

Essex School Council Meeting

Minutes from Tuesday, January 27, 2015

Welcome and Introductions

- Attending: Jean, Vanda, Samarra, Jim, Nicole, Michael, Lynette, Natalie, Milissa, Susan, Carrie, Eva
- Approval of last meeting's minutes

Communications Committee – Sue

No report

Ward Update – James

No report

All welcome to next Feb 12 – Ward Meeting – tentatively at Essex PS / TBA

Health and Well-Being Committee– Milissa

-Committee met to discuss their focus for the year

-Goal: to help integrate the students in the Spec. Ed. department with the rest of the school (many benefits noted for all students and staff)

-Playground Buddies is successfully running during recesses

-Request for funding: Committee would like to pilot “Lunch Buddies” (a lunch program – 30 children, both primary and junior MID classes and a grade 7 & 8 class). \$125 requested for one lunch in February.

Committee and Parent Council will gage the success/areas of need after the first lunch to then discuss funding on a monthly routine. Committee would ideally like to see the “Lunch Buddies” program operating once a month (4 more over remainder of this school year).

-Parent Council voted on \$125 pilot “Lunch Buddies” – all voted yes – motion passed

Principal's Report – Jim

- 2 Professional Development sessions for staff focusing on mathematics since last meeting. Shift happening on how teachers “teach” math; focus on problem solving, student math talk, and students identifying strategies they used
- Winter Concert for Grades 5-8 was a success. K-4 spring concert will be in May.
- Essex enjoyed a few Spirit Days
- Inclement Weather Days: if temperature is minus 20 and under, students go outside for a limited time (may stay in). Remember to dress your children for our recent colder weather.
- Recently upgraded all classrooms to each have two refurbished computers
- Open House for Grade 7 – Feb 4. Natalie requested a volunteer to provide a brief summary on behalf of Parent Council on the evening of Feb 4, 6pm, for Grade 6 (future Grade 7 students coming in September). Vanda volunteered.
- Report Card time! Parents receive reports on Feb 10th. Interviews days are Feb 12th and 13th. Teachers will not see everyone at this time.
- Kindergarten registration is held during the week of Feb 9.
- School received design consultation for new Kindergarten playground (south east corner of school). May be a joined partnership for Essex and Hawthorne. School is currently looking for a grant from TD Evergreen. School still waiting for final cost.
- Feb 23 – Lunar New Year – lion dancers coming and a lunch \$3.50 for ticket, requesting \$200 from Parent Council – voted – all in favor - motion carried.

Michael – Vision Screening

- Screened the grade 5s and 7s. Up to 25 students are going for a follow up vision appointment outside of the school.
- Part of the model schools program

Treasurer's Report / Fundraising Report

- In good shape
- Only change will be to add Lunch Buddy \$125 for next time

Fundraising

- Essex spirit wear clothing push – orders due Jan. 30 – Parents to receive by Feb. 13th
- Book sale – will bring out for parent interviews (Feb. 12)
- Call to donate kids and teen books
- Garage sale – April 18 – parents to begin donating in March
- Spring Fling – first planning meeting in Feb. – suggestions welcome for how to involve the MID students more

Grade 8 Graduation

- Approved \$500 donation from Parent Council
- No formal plans yet

Hot Lunch Program

- Still in information gathering phase
- Between \$4-\$6 dollars per child per lunch
- Maybe 2 days a week
- Parent Council is interested in an on-site test

Michael

- Training week coming up – parents from Essex PS will be invited to attend training (e.g., food handling, computers, etc.)

Skating for Essex?

- Jim will put it out to the staff to gauge interest

Next Meeting

Thursday, March 5