

Parent Council Meeting – Tuesday February 16th 2021

Meeting is being held virtually via google meet, in attendance are:

Harpreet Jhooti	Linda
Shilpa Vallabh	Derek Tellis
Chad Guyitt	Michelle Macdonald
Amy Brito	Carrie Spencer
Erica Eugenio	

Meeting commenced at 6:36pm

Welcome everyone to the meeting. Let's start off by reading the land acknowledgement that is shared daily with staff and students. It reads: From the Anishinaabe to the Haudenosaunee and the Metis, these treaty lands are steeped in rich Indigenous history and modern traditions. As a community, we have the responsibility to honor and respect the four directions, land, waters, plants, animals and ancestors. Today, this area is home to many Indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island. We acknowledge the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation of the Anishinaabek peoples, on whose ancestral and treaty lands we teach, learn and live.

Introductions: Committee members went around and re-introduced themselves to everyone, as it has been a while since our last meeting.

Financial Report from Carrie: We have \$13,067.63 in our account. Any thoughts on future plans for this money? Do we want to make it grow and how? Should we be looking at conserving our funds as we don't know what the rest of the school year will look like, and if we will get a chance to raise any more money for anything? We should have a better picture of our financial situation come June, until then we will carry on as best we can.

Principal's Report from Chad: Thank you to everyone. All staff and students are excited to be back at school. We will continue with our weekly emails and robocalls with regards to communication with families and making sure they are aware of important info. The first week back was a lot of reminders going back to September with regards to routines, cleaning, sanitizing, social distancing, hand washing, etc. There were a lot of anxious kids and some who had a lot of questions. The news of rescheduling March break to the new "April Break" was disheartening but we know it is the best decision given the current situation. The kids are learning a new math curriculum this year as mandated. The strands being taught are different so when report cards come out, you will only see one combined math mark. We are trying to eliminate "math phobia" by teaching things like financial literacy (budgeting, RESP's, taxes, etc.) and coding, which are useful in day to day life and important skills for people to know and have. There is a lot of professional development around math with the staff. There have also been inclusion talks with the staff with regards to racism. We want all students and staff to be welcome, comfortable and feel represented in the classroom. There will be a grade 8 graduation this year, but we don't know at this point in time what it will look like. It will however be wrapped up by the end of June, for sure, so that the graduates can feel honored and appreciated and get a proper send off. We are back to square one with regards to school photos. We were on our way in December to being able to have photographers come sometime in January, but with recent developments, we don't know when that will happen now and so it is on hold, for the time being.

Shilpa: Krista Vetter is a parent of children at SIB, who works with Scientists in School. The school has offered these sessions in the past, would we be interested in offering them again this year? The cost is \$220 for a 1 hour virtual class for 27 kids. The company sends out individual kits to the school ahead of the scheduled class time. On the day and time of the event, a teacher would connect virtually with the Scientist and would remain present to ensure that the kids are following along with the instructions. Is this something parent council would be able to provide funds for? We currently have 20 classes in our school.

Awards board: Council has voted and approved for approximately \$1800 (max \$1900) of our money to be withdrawn from the Family Fun Night funds, for the use of purchasing an awards board for the school, as a gift on behalf of parent council.

Mrs. Zandbergs has put in a request to council to approve an additional order of 10 books in the Forest of Reading program. These additional 10 books would cost \$250, and was voted on and approved by council. The money will be withdrawn from the Family Fun Night Funds.

Michelle: Council has become aware of a family in crisis. In light of this situation, Parent Council has approved a donation of \$100 to help in anyway we can to show our support. This donation will be in the form of a gift card of the families choosing, whether it is for groceries, dinner etc. Michelle M will be in touch with the family to make arrangements.

Council voted and approved for a \$100 gift card to be purchased for the family and for the money to be withdrawn from the Family Fund Night funds.

Meeting adjourned at 7:22pm