

**Island Lake Parent Council Meeting
Tuesday, November 19, 2019 @ 7PM**

In Attendance: Tania Rooney (Chair), Brian Rooney (Treasurer), Jacee Alphonso (Co-Chair), Ashley Hopkins (Secretary), Tanya White (Teacher Representative), Tammy Woods, Brenda Kinsella, Sean Singh (Principal), Tanis Noll, Katrina Bishop, Andrea Sproule, Sarah Laughton (Teacher Representative), Charmaine Spiteri, Tanja Schenkel, Natasha Reiche, Anna Michelle Smith

Babysitters: Trinity Crisostomo

Start Time: 7:00 PM

Welcome: Tania welcomes everyone and everyone introduced themselves. Sean did the land acknowledgement.

Guest Presentation:

Pollinator Garden – Sean and Jean came to present

- Own an ecological landscaping company that attempts to bring biodiversity to our neighbourhood
- There are over 4000 species of bees in North America and 400 different species in Ontario alone
- Pollinators are important because approximately 1/3 of our food crops rely on pollinators
- The pollinators in Ontario are facing decline due to lack of habitats for them
- School pollinator gardens are important as it exposes children to the different species of bees and allows them to generate awareness of the roles these different pollinators play
- Pollinator gardens can be a great learning opportunity for students of all ages. They tie into the science curriculum and exposure to nature improves mental health and overall focus in students. Also provides hands on learning opportunities
- The next steps would be site selection, choosing appropriate plants, planting and maintenance (developing a watering schedule, especially over the summer, for the first year would be essential)
- Potential to put a pollinator garden in the area by the eco-pack or there is potential to put one over by the outdoor classroom (in each cases, we already have the beds so the cost would be predominately around the cost of the plants)
- Council needs to decide if they want to fund a pollinator garden and how to involve students with the planting
- Option to have Sean and Jean come in and do educational sessions with the students to help them understand the different species of bees and learn more about them and the role they play as pollinators
- Asked representatives to come back with an idea of overall cost as well as an outline of what the education piece would look like for students and council will consider the idea

moving forward (they were asked to determine an estimated cost per bed so we can consider the option of only doing one bed at a time as a pollinator garden)

- Also asked the representatives to gather more information about other schools that are implementing pollinator initiatives
- Council agreed to get a quote and to hear more information about the process
- Contact between council and the pollinator gardens will be done through Tammy Woods

Approval of the October Minutes: Motion to approve October minutes – Jacee, second - Brian

Treasurer's Report

- Funds were transferred from meal days to the general account and the Library account (for the Forest of Reading Books)
- Movie day proceeds were deposited
- Funds for pizza day, milk day and pasta days were deposited
- Paid for the insurance discussed at the last meeting
- On track in terms of budget with our meal day fundraisers
- Budget – questions or concerns - Motion to approve – Jacee, all in favour – all parent members

Principal's Update

1. Thank you to council for subsidizing the Family Transition Place presentations and purchasing the wreath for the Grade 5 classes to place at the Cenotaph
2. New Staff – Mrs. Manzerolle is off on a maternity leave as her family has adopted 2 children. Mr. Hughson has been hired to teach in her absence
3. Grade 8 End of the Year Trip: Ottawa – parent Meeting is Wednesday, November 20
4. Professional Development Day – Friday, November 29th – Progress Report Interviews
 - online Interview booking info on website on Thursday, November 21
 - report cards home on Thursday, November 21
 - Interviews – Thursday, November 28 (3:30 – 8) and Friday, November 29 (8:45 – 3:15)
5. Recent and Upcoming Events (please check the website calendar for a full list)
 - volleyball Intramurals and upcoming tournaments
 - ILPS Book Fair Nov. 25 – 29
6. Upcoming job action information is available on the Board website Labour Relations page at <https://www.ugdsb.ca/board/labour-relations/>
7. This is Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week – At ILPS we Choose Kindness. All week students will be making announcements, having conversations and participating in activities in classrooms to share different strategies to help us reduce bullying behavior in schools

New Business and Updates:

Code of Conduct Policy Review

- An email was sent to Tania asking for Feedback on Policy 231 (the Code of Conduct). This has been made available to all parents through email and there is a link there that parents can provide their feedback. Feedback needs to be in before November 21st.

By-Laws

- A by-law meeting was held
- They went through the document step by step but only made it halfway through
- There will be trying to have one more meeting before the Winter Holidays to finish going through the bylaws
- The terms being used in the by-laws are from the Education Act

Deck the Halls Committee Update

- Event is December 4th from 6 – 8 PM
- Event will be spread out throughout the school
- Everything is coming together – there are donations coming in but council was asked to remind parents and to continue working to try to collect donations
- Will have access to the gym for set up during the day of Deck the Halls
- For those who said they could donate tables, please drop the off the day off in the morning and pick them up at the end of the event
- Santa will be on the stage, crafts will also be set up in the gym; The Children's Store will be in the Library; Bake Sale and Raffle Items will be in the hallway outside of the gym
- Student Choir will be performing at 6:30 in the gym
- Idea to set up a sing-a-long area for families
- Tania will put together the list of volunteers for the night of and let people know where they are needed

Survey Results

- 111 people responded to the survey
- 53% of people responded that they would order smoothies
- Council made the decision based on this data that we will not bring back smoothies at this time
- Idea of Family Nights was asked in the survey – Families indicated they would prefer a Family Science Night (82%), next a Family Ropes Night (72%) and then last a Family Math Night (68%)
- Sean spoke to Ms. Fraser, she indicated that at this point that the Makerspace is in good shape at this point and she would prefer we hold funds for the Makerspace for next year. She indicated she thought it would be better to go forward with the Scientist in the School Night for families as it's less taxing on the teachers and allows families to see the benefits of Scientist in the School
- Tania is going to get more information about the Scientist in the School Family night and will share it at the next meeting
- Idea to combine a Math and Science Night

- Ropes Course Night with Summit Climbing will take place in February. There will be a sign up for this (four 30-minute blocks)
- Parents are also asking for more meal day options

Meal Days

- Next session will go January – March
- Will go up on School Cash Online in early December and be open for 2 weeks
- Will continue with pizza and pasta days
- Simply Pasta offered chicken fingers for \$1.45/chicken finger (our cost) however council determined they would rather just stick with the pasta

Poinsettias

- Orders closed on Sundays
- Our numbers are way down from previous years
- Sold 146 plants
- There were no business orders this year
- Being delivered on the November 27th
- Need a volunteer for November 28th
- Request to have an email sent out to families to remind them of poinsettia pick up during interviews

Arts/Mental Health Teacher Funding

- Some teachers used this last year and others did not – need to address if we are going to continue with providing this funding again this year
- Teachers have requested that we continue with this funding
- Idea to potentially lower the amount of funding provided to each class slightly for this initiative so that other ideas and initiatives can be implemented – Tania is going to provide information from last year about the average cost of a program so that we can make an informed decision about this

Sport Pinnies

- Idea for council to purchase jerseys for students to wear to athletic events
- The school is currently purchasing jerseys for the hockey team but would appreciate basketball style jerseys for other sports
- Will get in touch with the T-shirt company our school uses to get an idea of pricing
- Estimate that we need 35 jerseys in each size (small, medium and large)
- Idea to look into reversible jerseys – will get a quote on this

Other Business:

- Request from teachers to consider providing funding to planning time teachers to support their programs – something to consider for future fundraising
- Discussion around how the school requests funds from council came up – until the new by-laws are in effect, how do teachers/admin request funds?
- There are 24 classes in the school and about 35 teachers in the building

- Reminder – Internet Parent Safety Night – Tuesday, November 26, 2019
- Family Skating Night – Tania contacted Teen Ranch – they have availability on Saturday afternoons in January and February and the ice would cost \$250 – Council decided this would be a great event to run. CSA helmets and skates would be required.
- Bullying Prevention Week – teachers were asked to make sure they incorporate the buddy benches into their lessons this week. Sean indicated they would put this information on the announcements
- Idea to get a flag/banner that could be used at tournaments to represent our school – Tania will ask the t-shirt company about this – a Flag that has the Osprey on it and says Island Lake Public School
- Because we are an eco-school, idea to minimize paper usage in our meetings – decision was made to go paperless at our meetings moving forward

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting – Brenda, second - Katrina

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 21, 2020