**School Council Meeting Minutes**

**Thurs Sept 21st, 2023**

**6:00pm start**

**Present:** Paul, Melanie, Scott, Julia, Emma, Kyla, Ashley, Lisa

**Regards:** Gary

**Welcomes**

Introductions to who we are for all new members.

Paul LeRoy – New school principal

* 14 yrs as administrator
* Here to help and welcomes any questions we may have about what school life is like or any question in general.
* He is interested in hearing what School Council and parents would like to talk about and address during meetings and is here to support the kids, parents/guardians/families, and the school community.
* What do we want from the school
* Encourages everyone to join in council – it’s a great opportunity to stay connected with the school
* He will be as open and transparent as possible

Teacher reps for this year: Lisa Couch-Blackburn & Evan Barr

**Council Elections**

Elections must be held before Council can make any decisions on fundraisers, meeting nights, etc.

This is to ensure we have a clear idea of who is a voting member and to figure out quorum.

* Election forms will be sent out on Monday Sept 25th via email & paper forms
* Require 14 days to respond for elections before anything can be voted upon/finalized
* Electronic notification is the preferred method of communication (via email, Facebook, my Family Room) however print outs will be provided when urgent notifications are needed and/or immediate responses are required
* Was suggested that we send out the election forms with the SIV forms, however, these have already been sent out.

**Principal update/Report:**

Normally we have a quick recap on what was discussed during the last meeting than move onto the current agenda and upcoming events

Paul has met all the students and is looking forward to a great school year

Terry Fox tomorrow (Sept 21st)

Looks like more things such as sports events and extra curricular activities are being offered this year and are moving faster than they were since covid – this is a good thing, as it seems we are getting back to the “normal” routines.

We have X2 UCC (Upper Canada Cup) meets set up this year

* We are hoping to offer more sports this year, either locally or in house.

Learning – working through out learning teams

* 2 teachers dedicated to math / 2 teachers dedicated to language T
* The school will be pushing lots of reading instructions
* New Science of Reading – This will be discussed on a later date

Topic in education for next meeting – can bring board members in to discuss if interested

Good start to the year so far

**Teacher update/requests:**

Mrs Mason – will pop by to discuss cost to purchase lighting for annual the School plays

* School council typically allocated $500 (amount TBC) to the theatre and $300 of it went to lighting, so purchasing would be of benefit. A larger purchase upfront for this year will allow for us to either

1. Put what we would allot to the rental fees towards other school needs
2. Allow Courtney to use the funds towards other items that may be required for the play

Almost every class has hinted/wondering about a teachers list of things they need in the classroom to get them started

* Council did ask Paul at the begging of this year for a teacher supply list so we could help with anything needed
* Lisa will reach out to all teachers as ask for the top 5 items per class
* Suggested a supply drive once Lisa has provided the list
* Mr. LeRoy has suggested a start up find rather than a top 5 list.
  + Standard rate based on other schools is a $100.00 to each teacher/class that can be spent on whatever the teachers feel is needed
* Council likes this idea, and it will officially be confirmed and voted on once the voting members are firmed up.
* Confirmed there are 8 teachers

Teachers may ask for additional funding for other specialty projects as they arise

**Council requests/discussions:**

Council is starting the year off with $3,630.97 in the bank.

Popcorn – We would like to start doing this again

* Volunteers are needed to help distribute the popcorn or make, if pre-made is not an option.
* We used to be registered with papa jacks and get pre-made popcorn for every Friday of the school year
* Ashley has reached out for more info

Re-introduce the Milk program

* Mr. LeRoy will look into this
* Check in with the family of schools

Swimming – Council and Teachers would like this to happen again

* Already in the works - Mr. LeRoy should be getting a quote from Natasha shortly
* Discussing if this is something Council can assist with again, as our funds are significantly less than last year.
* Was suggested that while $10/student was great, we could up the cost to $25/student and there should be no issues
* Cost was $7000.00 last year ($4000 for bussing and $3000 for lessions)
* Mr. LeRoy has asked that this be added next meetings agenda

Re-introduce Movie nights – $5 per student in the past - which provided 2 cups of popcorn, juice box and potential to win the DVD (Council would purchase the DVD)

* Licensing is required – how do we obtain?
  + Council took on the cost for this in the past
* Mr. LeRoy will look into this
* We should find out how much these events made in the past years to ensure its worth the efforts as it will require a lot of volunteers to run the canteen, offer popcorn/juice boxes, candy sales & supervise the students in the gymnasium

Emma to review what council typically allocates funds to annually and provide an approx. total so council is aware of how much we need to provide prior to further fundraising efforts

Mr. LeRoy understands if a portion of funds – that are fundraising monies – go towards UPKEEP – Foe Example, devoting money to sand for the sandbox. However the School Council will need to ensure all funds are accounted for and we are transparent with where ethe funds are slotted or spent.

* The intent is that we are clear on where the funds are going and advertising where its going so family/guardians are aware.

Halloween was brought up

* Council was not happy that costumes/dress up was cancelled last year and are asking that the kids be allowed to take part in it this year.
* Was discussed that not all students celebrate Halloween, so the idea of Orange and Black was implemented for last year
* Mr. LeRoy has suggested that anyone who would like to dress up can, and anyone else that does not celebrate or simply does not want to dress up can participate if they would like by wearing Orange and Black
  + School Council all agreed that this was a good compromise
* Mr. Couch-Blackburn to run the idea past the other teachers and let us know their thoughts.

Monthly pizza order costs of $3/slice was brought up

* Council members voiced their concern on how expensive 1 slice is now.
* Mr. LeRoy suggested this cost but is open to review at some point this year.

Fundraiser ideas brought forward:

* Wreath making workshop with Stonebridge landscaping
* Person that runs Stonebridge is interested in putting on a workshop, however, she needs the orders by the end of Sept, which is cutting it close
* She is open to and looking into other options to help
* Paint nights – lets look into this as well.
* Mr. LeRoy & Mrs. Couch-Blackburn are looking into raffle licensing for future fundraisers

**Items that were put off from last year (2022/2023):**

Lice Checks

* Paul looking into this to see if we can proceed.
* Apparently the Health unit is looking into changing their suggested recommended methods on how to eliminate lice (ie lice shampoo and mayonnaise) on the letters that are being sent out to parents with students that appear to have lice.

Pending purchases

* Kinders mud kitchen – pending approval from the board?
* Gaga ball and/or 9 squares for the Juniors – not sure there was any follow up on this

**Meet the teacher info:**

Sept 27th – apologies from Mr LeRoy for the late notice. He likes to normally give much more notice than this and will aim to do so next year.

* BBQ last year was great idea to use as a fundraiser for School council – will look into this for next year
* Mr. LeRoy has said we will offer pizza this time round and funds will go to the School.
* Mr. LeRoy to send an attendance notice and ask for an RSVP to get a head count on mouths to feed
* Start at 5pm – 5:30pm
* Ask staff to be in classrooms between 5:30 – 6:30
* Opening the Canteen for pizza and water sales
  + Need volunteers to run this
* Mr. LeRoy will welcome all the families/guardians upon arrival and remind them of the food/drink options

**Next meeting Oct 11th – 6pm**

* Will ensure that childcare is mentioned in all future posts in hopes that more parents/guardians/family members can attend
* If more supervision is required, we will reach out to PDCI for student volunteers

Meeting adjourned at 7:22pm