

# Stonehaven Elementary School Council Meeting Minutes

*Character Matters in our School and Community*

Monday, November 7, 2016 @ 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

## Attendance:

Paul Oabel (Principal)	Susan Wansbrough (VP)	Shameela Shakeel (Chair)	Karen Hodgkin (Staff)
George Halkidis (Treasurer)	Cathy Miles (Secretary)	Roni Silbershatz	Abby Kassar
Cherlynn Hunt	Anne Scott	Aliya Syed	Jennifer Strong
Barb Whelpley	Daisy Wei	Lisa Podd	Joelle Clark
Mary Beth Mercier	Karin Larkan-Hill	Evelyn Morgan	

## Regrets:

Rahila Iqbal, Julie McWilliams, Kelley Ciavatta

## Principal and Vice-Principal's Report:

- October was a great month, filled with many successful extra-curricular activities, including: Terry Fox walk/run; basketball, volleyball and cross-country events; Lego and chess clubs during the lunch hour; active band and choir groups; a fun Halloween dance; and planning for the upcoming Remembrance Day ceremony.
- Mindfulness strategies are being implemented to help with smooth transitions and reduce stress in kids. These are in support of mental health. Examples: games room is open for purposeful play inside during recess; Grades 6-8 spend time colouring while soft ambient music plays in the background.
- Progress Reports will be distributed at the end of November; the first of three reports for the year.
- Teachers across all grades are undergoing professional development focused on math and student engagement. Individual teachers are starting to implement new strategies within the classroom.
- Gifted screening for Grade 3 Students begins this month. It is a two-step process and all Grade 3 students write the tests.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tea & Chat with the Principal and VP –November 16<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m., Topic = Anti-bullying
- Parking Lot lines have been re-painted to help drivers understand which way traffic should flow. Hopefully this will help alleviate some of the morning and after school congestion.

## Treasurer's Report:

- Balance, as of November 4, 2016 = **\$8,359.70**
- \$1,145.29 cheque from Healthy Hunger will be deposited mid-Nov. to bring the total to just under **\$10,000**.
- Motion to approve Treasurer's report by Karen Hodgkin, seconded by Abby Kassar, all voted in favour.

**MOTION** by Cherylynn Hunt, seconded by Barb Whelpley, 11 voted in favour (Shameela did not vote)  
**"I propose an allowance for the Chair of School Council to use up to \$1,000 in discretionary funds for miscellaneous, revenue neutral school activities."**

## Discussions:

- **Yearbook Cover Contest**
  - 106 entries (submissions received from students in all grades).
  - Narrowed down to 26 by the yearbook committee, then School Council voted for their top 13 choices.
  - Yearbook committee to display top 13 entries in the library and the student body will vote this week.
  - Winner's submission will be the cover image, 12 finalists will be on the back cover and all other submissions will be there as thumbnail pictures.
  - Cost of yearbook is \$35 until the end of December; price goes up to \$40 in 2017
- **Gingerbread House Tour and Artisan Market – Nov. 23**
  - The originally planned Wellness Day doesn't work with the teachers' schedules due to report cards.
  - Shameela proposed that students and their families be asked to make gingerbread houses (or send a monetary donation toward the purchase of a house for a volunteer to make) which will be displayed in the gym. Students will have an opportunity to buy raffle tickets for their favourite house during the day. Raffle will take place at 6 PM during the Artisan Market. This is a fun way to encourage people to attend the Artisan Market, which will take place in the gym from 3 to 7 PM. All voted in favour. Shameela will send info by email and hard copy this week.
- **New Technology**
  - Paul explained that the school is in need of 35 ChromeBooks and a laptop/technology cart (used to charge devices). The total cost is just over \$12,000. The school board's fall cost-sharing program will match our contribution, up to a maximum of \$6,000 per school year. The school is able to contribute about \$3,000 at this time and is asking School Council to cover \$3,000 if possible.

**MOTION** by George Halkidis, seconded by Shameela Shakeel, all 12 voted in favour  
**"I propose School Council allocate \$3,000 towards the school board's cost-sharing program to purchase 35 ChromeBooks and a technology cart."**

- **Snow Tubing Trip**
  - Shameela mentioned that a parent volunteer, Erin Reed, is looking into costs and logistics for our students in grades 4 through 8 to participate in a winter elective day. Erin is trying to book snow tubing at Snow Valley in the new year. Paul is meeting with Erin this Friday. Shameela may request an email vote to ask School Council for financial support of this initiative.
- **School Athletics Logo on Tent**
  - We need a new tent with our school logo for outdoor athletic activities.
  - 10'x20' costs \$1,399+HST = \$1,582
  - Paul said that the school can cover half the cost.

**MOTION** by Shameela Shakeel, seconded by George Halkidis, all 12 voted in favour.  
**"I propose School Council allocate \$800 towards the purchase of a 10'x20' tent with school logo."**

- **Library Resources**
  - Paul will make a request at our January School Council meeting.
- **Musical Instruments**
  - Amber Marques, music teacher, was at a conference this past weekend and would like to purchase a number of musical instruments to be used across all grade levels. These include shake drums, soul drums, an alto xylophone and a bass xylophone. The total cost is \$3,000.
  - Paul said that the school can cover half the cost.

**MOTION** by Cathy Miles, seconded by Shameela Shakeel, all 12 voted in favour  
**“I propose School Council gives \$1,500 toward the purchase of musical instruments (drum sets and xylophones).”**

- **Lunch & Popcorn Programs**
  - We make \$1,000 - \$1,200 per month through the Healthy Hunger lunch program. About 60 to 70 students order subs on Mondays and about 180 students order pizza or pasta every week.
- **Meet the Staff BBQ**
  - Parents and staff shared positive feedback about the food vendor, who is also a Kindergarten parent. The event enhanced community bonding and was a success.
  - There was a request to do it again in the Spring and Paul suggested during the Cake Walk.
- **Halloween Dance**
  - This year we did not hire a DJ. Some kids enjoyed the dance while others said they preferred past dances when we had a DJ. Parent feedback said that the Grade 7 & 8s danced more than in previous years.
  - To improve the next dance, which will be for Valentine’s Day, we will ask Student Council to assist by picking songs that are age appropriate and to come up with ideas that will make it more fun for everyone.
- **Holiday Artisan Market**
  - 30 vendors are registered for the event.
  - The Grade 8s will have a table to sell candy kabobs and other items as a fundraising initiative for grad.
  - Suggestions were made for School Council to sell apple cider and/or coffee and/or hot chocolate at the event. Paul and Sue indicated that perhaps Student Council can take care of that part.
- **Dr. Karyn Gordon at Bogart PS on Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> from 8-9 pm**
  - Topic is “Teaching Empathy and Gratitude in our Kids/Teens”
  - Reserve tickets and babysitting at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 pm**

*Next meeting on Monday, January 9, 2017 (6:30-8:00 pm)*