

Essex Parent Council Meeting

Minutes from Thursday, September 18, 2014

Welcome and Introductions

Vanda and George welcomed everyone; Patty was absent. Everyone introduced themselves, representing children from JK up to Grade 7.

Principal's Report

- Enrollment of students is up this school year, requiring a new primary class to open up. A Grade 1/2 and 2/3 class will realign on Friday, September 19th in the afternoon into a straight Grade 1, straight Grade 2, and new straight Grade 3 class on the third floor (new teacher to be hired soon).
- Staff Changes

Treasurers Report

- George presented last year's balance (as of September 16, 2014) as \$8,400.43

Fundraising Report

- Samarra addressed the first major event for this school year as QSP. Magazines and materials are in the school and volunteers are needed now to help organize and hand out to the students.
- Planning for bingo night, garage sale, and Spring Fling (Nancy and Lynette suggested repeating Movie Night)
- Samarra requesting volunteers to join the Fundraising Committee

Elections / Re-Elections

Co-Chair

- Patty resigned.
- Samarra nominated Vanda for Senior Co-Chair and Jean for Junior Co-Chairs
- 2nd by Milisa and 3rd by Nancy

Secretary

- Lynette

Treasurer

- George stepped down
- Susan nominated Nicole and Samarra as Co-Treasurers
- 2nd by Nancy and 3rd by Vanda

Fundraising Chair

- Vanda nominated Samarra
- 2nd by Nancy and 3rd by Milisa

Co-Ward Reps

- Responsible for attending Ward Meetings once a month
- Anna and James volunteered
- Samarra, Vanda, and Nancy 1st, 2nd, and 3rd the motion

Communication Roles

- Work with Jack (who made and updates the blog)
- Eric and Idas

Model Schools

- Michael Papathanasakis attended
- Model schools are determined by the community's L.O.I. (Learning Opportunity Index)
- Main goal is parent engagement. Michael works with parents to increase engagement and support their initiatives for helping their child's school. E.g., first aid to parents, homework help for how parents can help their children, fitness, etc. Model schools hope to support the school's community to increase their L.O.I. Can learn more on their website.
- Essex is a Model School for this 2014-2015 school year. We will find out in late Fall if we qualify as a Model School for the next school year.
- Model schools receive extra funding and support.
- Grade 1 classroom received 20 iPad Minis along with 2 carts for storage/security via Model Schools. The Grade 1 teacher will receive on-going P.D. on how to best integrate them into her program.
- Jenny, Angela, and Idas volunteered for the CPAC Reps

"Me to We"

- A Social Justice program, including fundraising efforts
- Idas suggested possibly putting this on the blog to see if parents are interested in helping organize after school activities.
- Jim to confirm a teacher lead; will put teacher and Idas in connection.

Increasing Inclusionary Practices / Integration Opportunities

- Idas suggested more bridge building for understanding of students in the Spec. Ed. Department; empathy building opportunities for school
- Samarra added exposure makes for understanding and would love to see this in more classrooms (benefits – less 'bullying' and fear)
- Nancy suggested sports teams in house leagues
- Vanda suggested a Health and Well-Being Position. Milisa and Idas volunteered.
- Jim noted Essex integrates music, phys. Ed., recess, recess buddies
- Natalie noted that some students in the Spec. Ed. Department are integrated into some other classes based on their individual strengths and timetabling opportunities (such as music or science class)

"PLAY" Program

- Idas brought forth the idea of starting a "PLAY" Program at Essex. Possible funding available. Older children to act as peer leaders on the playground. Idas has a manual available including suggested activities, etc. Jim will look into this further. School had something similar to this last year in the form of Recess Buddies.

Junior Achievers

- Idas inquired if Essex has this program. Jim said he would get back to her. He needs a teacher to take the lead. Idas volunteered to help as a parent if possible.

Future Meetings

- Tuesday, October 21 @ 6:30 - 7:30
- Wednesday, November 26 @ 6:30 – 7:30
- December – No Meeting at this time – Break to enjoy family 😊