

SBES SCHOOL COUNCIL
Minutes
Wednesday October 16, 2013

Attendees: Sam Itani, Andrea Borysiuk, Darlene Armstrong, Christy Vanderstarre, Heather Deveaux, Bill Moshenko, Vicki Hoare, Joelle Shen

Regrets: Amanda Manning

1. **Welcome** – Sam

- Sam has assembled “Welcome to your School Council” binders for council members, will hand them out at the next meeting.
- New council members: Christy Vanderstarre, Dawn Mole Hurd may also want to join council

2. **Review of previous minutes/action items** – Heather

- No revisions to minutes, minutes passed.

3. **Membership** – Sam/all

- Community Representative recruitment. The group discussed a few ideas as to who might be a good choice for community rep. Could also have multiple community reps.

ACTION: Andrea to speak with Marg Cox to ask for her suggestions, and send an email to a couple of other agencies to ask for their input. (U-links, SIRCH, OPP). Sam to approach Lisa Hamilton at Point in Time to assess interest.

4. **Financial update / Fundraising** – Sam

- \$5,400 in the Council account, which is money raised from last year’s Fun Night. Last year we did not come to a conclusion on what to use the funds raised for. A number of things were discussed, including putting it toward class trips, school defibrillator, and extra walkie-talkies.
- The teachers were keen on putting some funds toward class trips. There was some discussion around how to distribute the funds. Do we ask the teachers to submit their request, up to a certain dollar amount, or simply split the available amount evenly amongst the classes, and have teachers use their discretion?
- Other suggestions include putting the money toward school ice skating trips, enrichment clusters, outdoor classroom infrastructure, soccer net installation.
- Conclusions: We will dedicate \$1,200 for the purchase of an additional two walkie-talkies at this time. We need to give a little more thought to how we will spend the rest of the money, so that we don’t either exclude anyone or set a precedent or expectation that cannot be realistically served from year to year.

ACTION: All council members to consider the options, and be prepared to make a decision on fund disbursement at the next meeting.

5. **Principal's corner** – Andrea

- School Improvement Plan (SIP) – School Effectiveness Framework is being looked at by school staff and faculty, considering how to improve the school in order to better focus learning potential. Staff are considering basic numeration skills at the primary level which will require further probing to ensure focus is directed to the greatest area of student need.

6. **PRO Grant** – We received \$1,000 from the Parents Reaching Out grant program, to be spent on workshops that engage parents.

- The first choice of parents surveyed last school year seemed to be workshops relating to self esteem and resilience. (Bully-proofing our kids, Helping kids cope with anxiety, resilience, healthy lunch ideas/nutrition, internet safety, stranger danger, Self-esteem building.)
- First we need to identify a program to offer, and find a trainer that is able to offer it. This would determine our budget.
- In terms of bullying training, some parent feedback indicates that there is a misperception of what bullying actually IS. It was suggested that a parent workshop might be better focused on understanding bullying, how to recognize the signs of being bullied or being a bully, how to speak to children about it.
- Next step is to find a facilitator

ACTION: Andrea to send an email to Deb Warring, Mental Health Lead for Trillium Lakelands District School Board.

ACTION: Sam to phone Lisa Hamilton at Point In Time.

ACTION: Vicki to speak with Dawn Mole Hurd for her suggestions.

ACTION: All to report back findings to Sam, Sam to distribute to the committee via email so we have this information on hand before the next meeting.

- Bill suggested that we add a half-page story to the next newsletter, indicating the results of the last survey on PRO workshop grant, and prepare parents for the upcoming workshop.

7. **Parent communications** – Andrea is wondering if the newsletter is being read by parents, and how many people to whom it has value. She would like to ask parents if they would prefer to receive it electronically.

- A question was raised about the Board information, whether or not it must be included in the school newsletter, or could it go on the back of classroom newsletters or calendars? (These pieces tend to be attractively designed, but a little “dry” in the reading.)
- Could a question be added to the school information package at the beginning of the year, to ask if people would prefer paper or electronic newsletter?

- Social media is a possibility, though there is a bit of a slippery slope here, not only in managing of the page, or maintenance of page, but also in moderating comments. There is, however, a value to social media, e.g. Facebook, so we don't want to close the door. In terms of parent engagement, it could be an enormously useful tool, and would reach a far broader audience. This will be an evolving discussion as time and resources allow.
- Suggestion also made that people who are interested in being "virtual" members of school council (i.e. unable to attend because of scheduling conflicts, etc.) be able to attend electronically/share input that way. This was supported by council.

8. CPICs

- Police Checks for volunteers must be done at the police station, and there was a suggestion that perhaps people could fill out their forms and show the school's secretary their ID, then she would forward to the police for the check, along with a self-addressed stamped envelopes.
- Andrea doesn't see this as being feasible due to the amount of work already on the plate of the current secretary. There is only one of her, and at times the office can be quite chaotic.
- Given the number of volunteers who have willingly managed their police checks themselves, this is apparently not a deterrent to volunteerism. Status quo to be maintained for now. Volunteers must bring their own forms to the police station in Minden (with self-addressed, stamped envelope if they wish their report to be mailed back to them).

9. District School Council meeting October 17 – Sam to update council at next meeting.

10. Cookbooks (deferred from October meeting)

- Should we ask this year's families for input to the cookbooks? If so, when do we want to do this? For a Christmas print/distribution. The council would like to review the book before we take it to print. We also want to offer Kinders from this year a chance to enter a recipe, and a last call to anyone else who would like to submit.
ACTION: Sam to e-mail Jennifer to find out what her costing research has revealed, so we can establish a price.
ACTION: Sam to write a note to families for a last call (Oct 31st deadline) for recipes. Andrea to manage distribution of notes.
 We will discuss the cookbook, printing and price at the next meeting so it can be ready to go on sale for the Christmas season.
- Suggested price of books set at \$10 each, or 2/\$15, unless we can obtain cheaper pricing for printing.
- Sunhats are already here, so this project is basically a new fundraiser.

Next meeting date will be November 27th at 5:30 pm.