

ABERFOYLE SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 13, 2016

In Attendance: Chad Guyitt (principal), Margaret Hauwert (teacher), Minu Basi, Janet Panchuk, Jenn Deter, Carol Luckhardt, Lisa Bratina, Krista Godinho, Kristina Holmes, Alison Rwart, Kathy Holford, Caroline Derderian, Jill Stedman, Laura Fehr, Mikaela Clark, Carolyn Vandenheuvel, Holle Hennink, Becky Rendall, Lisa Joy, Caitlyn Alwyn, Meghan DiMatteo, Sara Bailey.

1) Welcome All Parents- Introduction of new and old members- Meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. Chad welcomed all council members and updated the parents on the goings on during the first week of school. Chad told members of how he shared the story of Olympic running champion Andre De Grasse with each class this year. Andre had decided he was going to be a basketball player and because of a chance, impromptu tryout in a sprinting match became an Olympic running champion. The lesson is to not be afraid to try something new. It will be a theme of sorts throughout the year. Chad is leaving in 5-6 weeks for his parental leave and is working to make his departure easier for the students. Paul Tribe is taking over the role as principal and very little will change. Chad asked everyone to introduce themselves and thanked all parents for their attendance.

2) Elections- Minu discussed the varied positions that are open on council. Chair, Co-Chair and Treasurer (as present treasurer Jenn Mezenberg's children no longer attend the school and she would like to train someone to take on the role.) Caroline requested a third person to share the role of Secretary.

3) Treasurer's Report- The current bank balance is approximately \$5,900 and the accruals are only \$2,800. So we are starting out the year, before any fundraising, with \$3,100 available for allocation.

The current allocations cover Scientists, chess and grade 8 grad.

4) School Reports

- **Teacher Report (Margaret Hauwert)- Football** is starting, **Cross Country** has also started. Oct. 16. **Community Builders** will begin- grade 7's and 6's this year. Grade 7's requested that they stay because they enjoyed it so much last year. **Colour Day** is Friday and the annual **Terry Fox Run** will also be on this day- goal is going to be talking about drive and courage and the younger grades will be reading the "Magnificent Me" book. These discussions and readings will be piggybacking on Chad's theme of being courageous and trying something new. **Spirit Day** - PJ Day September 29. **Coding Club** will be starting earlier than last year (program which teaches mini animation day 5 at lunchtime.) **Fall Fair-** 350 pieces entered and \$250 was won and will be distributed to students at Aberfoyle. Margaret is attempting

to bring the **Sensational Snakes Program** to Aberfoyle in which students interact with snakes. **Me to We Club** is discussing events they will run this year. Shannon Sunega is working on a new initiative **MAKERSPACES**. This is another way of coding with hands on robots. Students can build and create on line but there is a new age way of thinking about how kids learn and what they need to learn. Inquiry based learning, critical thinking, being a team member etc. is the future for children. MAKERSPACES is one of the tools we can use to raise better thinkers. Shannon will come to the next council meeting to elaborate. Request to all school community members for Lego, Kinex and duct tape donations. **Reading Tutors Program** to help struggling readers at school. The program was a huge success last year and the reading skills of students at Aberfoyle improved significantly. Fluency will be a priority this year. Margaret thanked all volunteers who participated last year and asked for any other volunteers that might be interested in listening to students read out loud. Please contact Margaret if you are able to spare an hour of your time per week. Author **Kathy Stinson "Red is Best"**- Margaret is trying to set up a time when students can go and hear her read.

- **Principal Report (Chad Guyitt)- Open House** on September 27 (5:30-6) for parents to come to school with their children, visit their classrooms and meet their teachers. **EQAO-** Aberfoyle did well and the actual numbers will be out later. 5 year cycle is ending and Aberfoyle staff is busy identifying areas that are a general concern for them. Reading, writing and math are looked at. Math will be a priority and the PA Day will be a meeting about how this will look for Aberfoyle. Discussions about best practices will take place. **Reorganization-** was very small and has already happened. Aberfoyle's population has gone up. 368 students. Lots of new students this year. **TECHteachers** (student teachers) from Laurier University are here from the very first day onward through the rest of the year. Due to the increase in Aberfoyle's student population the school was allowed to reinstate the two classes that they lost in the spring. **Shannon Sunega** was able to stay on at Aberfoyle and **Mr. Hawkins** is back at the school. **Mr. Tribe's Timeline-** new principal's first day is Thursday as a fill in for Chad. He will officially take over when Chad's parental leave starts. **Lunchbox Orders-** pizza, subs and The Shed. The school is no longer able to work with Lunchbox Orders and the Board is encouraging the school to use the cash payments online program instituted by the Board. Will be a learning process to get the lunch programs and milk programs up and running. Teachers are working on the pizza and sub aspect. Motion to start lunchtime milk orders manually while online orders are figured out passed.

7) School Council Sub-Committees- Fresh From the Farm fundraiser- Jill and Janet volunteered to run the program. Motion to run the program passed. Second motion to run the **Maple Syrup program** also passed. **Spirit Wear** program to be run by Lisa? **Colour group** t-shirts will be available for sizing at the Open House. Caroline Adams will be taking over the **QSP Magazine Program**. Many thanks to Allison Bureau for her support while running the program over the last few years.

8) Open Discussion- Minu offered to have next meeting at her house to say farewell to Chad and welcome Paul but members agree that new volunteers will be more comfortable at the school. Next meeting will be Tuesday, October 11 at 6:30 in the school library.

Addendum to Elections- **Treasurer position** will be taken over by Kristina Holmes. Motion approved. **Chair position** will continue to be held by Minu Basi. Motion approved.