

School Council Minutes

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

6:30 - 8:30pm

Chicopee Hills Public School Learning Commons

800 Fairway Road N., Kitchener, ON N2A 0J6

Meeting chaired by: Cathy Lapar, Chair

Persons in attendance: Colleen Bishop, Neda Drakulic, Pam Drews, Elaine Emery, Maria Gianniotis, Heather Horn, Cathy Lapar, Dave Linerth, Amanda Morgan, Erica Quayle, Sharan Sangha, Jenn Schnarr, Randi St. Laurent, Lindsey Taylor, Jamie Trzadel, John Tsintaris, Richard Wallace, Cissy Wu, Dee McCulligh, Kacy Furner.

Quorum met

A. PARENT WORKSHOPS

It is a mandate to have an educational component at every Council meeting.

There were two workshops available at the meeting for parents to choose.

A. MATH UP!

Presented by: Amanda Morgan & Heather McLaine

- available for grades 1-6 only

kindergarten and grade 7&8 programs are being written currently

will be purchasing both when it becomes available

- A summary of this workshop may be provided by another parent who attended at a future date.

B. HERO & WITS

1. HERO "GEM"ERATION:

Presented by: Lindsey O'Donaghue, Deanna Martynowicz

- Purpose of the HERO "GEM"ERATION is to encourage positive mental health and well-being in our students, staff and community
 - The program is grounded in research through Plasticity Labs (plasticitylabs.com), which is in Waterloo by Jim Moss
 - This program is fully funded by the school board for implementation
 - The research identifies 7 traits that make for happy/successful kids: Hope, Efficacy, Resilience, Optimism, Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness
 - There are only 20 schools in the Waterloo School Board that have implemented this program.
 - Jim Moss is coming to the Gratitude Assembly next week
 - The focus of the program: how do we maintain and create "the happy" in our classrooms, as a community and in our personal lives. It is about building life skills to empower kids; to make them feel as though they have a voice and to encourage them to be themselves.
 - One month will be dedicated to each trait and at the end of the month, there will be an assembly to celebrate the trait.
 - They have created "Gem Groups" and "Gem Buddies" where classes are partnered together to create communities. Every class has a gem buddy. All classes are paired, the classes are approximately 2-3 years apart. This is especially helpful to have a common language
 - Gem buddies are expected to get together and learn about the monthly trait.
- a) *Hope*: is knowing there is a way to reach your goals and believing you can get there. Hope is planning how to reach your goals and taking action to do so
- you don't have to achieve your goals all the time
 - teaches how to navigate through struggles and develop a Plan B
- b) *Efficacy*: is believing in yourself and your abilities. It means trying new things, setting goals and working through challenges.
- c) *Resilience*: is working through tough time and believing that you will come out of a situation stronger than before.

- This ties in with Terry Fox
- This also ties with the Power of Yet program
- d) *Optimism*: is the ability to look at the positive in a situation, even if that situation is challenging. It is seeing the best in yourself, in others and in your community.
 - It does not mean being happy all of the time.
- e) *Gratitude*: this is the focus of October. It is noticing, acknowledging and appreciating all the things in your life. It is being thankful for all that we have and experience in our lives.
 - Showing gratitude is important
 - Also involves how to acknowledge a compliment.
- f) *Empathy*: is the ability to understand and share the feelings of another person. It is stepping into the shoes of another person and trying to understand their feelings.
- g) *Mindfulness*: is being aware of what is happening in the moment.
 - It can help you to feel calm when you are upset or worried
 - It is giving tools to focus within and on one self
 - It is giving students the tools for self-management

How can Council help? The teachers would like to see HERO "GEM"ERATION to be more visual in the school and on the playground. They would like to see visual representations on the playground – ex. Painted representations on the playground.

2. WITS:

Presented by: Jackie Stevens

- This is a problem-solving approach
- it originated in 1998 in B.C. and is used in 600 schools in Canada.

W – walk away

I – ignore

T – talk it out

S – seek help

- it encourages students to try to work it out themselves but also to seek help when it is needed.
- The language is used from kindergarten to grade 8, although it is modified for grade 6 and up.
- Even the administration in the school use this language
- The kindergarten classes began with the language last year and the teachers are noticing the children modeling it this year.

L – Look and listen

E – explore other’s point of view

A – Act

D – did it work?

S – seek help

- There are a lot of books available and some are being used in the classroom where the children identify how the characters are using the WITS strategies.
- What is next? The teachers are hoping to obtain the program for some junior students to be trained to become peacekeepers on the playground during nutrition breaks.
- For more information see witsprogram.ca

How can Council help? They could use funding for more books.

B. PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Presented by Principal Lee Anne Andriessen

I. Home Reading

- Grade 1 home reading begins this week
- books went home today (October 16)
- parent training meeting last night (October 17). There were 27 parents in attendance at that meeting out of 4 classes. The meeting was hosted by staff.

II. EQAO

- schools are required to share results

- these are the first ever results for Chicopee Hills

- the results give us a sense of how we are doing

i) Grade 3 Results

- grade 3 reading and writing are below the board level

- grade 3 math at par for the board

- there is some work to do at the grade 3 level

- writing is a big concern, therefore, there is a writing teacher starting at kindergarten level on a daily basis. This creates a writing continuum

- when administrators looked at the results, they were able to see that there are several students at grade 3 who were on the cusp and with a little assistance they could be earning a grade that meet the provincial standards

- we expected the numbers to be lower this year because we are a brand-new school

- the administration is optimistic results given we were new

ii) Grade 6 Results

- grade 6 results are always higher

- in grade 6 reading we are above the board

- grade 6 writing we are not too far from the targets

- grade 6 math we are above the board

- the School Board has stated that when schools are in the 50's, then they need work

- historically, math has been problematic across the province.

- even given these results, mathematics is where our focus needs to be

III. High school rep meetings

We hosted a meeting last week for grade 8 parents and students with preparation information for upcoming meetings, course selection and visits to highs schools being this fall.

IV. Ottawa Trip

- it will occur June 24, 25, 26
- we are hoping to take 120 students
- the grade 8 students will be fundraising for their trip, starting with a bake sale
- the school will offer day trips for the students who choose not to go to Ottawa

Laurier Jump for the grade 7 students will occur on the same dates: June 24, 25, 26

Thursday June 20 will be Graduation Day

V. Seasonal Concerts

i) December Seasonal Concert

- it will occur on either December 17 & 18
- there will be separate shows for kindergarten, and one for primary junior, and intermediate groups,
- more details about timing to come (by end of the week)
- intermediates are not going to do a class presentation (that would involve 8 classes). They will do a group presentation (there is a choir, guitar club). The student will be invited to join a group, if they have an interest then they can participate

ii) Remembrance Day Assembly

- Will occur on November 12 starts at 10:00 am
- Parents are welcome to attend

VI. School Improvement Planning:

Areas of Focus: Math, well-being, in risk students

- During the PD Day Oct 26, the staff will be focusing on Math, including Math Up!

VII. Wellness Initiative:

- Chicopee Hills has been invited to be a part of other schools' wellness initiatives and adult learning
- the schools involved will each host an event for parents to attend
- the hope is that the attendance at the events will increase because of multiple school involvement
- in return we will eventually host an event
- anyone interesting in representing Chicopee Hills on this Joint School Planning Committee, please see the Vice Principal Peter Trybus as soon as possible
- Richard Wallace may be interested in this committee

C. Fundraising/Events

Presentation given by: Cathy Lapar

1. Fundraising: QSP

- the executive decided that we had to get some fundraising started
- the executive decided that QSP was a success last year and we could build on the repeat customers from last year especially for magazines. It also does not require many volunteers. QSP also had a large return on sales.
- QSP has started and the packages have already been sent home with the students.
- We are looking for volunteers to assist when the orders arrive. Please contact Cathy Lapar if you can help. Orders arrive on November 29. We need 1-2 people.
- as of October 16, there is \$2740 of online sales already and some envelopes in the office. This is not as good as last year at this time, but there is still more time.
- this year, the incentive is Pay It forward – for every purchase, each student will be given a pay it forward card. It can be shared with someone in school or family across the country. The card has instructions on how to use the card. There is an app that lets you track where your cards.

- there are 3 Golden Tickets that have been “hidden” around the school - 2 tickets have been claimed
- the last date for orders is October 29
- another reminder will go out

2. Fundraising: Book Fair

- the Book Fair will be the week of November 12-16 (parent teacher interviews)
- during the Thursday night (Nov. 1), it will be running during the evening
- there is some discussion about having it remain open for a few hours on the Friday morning but hoping to wrap up Thursday night.
- due to the success of last year’s book fair, we have gained Elite Status with Scholastic which means that they will be sending more stock
- We already have a lot of volunteers but still need more. Volunteers are needed for Thursday.
- a few grade 7 & 8 students have stepped forward to help
- will create a wish list for library, teacher or class room
- Cathy to find out if there are French books being offered
- there will be an online option to purchase books this year.

Author Reading:

- a proposal was put forward by Cathy Lapa that we have a local author come and do a reading during the Thursday evening of the Book Fair.
- the author proposed is Renna Bruce. She writes the books “Kindness Matters.” She has approximately 22 books in publication that are geared towards children ages 3-9.
- during the reading, the author would also have some prizes and colouring pages for the children who attend.
- the reading will take place around 6pm in the Learning Commons
- she is interested in attending and would like to be able to sell her own books as Scholastic does not sell her books. There is no provision in the contract with Scholastic that would prohibit other vendors of books to be selling at the same time as the Book Fair. Ms. Bruce

would offer her books at a discounted price of \$5.

- Ms. Bruce's appearance fee is normally \$250 but she is willing to reduce it to \$200 if given the opportunity to sell her books.

- we may need parent volunteers to help hand out the colouring pages. Cathy will confirm

Motion made by John Tsintaris for the Council to spend \$200 to have Ms. Bruce attend for a reading.

Motion Seconded by Elaine Emery

Vote: passed with 14 votes

Vendor Sale:

- several parents have approached Lee Anne about selling products - example: Thirty-One, Epicure, etc. within the school as part of a fundraiser of some variety

- a proposal was made to have a Vendor Sale in the gymnasium during the Thursday, November 16 evening while the Book Fair is going on.

- the vendors would pay for the "rental" of a table in the gym. The vendors would be responsible for their own set up and take down. We would provide the tables. No volunteers required. The school would receive the profit from the rental of the tables, and the vendors would maintain all their profits.

- the vendors must be an adjudicated business. This is to make sure that there aren't 5 pampered chefs, and products are appropriate

- vendors will be chosen on a first come first serve

- there was some discussion about the cost of the rental of a table. The suggested price was \$50 per table

- the benefits of doing it on this night would be that we would attract more people to the book fair and catch the Christmas shopping crowd

- it was discussed about doing a vendor sale in conjunction with a Parent to Parent sale as well at a different time, but it was determined that the negative aspects outweighed the positive aspects of a parent to parent sale.

Motion was put forward by John Tsintaris to hold a vendor sale in the gym on November 15.

Motion was seconded by Lindsay Taylor

Vote: passed with 14 votes

Vendor sale will happen Thursday Nov 14

It was determined that we need a committee to run the Vendor Sale. Parents expressing their interest were: Lindsay Taylor, Erica Quayle, Maria Gianniotis & Kacy Furner.

A Motion was made by David Linnerth to give the Grade 8's a couple of tables at the Vendor Sale to do their bake sale to fundraise for their Ottawa trip at no charge.

Motion was seconded by Cathy Lapar.

Motion was not put to a vote – although there was a consensus amongst the Council.

Any volunteers who want to contribute baking for the grade 8's, please contact Cathy Lapar.

D. Events

- skip over until after Christmas
- Jan 22 we will find out if Pro Grant is approved
- plan for the spring in the new year

E. WRAPSC/PIC

- we need 1-2 representatives to attend these meetings
- a) PIC (Parent Involvement Committee)*
 - we need 1 volunteer
 - there are 5 minutes left
 - next meeting October 30 - at the Board office 6:30-8:30

b) WRAPSC

- there are 5 meetings left
- next meeting is at Forest Heights is November 6
- possible forum to discuss the issue of the ProGrants may be on the chopping blocks by the government (Pro Grants provide funding for hosting events)
- WRAPSC is an advocacy group for the region school board
- gathers input from the schools, share information about what is happening
- a lot of senior administration and trustees attend these meetings
- Richard Wallace to follow-up as a possibility to go

F. Caring and Inclusive Schools

- every school must have a parent representative on the Caring and Inclusive schools committee
- must create an anti-bullying program
- anyone who has a passion for this work, please see Lee Anne Andriessen
- meetings will be at 3:45 pm
- the committee involves working with staff
- meetings are 2 meetings a year
- Maria Gianniotis is interested

G. Treasurer's Report

Current balance in WEFI: \$2,853.65

Revenue:

QSP \$6,609.00
 Additional QSP funds: \$34.46
 QSP Deposit \$143
 Book Fair Cash rewards \$1600.43
 Read a thon \$5656.00
 Unknown: \$3367.68

Total revenue: \$17,410.57

Expenses:

Sports jerseys \$1799.86
Hst rebate \$172.66
Home reading: 6968.00
Hst rebate \$668.44
Home reading: 1816.61 - over budget – not certain what this line item is as we only approved \$7000, Lee Anne to make some inquiries

Total expenses: 9743.37

- there are a few issues: Lindsay Taylor will work with Cissy Wu to clean things up

Total balance: \$7667.20

H. Other Topics

1. Lunch Program

- currently we have an agreement with ESNS
- we do receive some money from it
- money goes to the school, money in a "slush" fund so that principal has discretion to use - ex. to send a child on a school trip who can't afford it
- some schools run ESNS themselves through Council with volunteers
- it is labour intensive; need have to someone here every day
- right now, ESNS has paid people to run this program
- future discussion about Council taking on ESNS

2. What are we fundraising for? what is our goal?

- it is important to show parents what their money is going to
- it was suggested that we put up a visible representation for parent teacher interview night with what we are fundraising for
- we need to identify what we need money for
- Possible projects: HERO visual displays - ex. Paint, WITS books, increase technology: one chrome book for every 2 kids (grade 7 & 8 should be one to one per chrome book and each chrome book costs \$350); grade 8 graduation
- we need to do a needs assessment/strategic plan

- we need to do a budget

- it was decided to form a committee to do some financial planning meeting and give a presentation to council

- Peter will set up a google form to get input from the teachers as to the perceived needs.

People interested in this committee: Lindsay Taylor and John Tsintairs to start up this committee and Cissy Wu, Colleen Bishop, Dee McCulligh, Randi St. Laurent, Sharan Sangra, & Cathy Lapar (Maybe),

- We should involve teachers in the committee - will have representatives from all levels

NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 20 at 6:30 pm in the Learning Commons