

Parent Council

Tuesday October 2, 2018

Present: Melissa (Chair) , Jess Haber, Harry Quon, Marlon, Darci, Natasha, Nicole, Michelle, Ian, Sarah, Jen, Shelley, Nousheen

Regrets: Carol Culp (V-P), Debbie (Treasure)

Welcome

Introductions from Melissa to explain how PC works. and how the meetings work (feedback, input, distributing money. Encourage people to meet outside of the meetings time to do the brainstorming re fund raising and other projects etc.

Introductions from everyone

Nicole elected as Secretary, nominated by Sarah, seconded by Marlon.

Harry, Principal's report:

Enrollment up by 17. At 279. Population going up

New staffing:

Audrey Madison in jk/sk

Isabel innis

EQA testing Grade 3: reading at 71 % at standard, writing at 71%, math at 65 %

Grade 6: 58% Reading and 54% (Math)

Scores include MID and DD classes.

Across the Board scores are down in most schools.

Admin will focus for this year is math.

Events; 1st fire drill in sept. all went well. students need to be quiet. another one soon.

hold and secure lockdown this Thursday. Oct 4. cross country went very well Oct 2.

PA day teachers will be reviewing math curriculum and training and policy procedures.

Essex is Eco school platinum status: next Wednesday Eco school kick off

School photo day oct 12

Universal screening for grade 3, gifted testing.

7 new lunch tables have been purchased. and want to buy new chairs.

Wall around the office, the mural has been painted over, due to problematic indigenous representation. Some children found it hard to understand. Harry has spoken with these children. New Bulletin boards will be placed on that wall one with an indigenous focus.

Lice check: by Toronto public health Tues Oct 9.

Treasurer's Report normally from Debbie, cannot attend tonight. Good amount in account.

Working on pizza orders.

Spring Fling 2018, \$ 9,375 income, \$ 1,350 from sponsors, \$ 7,965 in ticket sales, \$1800 expenses. Take home profit \$ 7,557.64

Melissa:

2 positions looking for Communications (managing the blog). Debbie has been doing this but is Treasurer. Could be a shared position.

Spring Fling organizer: end of year community, fun event .

Programs and updates:

Early Reading Club (Jess Haber):

for students struggling with reading who need a boost. At 8:50 to 9:20 in the library. Read with one child for 8 to 10 weeks. Need police record check, PC will pay for this. Weds Oct 3, first meeting at 8:50 a.m in library. 3 volunteers from Essex , 4 from Hawthorne, as a group decided to spread between both schools. Can be parents/grandparents volunteering. Read twice or three times a week.

OPAL (Jess Haber): stands for Outdoor play and Learning. We applied for this. Chosen as one of new OPAL schools (there are now 15 approx). Mentored by Earth Play Canada. To increase the value of playtime at school. And to encourage the teachers to bring the children outside. Last school year, the Wildwood space was designed and planted.

In OPAL, a typical recess, kids who like sports are active, and monkey bars, and then some kids are left on their own or MID/DD have. To make playtime more equitable. Bringing in loose parts: (tree stumps, tires, dress-up clothes, pool noodles. And for kindergarten, need bins of their stuff/loose parts to bring outside. JK/Sk have storage. For older kids, need more space for storage. Shipping containers with roll up door (cost is \$ 5500). To think about as a purchase for next year w Hawthorne. 1 parent from each school on the committee. Looking for a parent from Essex for the committee while Jess is away Jan to June 2019.

Action points:

- Fundraising for shipping container and also for "Outdoor Enquiry kits" (an outdoor chest for front and back areas (with magnifying glasses, clipboards etc) that would stay outside. Planning to ask both parent councils if they would put \$\$ towards this.

- Kindergarten: looking for a parent to clean out the kindergarten storage area, and organize it. Get new bins, shelving, with lists/photos of where everything would go. Storage area is shared between 4 kindergarten classes and the daycare.

Monster Mixer (Melissa): Friday Oct 26 from 5:30 to 7:30. Family dance party for Halloween with costumes, w Hawthorne in the gym. Normally Hawthorne but this year Essex is overseeing. Need volunteers. Sign up sheet. Grade 7 and 8s to do decorating. Hired female duo dj team. Might have Matt as the warlock or some other spooky character. Popcorn, samosa and pizza. \$ 1 for pizza slice, samosa, and popcorn.

Kate suggested chill out room for kids (or parents). Maybe near kindergarten area.

Need volunteers after school, set up. 5:30 to 6:30 , 6:30 to 7:30. And for clean up afterwards.

Fresh from the Farm. we declined. Was not a money maker for Essex. Although it works well for Hawthorne. Farm to table initiative for the kids, doesn't have to be a fundraiser. Maybe free apples at pick up for kids one day? Open to ideas.

School Cash Enrollment

There have been lots of problems with this, according to some parents. It is now lined up and working for the school. TDSB mandates this. Takes a lot of administration. Has to be posted, monitored, takes a lot of work. We also have 1 less administrator in the office so that is increasing the workload in the office. School council needs to find a way to support school cash online and getting parents to sign up and use it.

Action points:

- get a bigger picture of what is enrolment like

- how can we support parents to use this
- to streamline it - so most its online and only some is cash (some parents do not have computer at home)
- Shelly ?volunteered to help do a sign up for school cash online at drop off in primary area
- put a link for sign up on blog or parent link
- - Nov 15, Interview night - lan ti run parent sign up for school cash online on this night

Parent Link (Jess Haber) :

Parent Link is the Class parent for each class. Most parents checked off. Every class has someone. Some people don't read blog or updates so Parent Link is very useful means of communication.

Silent Auction (Kate Ireland):

Last year raised \$ 4500. With Allison. Need donations. Need 40 things at \$ 100. Useful things, end of November takes place.

Yoga Teacher:

Kate found a good yoga teacher. But she is not an approved partner of TDSB. Will apply for her to become partner. But do not know how long this will take. Ot can also bring her as a teacher on a wellness day perhaps. Jess says maybe we can wait for yoga and in the meantime start Scientist in the Classroom earlier in the year.

Garden Clean Up: fall and spring. Next one is Sunday Oct 14 from 10 to 12 Bring dustpans and brooms, etc. Coffee and snacks. will be provided.

Fundraising:

Sarah suggested fundraiser where you sell gift cards to the community, nice % comes back to school, similar to FlipGive. Working on this.

Codezilla workshop: local company who do stem coding

Teachers in past have had \$ 200 Classroom Fund, to choose whichever program (Scientist, etc., in Fall and then in Winter other workshops (Marlon suggested Reconciliation or other Equity workshop).

Senior Students updates:

Michelle - Grade 7 and 8 trip to Montreal Trip this year. 3 nights in May/June.

\$ 450 per student approx. Some families have 2 students. Looking for parent council contributions. Fundraising. Vesey's Bulbs worked very well last year. To vote on a \$ sum next meeting.

Jess suggested Grade 7 and 8 run Bingo Night and keep the profit for their trip.

Grade 7 and 8 dance on Hallowe'en. They want our decorations.

Melissa asking Michelle if she can report on how Grade 7s and 8s are doing in the year with the vision to create better inclusion/communication between senior students/families and PC.

Spirit Wear (Darcey). Order forms came in. Maybe a shirt to raise money for the playground?

Daniel Westacott would like to do silk screen workshop to raise \$ for Montreal trip. Drop box in school so people can drop off orders at any time at school.

Long Term Vision/Projects:

Melissa met w Harry & Carol, creating a long term vision of what PC is doing over the next few years,

3 year funding initiative (apply for grants, bursaries etc) to improve the outdoor place : get rid of baseball diamond, new track, soccer posts so we don't have to get permit to use French school track. Need a group to work on this, vision, championing this.

fence for DD students near the basketball court, going up in the next few weeks.

Important dates:

Next Parent Council meetings: December 4, February 5, April 2, June 4.

Spring Fling Friday, May 31