

Stonehaven Elementary School
Character Matters in our School and Community

School Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 23, 2014

Attendance:

Neil Gunathunge (Principal)	Sara Flohil-Purves (Vice-Principal)	
Shameela Shakeel (Chair)	Cherylynn Hunt (Treasurer)	Lesley Mercer (Staff/Council Member)
Andrea Rolfe (Council Member)	Barb Whelpley (Council Member)	Trish Bethell (Council Member)
Rahila Iqbal (Council Member)	Shelley Reid (Council Member)	Mary Beth Mercier (Council Member)
Zadiha Iqbal (Parent)	Teresa Jacobs (Parent)	Karen Beam (Parent)
Daniel Redjamand (Parent)	Tooba Bagan (Parent)	

Regrets from Council Members:

Karen Hodgkin (Staff Member)

Absent Council Members:

Elham Loghmani, Yijie Tang, Dan Terzievski, Robbie Lai

Secretary Assignment:

Yijie Tang, Secretary, was absent. Shameela Shakeel, Chair, volunteered to take notes and produce minutes.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

Minutes of the September 30th meeting were approved by School Council via email last week.

Principal and Vice-Principal Report:

School Events and Activities

On October 8th, Steve Chapelle presented to students in Grades 6 through 8 (afternoon assembly) and to parents (evening in library). Topics included social media usage, cyberbullying, willful self-exposure online, and unsecured confidential information. Overall, staff and students reported that it went well.

On October 17th, Sara Westbrook's UPower concerts focused on making responsible choices, respect and resiliency. The two presentations (Kindergarten through Grades 3/4 in the morning and Grades 4/5 through 8 in the afternoon) were different, but both had positive messages and were enjoyed by all.

Safety Week included a lockdown drill and a fire drill. In the coming weeks, students and staff will experience a hold and secure drill. Karen Beam asked if staff have been discussing safety in our school, in light of the terrorist attack at Parliament Hill this week. Sara Flohil-Purves indicated that some classrooms with older students have had discussions about the events.

On November 12th, progress reports will go home with all students. On November 13th and 14th, student-led conferences will be held in the classrooms.

Holiday concerts, with afternoon and evening performances, will take place on December 11th. Staff will indicate whether or not their classes will participate.

Trips for Grade 7 and 8 students have been planned for May 2015. Grade 7 students are scheduled to go to Arrowhon in Algonquin Park and Grade 8 students are scheduled to go to Ottawa. Both trips include 2 nights, 3 days. Letters will be sent home to ensure that there is 80% interest before further planning is undertaken.

Financial Report:

Cherylynn Hunt, Treasurer, presented a current Treasurer's Report (see attached). At this time, we have just over \$5,000 in unallocated funds. Shameela Shakeel made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. This motion was seconded by Shelley Reid and approved by all Council members present (9).

Discussion Items:

Shameela Shakeel reminded everyone about three upcoming events:

October 31st~Halloween Dance (will collect \$1 for entry and sell 500 cookies baked by Kym Sloggett for \$1)

November 24th~Chapters FUNdraiser (6-9 pm, in-store shopping, staff readings, raffle baskets if allowed)

Lesley Mercer reported that about 10 school staff members plan to attend and some will read books to students. They are also preparing lists of "teachers' picks" to help families decide on purchases. Reminders will be made through morning announcements and email blasts. Shameela Shakeel indicated that we have two choices for fundraising: 10% of pre-tax sales in the form of a cheque or 15% of pre-tax sales in the form of Chapters gift cards. Council members voted for the latter option.

December 5th~White Elephant Sale & Craft/Card Sale ("garage sale" with donations by Stonehaven families, every item to sell for \$1, crafts and cards to be made and sold by Grade 6 to 8 students with the guidance of Heidi Stabler, parent, and Annette Schielke, staff)

Shameela Shakeel suggested that we buy gift wrap, gift bags and tape to wrap items bought as gifts. Trish Bethell recommended and agreed to purchase gift bags from Creative Bag.

Presentation:

Lesley Mercer presented several ways in which technology is used in the classrooms. Specifically, she explained how teachers can use interactive technology such as laptops, document cameras, iPads with specific apps, class websites, *Pinterest*, and SmartBoards to engage students in shared learning experiences. She also included information regarding apps such as *Dragon* (speech to text) and *Croak* (hear own voice).

Discussion:

Grants

Shameela Shakeel reported that we have been awarded a \$500 Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grant towards Welcome to Kindergarten bags for May 2015 as well as a \$1,000 Metro Green Apple Grant towards ongoing weekly fruit for students in Grades 1 through 4.

Goals/Plans for School Year

Shameela Shakeel outlined some potential goals for spending funds raised through School Council initiatives:

~ **Technology** (up to \$6,500 towards school board's cost-share program by November)

~ **Literacy** (\$1,500 for Forest of Reading program, which involves books for all ages and trip to Harbourfront)

~ **Arts** (\$1,200 for author visits/singer/drama presentation)

~ **Health** (\$3,000 for another water filling station on first floor of school)

~ **Athletics** (\$2,200 towards Aussie X program for first week in May; deposit of \$1,859 due at end of February)

Neil Gunathunge indicated that we need and can purchase 2 document cameras and 6 laptops with \$2,800, which would be matched dollar-for-dollar by the school board. Document cameras would be useful for teachers in the classrooms and laptops would be useful for students to access various programs and online learning resources.

After much discussion, Shameela Shakeel made a motion to provide \$3,500 for 2 document cameras and 8 laptops (technology) as well as \$1,500 towards the Forest of Reading program (literacy). This motion was seconded by Trish Bethell and approved by all Council members present at the time of the vote (8).

All Council members agreed to commit to using newly raised funds towards an arts presentation, a water filling station and the Aussie X program.

Other Potential Fundraisers

Teresa Jacobs informed everyone of a popular fundraiser in the Ottawa area. A cake walk involves cake donations by families and local businesses. Students buy tickets for the opportunity to try to win the cakes through one of two methods: music plays while children walk near cake displays and when the music stops, the student in the square for a cake wins it OR cakes are distributed through a raffle process. School Council members agreed that this would be a great fundraiser for the spring.

Shameela Shakeel mentioned other possibilities, such as poinsettia sales, Ford Test Drive event and a fun fair. School Council members agreed that we should limit the number of fundraisers for this school year to currently planned ones (Chapters, White Elephant/Craft Sale, Dance-a-Thon and Cake Walk).

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Next Meeting:

December 9th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the school library