

Stonehaven Elementary School Council Meeting Minutes

Character Matters in our School and Community

Tuesday, September 21, 2016

6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Paul Oabel (Principal)	Susan Wansbrough (VP)	Shameela Shakeel (Chair)	Lesley Mercer (Staff)
Abby Kassar	Aliya Syed	Anne Scott	Barb Whelpley
Bonnie Diep	Cathy Miles	Cherylynn Hunt	Daisy Wei
Darlene Nantarath	Evelyn Morgan	George Halkidis	Gloria Cedano
Jennifer Strong	Julie McWilliams	Karin Larkan-Hill	Kelley Ciavatta
Lisa Podd	Mary Beth Mercier	Oxana Wei	Rahila Iqbal
Roni Silbershatz	Sandy Sooklal	Shannon Ingram	Sonia Chao
Teresa Jacobs	Yan Liu Angel		

Principal and Vice-Principal's Report:

- Growing number of students at our school and in YRDSB
- May have only minor changes/reorganization before compliance date
- School population is becoming more culturally diverse
- Tomorrow from 9 to 10 AM in school library – Tea & Chat with Principal and VP (topic: transitions)
- Full Day Kindergarten classes now have direct entry between 8:10 and 8:25 AM
- Kindergarten teachers will attend information session on Friday regarding the updated curriculum
- Learning day starts at 8:25 AM so we need to ensure that students are on time for school
- National anthem will be played with announcements just before morning recess
- Meet the Staff BBQ will be held on September 28th from 5 to 7 PM
- Terry Fox Walk will be held on September 29th first thing in the morning for all students and staff
- EQAO results will be released tomorrow, but Paul summarized that Stonehaven students performed well in reading and writing, but some improvements are need in the area of math

Elections for School Council Positions:

- Large number of parents interested in becoming School Council members with voting rights
- Amendment was proposed by Shameela and approved by all to increase the number of positions from 13 to 15 (includes the Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, 1 staff representative plus 11 parent members)

Council Chair: Shameela Shakeel

Secretary: Cathy Miles

Treasurer: George Halkidis

Staff Representatives: Lesley Mercer & Karen Hodgkin (one vote)

Voting Members: Abby Kassar, Aliya Syed, Anne Scott, Barb Whelpley, Cherylynn Hunt, Daisy Wei, Jennifer Strong, Julie McWilliams, Kelley Ciavatta, Rahila Iqbal, Roni Silbershatz

A warm welcome to both new and returning Council members!

Financial Report and Updates:

Shameela took us through the treasurer's report and summary of all income and expenses for last school year. For full details, please refer to the reports. Below are some key figures.

- Opening balance, as of September 15, 2016 = 3,902.44
- For 2015/2016, total revenue = \$33,557.16 and total expenditures = \$32,555.74

Lesley Mercer, primary teacher, shared a message of thanks on behalf of the school staff for the \$6,000 we gave towards curriculum resources, as per the teachers' wish list. These resources reached all grade levels.

Upcoming Events:

Meet the Staff BBQ – Wednesday, September 28, 2016

- Email was sent last week asking families to pre-order \$5 meals (burger/hot dog, chips and drink)
- Meals cannot be purchased at the BBQ
- This is not a fundraiser (cost-recovery only)
- An ice cream truck will be on site during the event, with 25% of profits from ice cream sales going to School Council to help off-set the cost of the teachers' meals
- Scholastic Book Sale is also happening this week and during the BBQ, with proceeds going toward the purchase of new library resources

Halloween Dance – Monday, October 31, 2016

- This year we will have Grade 7 and 8 students as DJs for the event
- Not only does it help save cost, it is also an excellent leadership opportunity for our senior students
- Student DJs will rotate throughout the day to ensure no child misses too much class time
- Cookies, chips and treats will be sold at the dance as a fundraiser
- Shameela will email to recruit volunteers and coordinate timeslots

Wellness Day and Holiday Artisan Market – Wednesday, November 23, 2016

- Plan is to have a full day of health and wellness activities for students in all grade levels
- To be modelled after successful Wellness Day at Armitage Elementary School
- Staff and School Council will collaborate for ideas, speakers and activities
- Artisan Market from 3 to 7 PM, to be coordinated by two parents from our school, Kym Sloggett and Wendy Ferguson

White Elephant Sale – Friday, December 9, 2016

- Please start saving your "garage sale" items for this fantastic event, where students get to purchase items for \$1 each and then have them wrapped for gift giving
- Donations for wrapping paper, bags and tape are welcomed
- Shameela will email to recruit volunteers

Movie Night – Thursday, January 19, 2017

- Students and their families will be invited to view a family-friendly movie at the school in the evening
- This date was chosen because the next day is a PA Day
- Popcorn and water will be sold by School Council as a fundraising initiative

Friendship Dance – Tuesday, February 14, 2017

- NOT a dance-a-thon this year
- Will have student DJs and treats available for purchase
- Shameela will email to recruit volunteers

Cake Walk and Artisan Market – Wednesday, April 26, 2017

- Families and local bakeries donate cakes, then students purchase raffle tickets to try and win cakes
- Cakes are raffled off that evening during the Artisan Market
- Shameela will email families with more details and will recruit volunteers

Physical Activity for Students – TBD in May 2017

- School Council can discuss options such as Junglesport, Rocks & Rings or Evolve

Other Fundraising:

Candles for World Peace Day – September 21, 2016

- Cathy reported that the first of this year's fundraisers was a success, with over \$700 raised
- Due to a gracious donation by our candle supplier, 100% of profits stayed at school level
- Families got to select one candle for \$2 or three candles for \$4, with a choice of 3 colours/fragrances
- Candles were packaged in clear gift bags and each bag had information about World Peace Day, including links to a hip hop music video about the UN and their 17 sustainable development goals, as well as discussion questions for parents to help guide their child in a talk about world peace
- Feedback from parents was exceptionally positive about the concept and the value of their purchase

Mother's Day Planters/Flowers – April/May 2017

- Last year we sold potted plants and flowers for Mother's Day
- North 40 Farms was our supplier and the quality of plants was superior to those received from a previous supplier
- Shameela expressed an interest in doing this fundraiser again and there was general agreement
- We will contact North 40 Farms in January to get a copy of their current year's offerings and prices

Lunch Program

- The lunch program is underway, with families ordering online through Healthy Hunger
- In the first week we received 35 orders for Subway (Monday's option) and 140 orders for pizza and past (Friday's option)

Popcorn Program

- Popcorn Wednesdays will start in October
- Orders are being accepted through Student Cash Online
- We have moved away from the collection of money to make the process easier for school staff, to ensure that cash does not go missing in transit, and to ensure better accountability
- Students may purchase a bag of popcorn by going to the popcorn station during recess
- JK/SK children receive popcorn at lunch to ensure they eat their fruit/vegetables and lunch foods first

Grants:

Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grant

- Shameela reported that, once again, we received a \$1,000 PRO Grant this year
- This year, we are collaborating with 7 other Newmarket schools plus the Bully Free Community Alliance
- Each school received \$1,000 plus the Bully Free Community Alliance received \$5,000 (total of \$13,000)
- By combining our grant money, we plan to host several speakers and workshops for parents to enjoy
- Topics will include mental health issues, social media/internet safety and positive responses to bullying
- Shameela will attend the first collaborative group meeting on October 5th and asked everyone to suggest speakers by emailing her

Metro Green Apple Grant

- Shameela reported that, each year, Metro grants \$1,000 to 50 schools to help promote healthy eating
- Shameela has applied for the grant again and we should hear back by November
- We have received this grant two years in a row and funds have been used to buy fresh fruit, which is left in the school office for students who need healthy snacks
- Sometimes teachers encourage students to swap an unhealthy snack for fruit item in office
- A few parents asked if they could donate food for students who are in need
- Paul and Shameela indicated that non-perishable goods such as granola bars, apple sauce and juice boxes are always welcomed

MusiCounts Grant

- Shameela reported that she and Mr. Testa, our music teacher last year, previously applied for a MusiCounts grant, but we were not awarded a grant
- This year, we can consider applying again, with the help of our music teacher, Ms. Nolan
- Cherylynn offered to help with the grant writing process

Upcoming School Council Meeting Dates:

- November 7, January 9, March 6 and May 1 (all Mondays)

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM