

Irwin Memorial Public School
Parent Council Minutes
Meeting Sept 14, 2017

Attending: Principal Jennifer Clark, Teacher Melanie Maxwell, Secretary Lynda Richards, Parents: Nichole Ashe, Kim Fairhall, Emma Platts-Boyle, Sarah Roberts, Rob Sinclair, Deidre Skipper, Shane Taylor, Tammy Wright.

Welcome:

Jenn welcomed the parents to the first Parent Council meeting for this school year.

Principal's Report:

Staff Changes:

- Bernadette Lovegrove has replaced Ben McKay as the Core French teacher
- Susie Stronach is covering prep periods and teaching Music
- Kirsten Conner is teaching Grade 2/3 (we gained an additional teacher this year)
- Kent Maxwell has moved from Grade 2/3 to Grade 6/7
- Nikki Bible is covering for Margot Cook (EA) who is currently on leave

Classes for this year are:

JK/SK (Maxwell/Cripps); 1/2 McRae; 2/3 Conner; 4 Rudd; 5 West; 6/7 Maxwell; 8 Murray (formerly Millar)

Bruce Reain, our school Trustee was in for a visit today.

Over the summer, some facility work happened:

- Universal Washroom Installed
- New windows throughout the building (except for the Library)
- Boiler replaced
- Entire building rewired – more hubs to come and hook up to the fiber to be done
- Bell brought fiber into the building

Work still to be done:

- Gym kitchen to receive a renovation – new counter, new cupboard faces, additional sink.
- Until this work is performed, we cannot cut or chop food for the students.

The SKC Lounge office list has been determined. The program is for students in grades 1-6 and for up to 20 students.

Maker Space – a proposal will be submitted by Tuesday Sept 20th requesting further funding for strategic materials ie building material (eg life size mechano) which will be tied to curriculum and have a purpose for other educators.

Parent Engagement:

Last year we had the Math Night, this year the plan is to have a Maker Space Night. Sarah Roberts has applied for a grant for the Maker Space Night, no response to date. The trustee is very supportive of our program.

Question – is it possible to use the maker space materials “like a library” so the parents can see how some of the materials work? Might need to limit materials to low tech.

Programs:

Roots of Empathy: Grade 2/3 program and Farrah Dukoff's baby will be the baby for this year.

Some retired teachers have received a grant to quilt with kids for Canada 150. Would involve 10 students.

X Country is underway – led by Peter Yungblut (SPEC ED)

Terry Fox run will be on Sept 25th with a kick off assembly at 11:30. Question was raised if the students could run to the beach as they have in the past and have their lunch at the beach. **ACTION:** Jenn indicated she would approach the teachers.

Embrace Learning incorporates 3 main ideas in the 2017/2018 portion of the multi year plan.

Treasurer's Report:

There is currently \$2605.86 in the Home & School Account plus \$974 designated for Outdoor Education. The parent council typically pays for the graduating students' meals. Last year the cost was \$40/student. This year there are currently 19 grade 8s. **DECISION:** to earmark \$1000 for graduation costs. The school receives \$500 in parent engagement funds each year to be spent in the year (when parent council meets, babysitting expenses will come from these funds).

Fundraising:

Emma Platts Boyle reviewed the areas of fundraising and revenue from each. **ACTION:** Emma to investigate and move ahead with the Fresh From the Farm fundraising for this fall.

Sarah Roberts indicated a willingness to have another fundraiser at the Driving Range on Sept 30 & Oct 1 with funds earmarked for Irwin for a Thanksgiving dinner: sit down dinner for all students, staff. Potential to hold the event at the Township offices.

School Wish List:

Dishwasher for the kitchen – either industrial or home dishwasher – must have a dry cycle of 180degrees.

Smart Board - \$4K range

Gaga Ball Pit – renew **ACTION:** Emma to draft a letter addressed to the Lion's Club for assistance. BBQ

A request was made to have a Hydration Station installed. (Tests show that the water is potable but the sodium level is high)

Future Planning:

ACTION: Irwin to ensure the Google Calendar is updated on the Irwin Website and instructions on how to use are communicated to the parents.

ACTION: Sarah Roberts and Nicole Ashe to man a Parent Council table at the Meet the Teacher night with an aim to recruit more parents to the council/volunteer sign up.

Request to mix up the days – not always hold events on Thursdays.

ACTION: Irwin to ensure agenda, minutes, and financials for Parent Council are on the Irwin Website.

ACTION: To form a subcommittee to plan the Thanksgiving Dinner (slated for Oct 5, 2017) Shane to contact the Township regarding use of their facility; To invite the Mayor and Trustee.

ACTION: Parent Council to check into the various grant opportunities available.

ACTION: Parent Council to communicate with parents that if they have an item of concern, to bring it forward – even if they can't make the meeting.

Voting:

Emma Platts Boyle was voted Chair of the School Council; Nicole Ashe as Treasurer, and Tammy Wright as Secretary.

ACTION: Approach Pat Best and or Peggy Hurley for community Rep.

Motions:

To move the funding currently in the account labelled as "Home & School" (\$2605.86) to the School Council account. Passed.

To move the funding currently designated in the "Home & School" account as Outdoor Education (\$974) to a new Outdoor Education Account. Passed.

To cost share for a dishwasher for the kitchen up to \$1000. Passed