

Essex Parent Council Meeting

Minutes from Thursday, March 5, 2015

Welcome and Introductions

- Attending: Jean, Vanda, Sue, Samarra, Adriana, Jim, Susan, Jack, Lynette, Natalie, Milisa, Susan, Anna
- Approval of last meeting's minutes

Principal's Report – Jim

- Solar panels are up and almost done (Grade 8 students are creating a story for the blog)
- School has begun staffing process for next year
- A lot of interest for Kindergarten Registration and Grade 7 Registration
- Kindergarten Playground: Ms. Haber will help organize submitting for grants. Quote came back as \$57,000. School may look to parents on a Saturday to help out with the gardening as a cost savings idea.
- 2 Grade 12 students from Harbord Collegiate are working to foster a better connection/transition between Essex and Harbord. 14 students in grade 7 & 8 will become Peer Leaders for our school. Harbord came here for a lunch and learn. Essex will now go there to see a day in the life at Harbord.
- Playground Buddies are up and running.
- Teaching Mathematics continues to be the focus for teacher professional development at Essex.
- Ice hockey - wrapping up – great season.
- Basketball – season over – great season.
- Volleyball
- Quebec City Trip: Planned for June 11-12; about 70 students wishing to go; some financial support for a few students may be needed.
- Glee Club is going on a tour! Bus has been rented. They are going to 4 different schools to perform. Club consists of students in Grades 5-8.
- Mind Set Staff Presentation took place – very successful.

Treasurer's Report - Samarra

- Third term pizza – sign up forms were sent home – waiting for return
- Deposit down for spring fling for bouncy castles
- Essex clothing sale – over ordered to get a discount – will sell extra stock later in the year
- Missing \$125 Lunch Buddies (Samarra will add)

Fundraising Report - Samarra

- Garage Sale: April 18, 9am - 1pm. Request for donation. Parents to place all Garage Sale donations clearly marked bags in the Lost and Found area by the gym. Donations are accepted now until April 17.
- Spring fling: May 29, 5pm - 8pm. Planning has begun.

Communications Report - Sue

- Sue wishing clarification for this role
- As of today, the Essex Blog takes more of a school focus. Teachers or Class Reps relay classroom updates and reminders through emails.
- Communications Role is to oversee the Class Reps.
- Need expressed to clarify the role of the Class Reps and how each teacher wishes to use them.
- Suggestions to improve the success and effectiveness of our Class Reps next year were discussed; meeting in September to introduce all Reps, letter to teachers outlining their Rep's strengths, buddy Reps for each classroom, clear roles identified and given to reps at the beginning of the year.

Health and Well-Being Committee Report - Milisa

- Desire to build on the existing strengths of the school.
- Mandate to build on inclusivity and integration.
- Tamarra Revesz had already started the Playground Buddies Program.
- March 6 will be the first Lunch Buddies. Pasta will be served to the Primary and Junior MID students along with 8 volunteers from Grades 7 & 8.
- Milisa offered to present a Growth Mind Set Talk with other parents at Essex– maybe before a parent council meeting.

School Statement of Need - Approval of Draft – Jean and Jim

- Natalie will be leaving Essex PS at the end of June.
- The Superintendent requests input from parents before the hiring process begins. The School Statement of Needs is a form where parents can identify the unique profile of our school and specific needs we face not only as a school but also as a greater community.
- Jean created a working draft of the document and presented copies to all attending.
- Council was advised to read over and make suggestions to Jean by email.

Ward Meeting Update - Jim

- Budget focus and school closure discussions

The Party Project - Adriana

- Initial motivation for this proposal came from: a perceived lack of volunteers at Essex compared to other schools, along with a view of community as a support network for the success, health and well-being of all in a school.
- The Party Project would include many artists from inside and outside of our community presenting at small booths or rooms throughout the school. A call for volunteers for the school would be heard throughout the event. The goal of the event would be to bring people together, to create stronger communities ties, and to enroll more volunteers for the school.
- The Party Project was suggested to be held on the same day as the garage sale, April 18.
- Discussions were had around the best date and space for this idea, who to involve, and preparation time.
- Project will be re-discussed at the next Parent Council Meeting.

Next Meeting

Thursday, April 23 6:30pm