Parent Council Minutes

Tuesday October 3, 2017 6:30 pm

**Principal’s Report:**

* Enrollment 271 (increase of 25 students)
* Reorganization of grade 4-6 classes has been completed
* An extra 0.5 staff person has been approved for intermediate students
* Essex has lost status as a model school (impact is $25 000 in funding)
* EQAO scores were discussed (will be available)
* Essex will host the ECO school kick off
* Friday October 13, 2017 will be the Terry Fox run

**Treasurer’s Report:**

* Spring Fling was a success – we were able to purchase 2 sets of 36 chrome books (topped up by funds from the school budget)
* Parent Reaching Out Grant was received - $1000

**Nominations for Parent Council Executive:**

Chair – Debbie Attack – Nominated by Nicole Belcourt – Seconded by Kate Ireland

Treasurer – Alana Motta – Nominated by Jessica Haber – Seconded by Nicole Belcourt

**No vote required:**

Secretary – Allison Venditti (until December 2017)

Pizza Day Coordinator – Alana Motta

**Lice Checks:**

* Sarah Faulkner volunteered to look at options for new providers for lice check
* Toronto Public Health can potential offer one free check.
* Parent Council opted to subsidize lice kits (20?) for children who need them

**Committee Discussion**

* It was proposed that instead of appointing chairs for large jobs such as fundraising etc that individuals take on individual projects that appeal to them. This will allow more parents to be involved for shorter amounts of time
* Marlon and Natasha will come up with a name for their committee which has been creating inclusion and awareness opportunities at Essex PS including Black History Month storytelling, indigenous awareness, etc.

**Communication**

* Jessica Haber will be handling the parent link
* Bulletin Board needs to be updated etc
* Website calendar has been updated
* Debbie Attack is managing the blog
* Parent Council has created a slack account to share information and reduce emails

**Reading Club**

* Jessica Haber is helping to organize the **Early Reading Club** it has been an initiative that has run with success at Hawthorne and we are hoping to get it started for Essex
* Involves a parent/community member to devote 3-5 sessions (1/2 hour) per week to read with a grade 1 student needing extra support. Each block is 9 weeks in length
* Police Clearance is required

**Fundraising**

* Fresh from the Farm is due October 5, 2017 – thank you to Bridget and Marlon for organizing
* Pizza Day is under way. Ordering was done for the whole year with options for multiple payments to make it accessible. Thank you to Alana Motta for organizing
* Darci will be overseeing the clothing sales etc for Essex this year. She discussed ideas for vintage clothing and will bring proposals to the next meeting
* Kate Ireland and Allison Venditti are organizing a silent auction online. Leslie Rosenblood will be coordinating the online set up for the auction site. The auction will run from November 17 – 29, 2017.
* Alana Motta is helping to coordinate the Monster Mixer (not a fundraiser but school spirit)
* Flip Give – Debbie will look into setting this up

**Snack Program**

* The snack program was discussed at length
* More clarity around the purpose and voluntary nature of the program was discussed – Debbie will create a blog post explaining the program in more detail
* Concerns raised over the sugar content of the yogurt tubes. Leslie will look into the option of serving white milk
* Will be discussed again at next meeting for updates

**Parent Council upcoming meeting dates:**

**December 5, 2017 (6:00pm)**

**February 6, 2018 (6:00 pm)**

**April 10, 2018 (6:00 pm)**

**May 5, 2018 (6:00 pm)**

**Meeting Adjourned**