

Minutes for October 13th, 2015

BETH MCEWAN, (LIBRARIAN) PRESENTATION ON HER THOUGHTS FOR THE LIBRARY

Beth presented the state of the plans for the Library. They are moving away from the outdated notion of a “house for books” - to a Learning Commons approach. Libraries are for gaining knowledge, not necessarily or only by reading books. It should be a place that is completely student-centred and accessible for the children. She explained what has happened in the past and what the future plans are:

Step 1 - Took the computers out of the room to the right of the main library floor. Created a more flexible space using Chromebooks /Ipads so the computer space can be a multipurpose space that is technologically oriented. Sometimes it is used for other means.

Step 2 - In Process: the Learning Commons will have an expanded “maker space”. The library will be used to access information and then as a space to create. They would like to expand on this space with tables, bins, building materials, more laptops etc.

KK asked if staff have opinions about this. BMC said they haven't had any staff meetings yet, but they have spoken informally.

They want to work in partnership with Library Services (School Board) to come up with ideas to make the space better.

They are looking for funding to contribute to this project. They have overstock so one of the ways they could generate revenue for the space is by having a book sale. KK asked how much money they are looking for, Beth McEwan said she will try to get a budget together.

Leslie Newman said that the library should be the hub of the school, and filled with students all day long learning in different ways.

Beth McEwan is involving the students with their opinions. She also asked for input from the parents in terms of ideas for the design.

Discussed the Chapter's Fundraiser - Nov 9th at the Stone Road Chapters from 5pm to close. Any sale in the children's area gives us 20% of the proceeds (in gift cards). Beth McEwan cannot be involved so she needs someone to be there. She will be there but as a shopper... Leslie Newman asked parents to sign up to volunteer to help out.

The school will tweet about it in order to promote it with parents.

One parent suggested kids should come to create a good atmosphere and promote the fundraiser in the store.

REMEMBRANCE DAY - NOVEMBER 11TH 10:30AM AT MCRAE HOUSE

Parents asked whether the kids will be ready with the job action in place.

One parent is a choral conductor and can step in if need be.

We will place the volunteer position on the volunteer spot, or email leslie.newman@ugdsb.on.ca to sign up to volunteer.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Leslie Newman introduced Lisa Maggio-Laughlin who is our teacher representative this year along with Madame Farquar.

She also outlined the board website.

Student Link - all the grades are on the page. Select a grade and it shows all sorts of games for areas of the curriculum. She showed the car racing game for math (understanding bigger numbers).

Another example...Grade 8 - Science - Build Your Own Rollercoaster
Parents can use these games to practise specific areas.

Library Catalogue - will show you what books are in the John McCrae library catalogue

Grade 7&8s are doing fundraising for their trip. Apples, Potatoes, Carrots and Sweet Potatoes. 40% goes to the student, 10% to the school and 50% back to the farmer.

COCHAIR REPORT WITH KHALEED KHALFAN

Khal wants to thank all the people who get things done at John McCrae. Often school council pays the bills but these volunteers do the ongoing work.

Maggie Grift takes care of the milk sales.

Sheryl Gamble takes care of distributing the pizza.

Justine Richardson makes sure there are apples in the office for students to eat.

Wendy Eastman makes sure there are emergency snacks for students in the office.

Jen Thurtell takes care of playground equipment maintenance.

Khal wants to officially thank everyone, and thanks also to Kathy Lampkin in the office who keeps it all organized.

Khal will be sending a Volunteer recruitment form along with updating the Volunteer Spot website.

Feel free to forward the email to the School Council list to your fellow parents, just so they have the information whether they come to the meetings or not.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Khal said it will happen every second or third meeting unless parents want to see it more frequently.

Pizza and milk sales came in recently - \$2000 less in pizza and \$1200 less in milk sales. Leslie said they are still collecting because there was a glitch in the online system. It has been reopened. A parent suggested that we have 100 less grade 8s, which would reduce the gross.

\$34K in the bank

\$24 has been committed to in prior years that have not been paid for yet

Leslie pointed out that \$100 for each teacher is not on the speed sheet. Also Scientist in The Classroom is not on the spread sheet.

Khal explained the \$100 honorarium that goes to each teacher to spend on the class. The teacher gets the money back when they present their receipts. School Council decided to continue with this expense.

Lisa Mactaggart said that she needs some funds to spend on guide books (for Art Image) that have gone missing, sets of brushes, and maybe some clay. She said the account has not been depleted in the past, but more money will be needed this year. They are hoping to be able to do some of the more complex lessons which will require some purchases. The budget is 85 cents per child. She will get a budget for the extra expenses.

PIC (PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE)

PIC at the Upper Grand School Board happens on the last Monday of every month in Fergus. The School Council is looking for anyone to go to those meetings and to report back to the council. If you are looking for a way to understand what is going on at the board level, these meetings are informative.

[website to come](#)

Upper Grand asking for parents' input on French instruction. The survey is on the school website and it is only up for the month of October. Take the survey here:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ugdsb_frenchreviewsurvey

EVENTS: TERRY FOX RUN

The run went well and we had \$5682.50 donated. Leslie thanked Karen & Brenda for their efforts.

EVENTS: DANCE A THIN

Dance-a-Thon will happen on the 29th of October. Halloween theme for costumes and the kids come into the gym for their dancing time. Parent volunteers are needed for counting, and also for dancing. In the afternoon there is a dance for the intermediates. There are prizes on the day which are for fundraising. Kids get popsicles at the end of it as well. Parents can donate appropriate items for the prizes. Tax receipts are available for donations over \$20. Janene needs volunteers very quickly. If you can volunteer please email janene@sarabura.com.

EVENTS: PRO GRANT (PARENTS REACHING OUT)

The grant has a math bent. We will run a series of three events over the year. We are looking for parents to put the 3 events together.

1 Tech night

2 Math-focused night (learning how it is taught in the school)

3 Math for parenting and helping their kids get through math anxiety

Normally there is plenty of teacher help and they have been invaluable, but with the work action we MAY need more parent involvement.

Anyone interested should contact Khal at zone2kk@gmail.com

EVENTS CALENDAR REVIEW

Khal passed around the events and opportunities calendar and discussed each event.

Kindergarten Night will be on May 26th.

Looking for a replacement for Shannon to run the Family Fun Night. A parent volunteered to look at the binder.

Grade six night should be removed from the list.

The Storm game - buy 150 tickets and you can skate for 50 minutes. The fundraiser is \$3 back per ticket. Dates available that will work with a 2pm start time Sat Dec 19th (Mississauga) / Sun Jan 3rd (Kitchener). Skating before would be better.

We will email around to the School Council list to make a decision on whether to move forward.

HEALTHY SCHOOL SUB COMMITTEE

Dan Vitale introduced the idea of creating a sub-committee on wellness, lifestyle and illness prevention in the school. The focus would be on Increasing physical activity, reducing sit time, cultivating good nutrition, and creating a resource for movement.

He invited any parents who can get involved, come up with ideas and help the school get involved. If you would like to get involved please contact Dan Vitale, dvitalcdc@gmail.com