

Irwin Memorial Public School

School Council Meeting

Oct 11th 2017 3:15pm

In Attendance : Jenn Clark-Principal, Lynda Richards, Kirsten Conner, Peter Yungblut, Emma Platts-Boyle – Chair, Sarah Roberts, Nicole Bradley -Treasurer, Tamara Wright – Secretary, Christine Demarco, Rebecca Birnie and Kim Fairhall

Approve Agenda-Emma handed out the agenda for the 2nd Council meeting.

Last meeting's minutes-Emma asked if there were any changes/omissions to last meetings minutes. There were no changes/omissions, they were accepted as is.

Principal's Report

-Jenn read a heartfelt Thank you from Bruce Reain re: turkey lunch from Oct 3rd.

-a Thank you/Appreciation display has been created in the main entrance coordinated by Joanne McRae that thanks the council for the turkey lunch created by the students.

-Jenn discussed EQAO results from testing that was done earlier in the year that included the grade 3 and grade 6 classes. Overall both classes were within provincial standards. These results are available for the public to view. The overall achievement percentages were as follows:

Grade 3 –reading -88%, writing-62%, math-44%.

Grade 6—reading -71%,writing-64%,math- 43%.

-The school wants to rework/rewrite the mission statement for the school. This will be determined from input from the staff. We need to know our students; know and appreciate them, give appropriate guided tasks and independence. Jenn has a meeting next week with teachers to design a mission statement with full intention to run it by council as well. Jenn wants to build in the student voice as well.

-Jenn reports that a new Gaga ball pit was built Oct 6th. Big thanks to Lakeview Design Company, Rolston Home building center, Muskoka Rent-all, Dwight Garden Centre and the Beacon. Kids are absolutely elated with it!

-Jenn confirmed that the dishwasher that was needed for the kitchen was purchased. The kitchen renovation is on hold right now. Breakfast Club starts Oct 12th. Volunteers are still needed, contact Nicole Caracciola if interested!

-It was discussed whether parents can post updates on the Irwin FB page. Jenn said that comments can be made by parents on the updates, but it ultimately has to be her that posts updates.

-Google Calendar is up and running now; this provides more accessibility for parents to access school related information.

-Google overdrive is available to parents now. This application is an accessible online library. If parents have/can get their children's login number they will have even more books to access!

-Jenn looked a little deeper into the hydration station, she contacted the head custodian at HHS. The cost is \$1500 plus \$500 to install it. These fees would be upfront and all maintenance after that would be cost free. It was questioned whether this filtration would change the taste of the water as that is one of the concerns of the students as the taste is unpleasant to some. Jenn was unsure whether this would change the taste of the water for the better. It was discussed whether water coolers could be introduced into the school. Due to the unknown cost, plus the concern of not properly cleaned/maintained coolers that could lead to bacteria and mold this is not a viable option. The water currently at the school has a high sodium level. It is drinkable, it comes from a well and tested regularly. It was asked **if** the hydration station was a go at some point, would the council pay for it?; would cost sharing occur? or a possible grant application be a possibility.

ACTION Jenn to research further.

-The implementation of online payment for such things as pizza day/trips and possibly fundraising purchases are in phase two which means that it should be up and running in mid December!

-Jenn made a **MOTION** to create an Equity Fund. The fund would be comprised of "excess" funds raised from a trip, etc., where rounding has occurred; e.g. - trip costs \$9.87 and teacher charges parents \$10, therefore \$.13 /child would move to Equity Fund. The fund would be used for families that may need financial assistance for various opportunities that they may not otherwise be able to participate in.

MOTION passed.

Election of Co Chair

Emma made council aware that a Co-chair is needed in case she is unavailable to be present at meetings, etc. Emma made a **MOTION** to nominate Sarah Roberts. Sarah accepted. **MOTION** passed.

Turkey Luncheon

Emma discussed with council the overwhelming success of the turkey luncheon. The council/volunteers and countless people in our community that donated their time and donated the turkeys, buns, etc. made it an amazing memorable experience. After donations, including monetary donations, the luncheon cost the council approximately \$360. A list as been started already to have ideas and suggestions for next year's lunch. It was a learning curve for all of council. Next year we will have a better idea how much food is needed and we can work in all the suggestions that we came up with after this year's success. Council, staff, students and parents appreciated the fact that all the dietary needs that are present in our school were addressed. Emma reported that some leftover food was donated. The leftover turkey was frozen and it was discussed that we could offer the students a hot turkey soup/sandwich lunch option for a small fee in Nov and/or Dec.

In discussing the turkey lunch and making notes for next year in regards to this, it was discussed possibly to start archiving notes on all yearly events to help set up/coordinate for the following year.

School wear

Peter Yungblut has been key in promoting school spirit. To coincide with this, he has looked into getting ideas/prices for school wear for the students and staff and interested parents. He contacted Novelty man who has made products for other schools. He went over design ideas with staff and students and brought those ideas to the meeting to get input from the council . The council reviewed colors, designs and logos. Peter asked for some assistance when orders arrived to organize and distribute. He mentioned water bottles with the school logo were requested. Peter said that Novelty man reported that they have encountered problems with water bottles, so water bottles would not be offered. The order forms would go home approximately early Nov and purchased items should be here for Christmas. Any profit would go to the Physical – education department. It was also discussed that a support a student option would be offered on the form to purchase clothing on behalf of students unable to afford this.

Fundraising

It was discussed that council will use the same company as last year for the Poinsettia fundraiser as the price and quality was well received last time. There are 3-4 other Catalogues that were discussed as potential fundraisers as well. The school made \$600 last year from fundraising. The catalogues would go out early Nov and product would be here for Christmas.

School Council historically pays for the grade eights graduation. It will be continued this year.

Jenn reported two additional wish list items: an interactive story/information/research walk around yard and fire pit style seating arrangement to complement outdoor learning.

Grants

Sarah is excited to report that Irwin was approved for the Parents Reaching out Grant for \$1000. It is a grant to encourage parents to engage with their kids while learning. Last year math night was a huge success and the plan with this grant is essentially the same template. At a cost of \$800 Science North would come in with interactive stations. The rest of the money would go towards beverages and snacks (with possibly a barbecue) as well as designing a booklet that would promote parents and kids to engage learning at home with products available at home. This would take place possibly March to May of 2018. It was discussed to educate parents and students that night also on the possibly underused tool of Google Drive. Just as on math night, it was discussed on how to effectively encourage feedback on all the stations for this upcoming night. A possibility of some sort of draw was discussed.

Irwin was chosen as one of 880 applications to be accepted for the Makerspace grant. The school will receive \$4000. This is still in the early planning stages. It was discussed whether it was possible to merge / connect with other schools with their Makerspace and could / would Ian Mctavish's' robotic club be contacted to connect with our school as there was much interest on Math Night.

ACTION Jenn looking into getting a Consultant to come in and demonstrate the use of Google Overdrive during the interactive Parents Reaching Out evening.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wed Nov 22nd at 3:15pm.