

# John McCrae Minutes

1.) **Review of Minutes**- no action items

2.) **Principal / Vice Principal Report**

## Dance-a-Thon:

\$8043.40 was raised. Thank you to all!!!

- The dance went well and both Leslie and Olivier wore their pajamas for the entire week. This included trips to the board office. Leslie even wore her PJs to Chapters on the Friday night. Lots of teachers wore PJs throughout the week too.

The Chapters Fundraiser went well and was a win-win for everyone. The total raised for John McCrae was \$843 in gift cards which will be used to buy books for the library. Thank you to all of the parent volunteers.

New staff Eliza Tran (ECE) is having a baby. Gabrielle Smith will be taking over for her and will be with Mme. Farquar. She is fluent in French

- In Margie Johnson's class - Pattie Horack has been hired to work two afternoons a week and we are lucky to have her. We have two Educational Assistants to help with some of our students. Suzanne Borrow will be working in Mme Ellis' class, and Christine Corner will work every afternoon.

Bullying Prevention Week - We applied for and received a \$500 grant.

We will be having two assemblies on November 19th with Janet Wilson, a Guelph illustrator and author. She writes about kids who help others and who encompass all those qualities of compassion and kindness ( kids like Craig Kilburger and Malala Yousafzai). She will do two presentations: K-3 & 4-8. We have also used some of the money to purchase some of her books to give to teachers to use as a spring board in their classrooms. This cost \$400 of the grant.

- The other \$100 was used to purchase a book on feelings for the kindergarten to grade two classes.
- Brenda bought books last year, and a new bookshelf outside the office has those books displayed.

## Progress Reports & Interviews

- Report cards will go home around Dec 11th. Board wide, there will not be an interview schedule, however before the report goes home the teachers will schedule an interview if they feel they need to communicate with the parents.

### **Remembrance Day Service**

- It will happen tomorrow: 10:30 am - 11:30 am and everyone is welcome. We do not send out invitations because the space is limited. The primary choir will be singing. A soldier will also be there.

### **3.) Co-Chairs Report**

Congratulations on the tentative agreement to Teachers and Support Staff!

Thanks to Janene & Brenda for their work on the Dance-a-thon. It was a great success!

### **4.) Spending Prioritization**

Where are the funds going from our fundraising efforts: We try to show how the funds will be spent *ahead* of the fundraising events. That way parents can know ahead of time whether this is something they want to support.

- The Dance-a-thon funds will go to purchase Makerspace items for the library, microscopes for the science room and more Chrome books or iPads, musical instruments and levelled readers.

### **5.) Dance-a-thon Review**

Janene outlined how it all went that day.

- The Dance-a-thon has a long history in this school. The week before, Janene went to all the classes and showed the kids that if they each raised \$20 their class would raise x\$20. The kids also were really keen to see what they could get the Principal and Vice Principal to do.
- Simple decorations and the kids had fun. Next year they need a specific volunteer to DJ.
- 3 Gift Cards for the top fundraisers - ideas: Bookshelf, Stone Road Mall, Gaming Store...

### **6.) Council Corner write-up for newsletter**

- The Newsletter goes out on the 1st Friday of the month. Leslie has been doing it. A paragraph once a month...Deanna said she would take over.

### **7.) Healthy School Sub-committee**

Dan & Sara are creating this sub-committee and are looking for support from the school council. They both have students at John McCrae. Sara works at the Y as director of Youth & Teen & Children's Services. She has experience writing grants. Dan is a chiropractor, and has done many

lifestyle and prevention talks. He is in The Rotary Club. There may be a fundraising partnership with Rotary in the future.

What does being a healthy school mean? They want to get John McCrae eating, moving and thinking well. Guelph is known as the running capital, so what about Guelph being known as the healthy school capital?

Concepts for health:

- Families to be working together towards the common goal.
- Standup Org (gets kids to stand up more)
- Fidget Bars or Standing Stations
- Don't create more work for the teachers and parents.
- Partner with Public Health (they are meeting with the PH Nurse)
- Attend the board's Healthy Schools Conference
- Reference: Spark: The Revolutionary New Science of Exercise and the Brain by the physician, John Ratey. A quote from the book: "Exercise is like Miracle-Gro for children's brains."
- A Health corner could be placed into the newsletter.
- Do an environmental scan to assess and celebrate the things that we are doing well already. A survey might be really helpful...maybe a better timing would be in the New Year.

Leslie pointed out that we would need to have the support of a teachers in order to work with any new initiatives. Mme Farquar said that they also have Daily Physical Activity requirements, and that this can dovetail with any healthy school initiatives. There are programs in place right now like RunWalkJog Fridays, DPA (Daily Physical Activity) and Outdoor Education Programs. Oliver said the kids are inspired to be out and active just by the school's natural surroundings.

Khal said that he felt the School Council would be fully supportive. He also suggested that maybe there is room for collaboration at the PIC (Parent Involvement Committee) level.

## **8.) Art Image Budget**

- Asking for \$600 for Art Image which brings parent volunteers into the classrooms to teach specialized art. Lisa tries to get two Art Image sessions per classroom per year. Wyndam Arts gives a discount and that is reflected in the calculations:
  - Sharpies, cartridge paper, watercolour paper, drawing utensils \$296.82

- \$180+ for titles that have gone missing
- \$100 budget for the claims that the parents pay for materials
- previously it was \$500 but we had the unexpected event of losing the art books that are essential.

## 9.) Family Skate

Sat Dec 19th 2pm game against Mississauga - We can skate from 12pm to 12:50pm then the ice is cleaned. Game at 2pm

- Our cost is \$14.50 per ticket, decided that we will sell them for \$16 child / \$20 adult
- We have to buy 150 tickets
- December 19th is the next day after school is over.
- Consider teaming up with Arber Vista because of the kids who used to go to JM and still have friends here.
- Kids must wear helmets, and adults are recommended
- We will get a change room to change into skates

## 10.) Holiday Meeting

- Bring something so we can have a little celebration. We can put a pot luck list online.