

Island Lake Parent Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 11, 2021 @ 7 PM - Online

In Attendance: Tania Rooney (Chair), Jenny Smith, Melissa Williamson (Treasurer), Ashley Hopkins (Secretary), Lindsay Watson, Jen Rothfuchs, Sean Singh (Principal), Shan Robertson, Anna Michelle Smith, Katrina Bishop, Tammy Woods, Jaclyn Alphonso (Co-Chair), Tracey Gear, Melissa White

Welcome: Tania welcomed everyone and we did introductions. Sean did the land acknowledgement.

Approval of February Minutes: Jen motions to approve, Jacee seconds

Treasurer's Report:

- Melissa shared the treasurer's report
- January/February nothing came in or out
- Had some expenses come out of teacher class supplies in March and April
- We were reimbursed \$2500 from the Ropes Challenge Course
- Currently we have \$25,991.59 in our account
- Funding for Grade 8 Graduation will still be considered depending on what can be done given COVID
- Reminder that the pollinator garden has been put on hold until we can have guest presenters in the school
- Jenny motion to approve, Anna Michelle seconds

Principal's Update

- We would like to thank our community including our parents, students and staff for working through the move to remote learning. It has been an ongoing adjustment for us all and we are proud of the way our extended Island Lake family has worked together.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Singh, Ms. Robertson or your child's teacher. We have been able to find solutions that work for most of the concerns we are hearing about.
- We are in the midst of the staffing process here in Upper Grand - teachers are being hired and are accepting transfers to other schools during this time.
- We have put out our parent request email to the community- just a reminder that the due date is May 21 and requests cannot be guaranteed due to the complexity of the class placement process.
- We thank all of our school council members for your presence, your dedication and your commitment. We appreciate your collaboration and care for our school and all of our students.

New Business

Playground Structure in the Junior Yard

- Was put in by Council a long time ago and it is our responsibility to upkeep and maintain it
- It is aging, there are some things that are broken and are in need of fixing
- Last year, we removed a climbing wall and some other pieces that were needing repair
- It gets inspected yearly and it was deemed unsafe at this time as there are things that need to be repaired - we need to consider how many more years this playground is going to be operational and what kind of repairs are needed to keep it safe for the time being
- Do we want to start thinking about replacing it?
- A few repairs will be done by the board - there is plastic edging around the outside of the playground to keep the wood chips in, the board is replacing that. The slide has two cracks/holes in it that need to be repaired, however that slide is no longer offered by the company that installed the playground structure.
- We will be getting a quote for repairs from the company that installed it
- We do have a section in our council budget for repairs on the playground
- Idea to look at different options for what we can get to replace it and then use those to determine how much we will need to fundraise and what we are looking for in a playground structure
- The bunkie has been delayed because of COVID restrictions - the pad was put in for the bunkie we are just waiting for the actual structure to be put in which should happen once restrictions lift
- We would need to fundraise money specific for this as we have to keep additional funds in our council account to support teachers and school initiatives
- Idea of putting a new structure in piece by piece so that we can do a staged approach to this - this allows students to start benefiting right away
- These can range from \$15,000-\$20,000
- Idea of generating fundraisers that are specific to purchasing a new play structure
- Potential to approach corporate sponsors to help with the initiative (potentially the Lion's Club or other community organizations)
- Will start by contacting some of these companies who do play structure installations and getting an idea of what they will cost
- Maybe reach out to other schools in the community who have recently put in new play structures to learn from their experiences - particularly which contractor was used and what pricing was like
- Naturalized playgrounds - maybe look into the cost of doing this vs. a play structure
- Will have to do some small repairs currently to keep it safe and usable but we will start looking quotes and consider replacing it in the future

- We need to be mindful of the financial implications COVID has had for some families and should be mindful of this in the fundraisers we have next year

Fundscrip

- We have an account from the past that is still open and active that has \$200 in it
- They are wondering if we want to keep it open and active?
- Tania reached out to our Fundscrip rep and had a conversation with her about what it is - with Fundscrip you can buy gift cards through their website, you login using a code given to you by the school and you can purchase your gift card there - for every gift card purchased a percentage will go to the school
- These gift cards can be sent virtually to anyone
- Can also do bulk orders as a school
- Would need to provide reminders to the community consistently to ensure people are actually using it
- Will keep our account open and start promoting it for all Island Lake families - idea to also share this with the community and could be used a fundraiser specific to raising funds for a new play structure
- Will send out a CASTLE email with a link and blurb about Fundscrip to Island Lake Families. Come the Fall we will look at promoting it more thoroughly.

Remote Learning for the 2021-2022 School Year

- Info was shared on the Council Facebook page about the info the board had sent out with regards to remote learning for next year. Many parents commented on this about their concerns around remote learning for next year (particularly around the potential for hybrid learning)
- The Ministry has said that all boards MUST offer a remote learning option. Upper Grand has not shared their model yet, it is said this will be shared in late May and parents will need to make a decision by June 3rd about the learning pathways for their child
- Concerns with Hybrid Learning were brought forward by parents - Parents are hoping Upper Grand will have an online learning platform and an in-person learning platform
- Hybrid Learning Concerns brought forward to council by Parents in our Community - cameras in all classrooms, the needs in an elementary classroom are high and having a teacher doing both online and in person learning at once are concerning (a very difficult task for the teacher) that won't be able to give our children the learning experiences they need at this young age, widens the equity gaps, connections become more limited, etc.
- Sean clarified that we do not yet know which model Upper Grand will be using next year and reminded council that they have avenues to have their voice heard if they have concerns (i.e., trustee and other avenues). He also shared that a survey will be done for students from Grade 5 - 12 about their experiences with online learning.

- Parents should follow board announcements closely and advocate if they have any concerns
- Our trustee is Gail Campbell - her phone number and email address are available on the Upper Grand District School Board Page

Other Business:

- Question of whether or not we will have meal days next year as that really plays into our fundraising initiatives
- Tania will be putting together an annual report about what council did through the year - it will be shared with parents and be placed on the schools website
- Sean again thanked the council for their time and effort through what has been a very challenging year.
- This will be our final council meeting of the year
- Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 p.m. - Motion to Adjourn - Jen, second Jenny