

Credit Meadows Elementary School-Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting #7-May 12, 2014.

The meeting of the Credit Meadows School Council was called to order at 3:30pm on May 12 in Ms.Davis' classroom at Credit Meadows by Barb White.

Present:

Executive

Barb White-Chair
Lorrie Wren-Treasurer
Krystal Martin-Secretary

Voting Members

Nancy Turner
Christina Zurowski
Karen Brown-Furey
Kim Beck
Barb O'Meara

Others in Attendance

Janice Dampier
Vicky Crandall

A) Welcome

-The meeting was held in a grade 1-4 resource support room. The room is mostly for reading support but is also used for 'body breaks' for those students who need some time away from the classroom. Next year this physical location will become a primary classroom as the school numbers increase. This room will be moved upstairs to the current French room.

B) Minutes

-Motion to approve the April meeting minutes by Barb W. Seconded by Lorrie. Carried.

C) Treasurer's Report

-The budget is not balanced as some receipts have not been input.

-The bank does not provide a discount for non-profits for cheques.

-\$0.50 was returned due to a bank error.

-There are enough funds to support the school request for Chrome books. Motion by Lorrie to pay \$1500 for Chrome books. Seconded by Nancy. Carried.

-There are Scientist in the School payments to still come out, as well as field trips and uniforms. The previous PROgrant was paid by the school and needs to be reimbursed by council. We also need to be aware of grad costs when looking at what funds are available. Vicky to look into the cost for awards/engraving that council committed to paying last year as we don't show that payment. There was further discussion on grad.

-There was discussion on what to do with school council funds. There was a suggestion to provide students with more experiences via field trip support instead of more 'stuff'. Some felt we did too many fundraisers. It was suggested to increase the field trip subsidy for next year.

-The track needs to be repaired. It was inspected last week when the baseball diamonds were maintained and it was discovered the track needed more intensive repair and rejuvenation. Vicky to check into the cost and bring to the June meeting.

-Motion to accept the financial statement by Lorrie. Seconded by Nancy. Carried.

D) Old Business

-The PROgrant application is due on May 16. Vicky suggested levelled home reading books which will be in greater demand due to the increasing primary student numbers. Last year's PROgrant math manipulatives are a big hit.

-Barb W. suggested offering an evening and afternoon introduction to school council in an effort to engage more parents to be involved. These events would explain the roles of the different executive positions. Council members are asked to reach out to other parents as the new executive and parent members will be elected in September. Neither Barb W. or Lorrie will be self nominating for their current positions. Krystal is still undecided. Information will be added to the Kindergarten information day as well.

-There was a suggestion to add benches to the outside front entry way in an effort to keep parents from waiting inside the school for dismissal.

-The new popcorn machine will be picked up on May 13. All present agreed to donate the old popcorn machine to Friends of Island Lake for recycling.

-Springtime in the Meadows went well. The new format with two acts worked well. Nancy thanked Barb W. for all her work organizing the event.

-Track & Field will be June 12. Council will support teachers in a fun day for those students not participating in track & field.

-Lorrie and Kim Gammage are working together on the school's 25th anniversary. Let either of them know if you would like to help with planning 25th anniversary events.

E) Principal's Report

- Two portables are being demolished and one is being moved.
- There will be an additional primary class for the next school year. There will be an additional 1.0 staff member.
- The Colombian students arrive May 20 and stay until June 17. CMES may have more than originally planned.
- Arts days went really well and there was a beautiful display at the Dufferin Youth Festival of the Arts. The kindergarten arts days will be the week of May 12.
- We are still waiting for the Scotia Bank match for Boogie-a-thon.
- Intermediate teachers had a great opportunity to work with Dr. Small who is a consultant for improved mathematics education.
- Poem in your pocket day was a fun day.
- EQAO will begin soon. Let Vicky know if you are able to help.
- Grade 5 students are at Earth Keepers at Island Lake. Mrs. Borman is also working on Eco status for CMES.
- The bike rodeo will be May 20 for grades 2-8.

F) New Business

- Further concern was expressed about student safety in the north parking lot. Karen Epps and a Board rep will be at the school on May 29 @3:15pm to meet with the parking lot committee. There were many suggestions to improve safety.
- There was discussion on the detail required in school council minutes and how changes to the minutes can be made. The Ministry guidelines state that school council minutes should note discussion areas but should not include the discussion themselves. The onus is always on the council to read and then approve/amend the minutes at the meeting. There was a suggestion to at the September meeting, provide details on how a meeting is run and orient new members with processes. There was a suggestion to add some of these processes to the by-laws.
- It was discovered that the playground maintenance value should be 20% of the value of the playground(s). Lorrie recommended putting \$6000 aside in a GIC with no plans on drawing on it unless necessary. This discussion was tabled to June so the final budget numbers could provide a more accurate representation of how much can be put aside.
- Schools have changed how they collect and allocate funds, as well as how reporting should be done. All funds should be kept at the school. Food day allocation of funds has been very time consuming. Lorrie recommends combining all food day lines going forward into one line to facilitate tallying. All funds will remain at the school.

G) Open Floor

- There was discussion on whether a balanced day would work for CMES. The past reasoning for a longer lunch for CMES is due to students going home for lunch. Vicky to explore the balanced day. The suggestion was to ask parents their thoughts and to find out how many students actually go home for lunch.
- There was discussion on agendas and whether they could be optional for intermediate students.
- There was a suggestion to advise/update parents with the first day of school process for September as drop off and pick up can be confusing.
- Lorrie will look into the survey council did last June and see if it's easily revisable to run again.

Meeting adjourned @ 5:25pm.

Next meeting June 9th @3:15pm