

## Parent Council Minutes 22 October 2019

In attendance:

Cheryl; Val; Brad; Karen; Norm; Amy; Leslie; Debbie; Meghan; Natalie; Sam

### 1. Old Business/Updates:

- a. Review minutes – option for questions; none asked
- b. Drumfit update – money did come out and kits are at the school (delivered early June) council purchased materials and multi-year license to access the lessons on the website which can be brought up on the screen in the gym; opportunity to engage lots of students at once; will be integrated into phys-ed; usable for any fitness and ability level; was discussed as a staff storage is an issue – may consider school wide unit in future (Ms. Hentig)
- c. Chocolate Bars – 12 students owing \$ or chocolate bars (As of this morning); approx. 175 boxes sold (some will be partial) approximately \$7437.50 (number in flux as bars come back this number is without outstanding boxes; can't send back partial boxes but can return full boxes; hover cart was won last year by Abigail; a worthwhile fundraiser; Possible fundraiser brought up by Norm → locally sourced fruits and veggies
- d. PIC Conference – reminder; registration open online; lots of good sessions (e.g. supporting mental health in the elementary years; creating an effective parent council); Brad has offered rides (Debbie will ride in trunk – joking!!)

### 2. Principal Report:

- a. Early learning outdoor space presentation:
  - New principals take an audit of school equipment and resources – identify gapsPoW has a good level of technology (approx. 80 chromebooks and a computer lab which services students well) In great shape from a technology standpoint
  - The early learning outdoor space was a space of need – they will come to council to ask for funds; Brad has had discussions of principal of early learning at the board
  - CHERYL: outdoor learning PPT presentation on the philosophical/theoretical underpinnings of outdoor education; change as evidenced in research children learn best when they are in nature (previous focus on those gross motor skills); K team how can they engage outdoor learning; have set up provocations for students to engage (facilitated by the teachers); Book for pd “Dirty Teaching, Messy ...”; sharing of activities that they do now; pictures of two schools who have done some outdoor learning space building; FENCE as important – attractive fence (black) as important; naturalization as important (e.g. blocks of wood as seating)/ mud kitchen (a very popular activity in early learning programs – important to social skills)/ musical instruments along the fence (e.g. regular home items as connected to fence); outdoor play as embedded in the curriculum and evidence based (popular in Scandinavian classrooms) – consulted with principal of early learning and the early learning consultant at the board (have come up with

a plan); is an expensive undertaking (superintendent and the school can “throw a bit of money at it”)

- DOCUMENT SHARED – outlining plan and stage 1 purchases – grassy area considered for front of school grass area by old entrance – fencing is the most expensive component and the most difficult in terms of procedural – fence would stop at the dip (would also move the release point for the kindergartners) – fence options 1) black chainlink 2) the black rod iron railing look → chain link is significantly cheaper; equipment listed is all seasons unless pouring rain or too cold (then they don’t go outside) – space in back is much more difficult to work with (seclusion may also lead to vandalism); Q about possible partnerships – Home Depot does offer a commercial price to schools but we do not have to be stuck on that Rubbermaid storage unit but those at the board have found these items to be the most cost effective; Q about sourcing log items from other locations and people as a possibility; list as representative of a starting point; Tree stays!; donations will be accepted (of meaningful and reasonable items) for the outdoor space; COUNCIL HAS APPROVED THE SPENDING FOR THE LIST OF PHASE 1; new gardens are also happening

b. Edwin Project: Edwin Project

- grade 7/8 project every student has been given a chromebook to use for the whole year at no cost (and the cute little bag too!); Mr. Low committed to 6 after school sessions – this has freed up technology for other classes in the school

c. Google Read & Write

- kids who are struggling with their fluency were stuck reading books at their level leading to disengagement; this program as assisting in levelling the playing field; J/I classes (all students will be trained) students can be shown how to highlight content from the internet and or from a text and have the text read to them → reading as about understanding versus reading words; this tech helps students achieve gains at grade level material through J/I students 3-8 level – voice to text headphones have been ordered for both listening and for getting ideas out into the document; last Friday Grade 3, 4/5, 7/8 class later this week the 6 class will be trained; helping to ensure that students are able to reach their highest potential – this does not negate interventions happening into reading but allows students to be challenged and engaged material across the curriculum; may share a video at next meeting (after gaining parent permission); also allows us to get Spec Ed allowance t/ ministry – if it is demonstrated that student benefits they can get funding for a laptop which follows them through their education – every student 3 to 8 will be trained – headphones targeted to those who have been identified as needing the assistance

#### d. Walking School Bus

- 2 bus drivers have been hired for the 7 week pilot program; strategy for combatting attendance issues; training and checks on par with the other bus drivers; we are the second school in the board (and the first board in the province piloting); another method to ensure kids are arriving on time and in safe way; cap at 10; was not limited in offering to students with attendance issues but to all students in the area; exercise factor also important; have 7 and 7 at the moment

#### e. Brock Buddies

- for grades 6 to 8 everyday YMCA comes afterschool program
- Brock Buddies – student teachers from year 2 to 6 who volunteer – 6 student teachers coming every Wednesday Students grade 1 to 4 invited to program; 32 kids; activities using the library; will be grouped in primary and junior (2 groups of 16); supervised by Brad; access to gym; goes until 4:30; currently a waitlist for the program;

#### OTHER:

Halloween – students are able to come dressed for whole day though some may want a change of clothes for comfort in case of accident 930-10 touring around school/ later in the day parade around the school (around the fence) info going home 23 Oct

#### QUESTIONS:

- 1) Date for Brock Christmas – 1 to 1 brock student for every student in the school – the student plans out activities for the day and based on age students go through the activities – student buy a gift for each student – last year they made playdoh craft; read stories; had princesses/icedogs come; Zumba outside → a good time to celebrate a fun day all students seemed to enjoy the day very much! – Brad will confirm and let us know DEC 5<sup>th</sup> is the day of the Brock Extravaganza -
- 2) Insurance? Does not appear to be taken out in the list of transactions Brad will confirm

#### 3. NEW BUSINESS

##### a. Priorities/Fundraising Goals for the Year

- i. Currently sitting at approximately \$14000-15000 (though we did just commit to outdoor equipment); how much to save – perhaps \$2000 is fair? Seems to be agreement on this; has not been a need in past to do more fundraising than the chocolate bars, little ceasars kits; and the Fun Fair (in the past the cost of the trips has been something that has been something the council has done); EFN also provides funding to subsidize trips for students in need; little ceasars is an easy though low yield fundraiser; perhaps the PoW family events

- ii. Little Ceasars (usually pick up before March Break)

Options including Christmas or Spring flower baskets

We are in great shape and so will hold off on new initiatives at the moment

- b. Community building events
  - i. Brainstorming: possible drumfit night for families; babysitting night while parents shop for Christmas (allowed? Likely, the ratio just needs to be appropriate) could do movie and a craft with the kids as gifts; rent a bus to see the lights for Christmas this would be as inclusive as possible in terms of families DECEMBER EVENTS - Friday Dec 6 CAROLLING or 13 MOVIE NIGHT (w. PJs; 3 years + and toilet trained; would need previous registration; Brad will talk to Brock students about volunteering and developing a craft as a gift for parent(s)/guardians)
- c. Committed to donate \$250 to PoW Family Events – and they will be invited them to the November recognition assembly to acknowledge their great and generous work

QUESTIONS:

Outdoor gear night – Parent interview night Nov 14 (but up to individual teachers) could ask for donations to be here before then; we can have it out there then and in school closet (hallway tables as last year) – put it in the November newsletter and then continue to collect going in and a letter will go home on the 1<sup>st</sup> as well

- 4. Discussion Items for November Meeting  
None listed at the moment