

STUART BAKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNCIL

Wednesday February 12, 2014

Minutes

Attendees: Sam Itani, Christy Vanderstarre, Jen Wood, Jim Hopkins, Andrea Borysiuk, Jennifer Horner, Heather Deveaux, Joelle Shen

Regrets: Bill Moschenko, Vicki Hoare, Darby Bayly, Darlene Armstrong, Angela McGreevy, Amanda Manning

1. Welcome to new Council members

- A number of new council members will be joining virtually. This means that they will be added to our email list, and will have the opportunity to comment, send their thoughts, suggestions and agenda items. They can attend meetings if and when it fits their schedules, but are under no obligation to do so.
- Welcome to: Shannon Billings, Marc Jones, Sarah Adams, Debbie Rogers, Melanie Aldom, Amanda Graham. Others who are already attending virtually include Angie McGreevy, Brigitte Gall, Lori Sharp, Jo McArthur.
- Please continue to spread the word and recruit more members to council. A larger, more diverse group of interested voices can only benefit our school and our children.

2. Review of action items from previous meeting – Heather

- Community Rep update: carried over to next meeting

3. Principal's corner – Andrea

Skating update–

- The first skating day went really well, lots of skating aids available. Lots of novice skaters got out there and just had fun, despite of skill level (or lack thereof!)
- Andrea will ask some of the grade 8 kids to come and add extra eyes and hands to help with the large number of novice skaters.
- A reminder will go out to parents to please model for our kids, and if they plan to skate, to also wear a helmet.
- Lots of parent volunteers came to help tie skates. A thanks will go out to those parents, with a call for more volunteers for upcoming skates.
- There was some discussion around whether or not to share with parents the cost of arena rental/bussing of students to this event. Also whether or not we should consider making an application to a local service club to help cover the cost of

such events. It was agreed that an application would be made.

ACTION: Sam to draft a letter to the Rotary Club of Haliburton and to the Lions Club to see if they might be willing to partially fund our March skating day.

TLDSB Bus Cancellation video:

- A video has been posted by the school board to help explain to parents and students about the rationale behind bus cancellations. This can be found at www.sbe.tlidsb.on.ca, or on the board's facebook page.

4. **“Bullying” workshop update** – Sam/Andrea

- Sam and Andrea met with Point In Time to discuss potential dates, suggestions and feedback from the last School Council meeting. They liked the idea that we want to approach it from a positive point of view, and potentially not call it a “bullying” workshop. Though that may attract more attendance, it isn't really an accurate representation of what this will be all about.
- Currently awaiting a proposed workshop outline from Point in Time. When it is received, it will be forwarded to Council members.
- We are aiming for early April as the date for the workshop.

5. **School locked door policy review** – Andrea

- Andrea has been giving some consideration to what a locked door policy at our school could look like. With portables it can be a challenge, since some door would always need to be open.
- Defer more discussion until next meeting.

6. **Fundraising options**

Grant applications –

- There are a number of opportunities out there for funding of various projects. Our Council could be putting together applications for grants on a number of things for our school. Some research has been done into the grant possibilities available for costs associated with an outdoor classroom space.
- It was also suggested that we consider speaking with the Sustainable Building Program at Fleming College in Haliburton for any major building projects.
- We need to do some research first, to determine what we actually need or want in terms of a permanent structure.
- Andrea suggested that we complete an outdoor learning space in two phases:

- Phase one would be to finish the outdoor shaded area that has already been started. The holes will be drilled into the large rocks already placed, so that we can add large umbrellas. Then we can purchase benches, umbrellas, storage shed/bench, plantings & greenery to screen and delineate the area. This could all be done for this school year.
 - Phase two is a longer-term project, to develop a proposal for a structure to be used as an outdoor classroom. In this process we would want to include JDH as a partner in any proposals that we put together, since both schools would use the space.
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- We need to decide first if this is something we would like to raise funds for. We have about \$4,000 in the bank. From that will come the cost of the walkie-talkies, pizza/child care for meetings, and skating days. There will be further funds raised at this year's Fun Night if we hold one. We need to determine what we are raising funds for.
 - We have discussed spending this money on: funding outdoor learning spaces, repainting outdoor games, playground enhancements, class trips, classroom infrastructure, discretionary funds for classroom teachers, and enrichment clusters.
 - The Council members in attendance agreed to support a phased approach to outdoor classroom space development. We will begin by offering financial support toward umbrellas, storage, benches, and trees/shrubs to separate the area.

ACTION: Jennifer H. to research umbrellas that are sturdy, large, U/V protectant, fade-resistant, and to forward pricing and options to Sam.

ACTION: Sam to check in with Limberlost regarding benches.

ACTION: Andrea to check in with Northern Expressions regarding benches and storage.

ACTION: Jim to have a conversation with Emma Thurley regarding plantings for the perimeter of the classroom.

7. **Friendship bench suggestion** – Jen H

A suggestion came through from a virtual council member, "friendship benches".

ACTION: Jennifer H. to forward a link with more information to Sam, who will circulate it to council members for consideration (see below for 2 links provided by Jennifer). For follow up discussion at the next meeting.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/03/second-grader-buddy-bench_n_4378248.html?utm_hp_ref=fb&src=sp&comm_ref=false

<http://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/2013/12/04/buddy-bench-at-york-county-school-helps-foster-friendships/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friendship_bench

8. Pumpkin patch project – Angie M

- Angie wasn't able to attend, so she passed this information along to Andrea. A small school garden project is starting out in front of the new parking lot area. The kids will get to participate in starting seeds, planting, and care of the garden.
- (side note: Jim suggested a Perennial Plant share/sale for the Fun Night.)
- Link provided by Jennifer H Edible Gardens for Students (video)
<http://vimeo.com/61921972>

9. Movie night – all

- Last year's movie night was very well received. We want to do it again, this spring.
- Date: Thursday, March 6th.
- Popcorn, water, wear-your-pajamas night!
- Suggested movies: How to train your dragon, brother bear, despicable me 2, cloudy with a chance of meatballs, turbo, Bolt, Brave, Monsters University, Wreck it Ralph. Any others?
- We could choose two, one for older kids, one for younger, then run them concurrently in two different rooms.

ACTION: Sam to send out the list of movies, see what we have at home, and what are the ratings for each.

ACTION: The council to help narrow down the list

ACTION: Jim will survey the kids on the narrowed down choices and get back to us.

10. Parent resource library – promo and new book suggestions –

- Defer to next meeting

11. Fun night – overview and theme

- The fall Open House format was well attended and well received. Can we use some of the successful elements from that? (Outdoor playground use, informal play/social time)

- Need to decide at next meeting if fun night is something we want to proceed with, and if so, choose a theme, etc.

ACTION: All Council Members homework is to bring a suggested Fun Night Theme, with ideas for games, fundraising and other activities to the next meeting.

12. District school council update – deferred to next meeting

13. Recycling walk on item – deferred to next meeting – see link provided by Jennifer H
http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/education/students_grades_k-5.htm

Next meeting – March 19th, 2014, 5:30 PM