20pm. All voted in favour.

Next Meetings:

Monday January 11th

Wednesday March 9th

Tuesday May 17th