

Irwin Memorial Public School
School Council Meeting
Nov 22nd 2017 3:15 pm

In Attendance:

Jenn Clark-Principal, Emma Platts-Boyle-Chair, Tamara Wright-Secretary, Sarah Roberts-Co-Chair, Lynda Richards, Joanne McRae-Teacher, Christina Demarco, Shelley Sheldrake, Rebecca Simm, Shane Taylor, Jenn McCague, Rebecca Birnie and Kim Fairhall.

Approve Agenda:

Emma handed out the agenda for the 3rd Council meeting.

Minutes of Oct 11, 2017:

Emma motioned for approval of the minutes and Sarah seconded. As there were no changes/omissions from last month's meeting, they were accepted as is.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report was not presented as Nicole was absent.

Wish List:

Joanne McRae recapped projects: compost bins and rain barrels used for the school's vegetable garden; that previous "Green" grant funding has provided. Joanne re-applied for a new grant which has been approved. The project, that has started with the help of the community, parents, staff, and students, will be a large garden with perennial flowers, shrubs and fruit ie..strawberries. Joanne's vision is to have an outdoor learning space which includes a community gazebo. The current gazebo design meets LOB Township construction standards and site plan requirements. It would be a 12x12 octagon shape and would not require a building permit. However, TLDSB requires sign off from an engineer as the Board has "steeper" requirements than the Township with regards to railings and benches. Joanne will ask the community to donate plants, have classrooms start seedlings, and then plant them together. Some of the grant money would be used to purchase soil and seeds.

Emma asked Joanne for a supply list/cost to be considered. **ACTION:** Joanne and Sarah to determine and to explore the possibility of local businesses and man power involvement to lower the overall cost. The grant money for the outdoor space was to have a portion allocated for a fence as there is concern about deer eating the plants.

The timeline would be for the gazebo to be started in the spring based on receiving Board and Township approvals to ensure the structure is sound and safe, etc. **ACTION:** Jenn and Joanne to determine options for sign off.

Principal Report:

Staffing Update:

- Susan Stronach, responsive reading, music, and arts teacher, was in a car accident and is off with a concussion. Heather Cleary, has been filling in for her.
- Heather Wilkins is the new library clerk and comes with an environmental background. She will also fill in for Lynda Richards when needed.

Irwin's announcements are now live on YouTube (IRW media), or use website link.

The school held a Canada 150 Celebration which included lacrosse, storytelling, Canadian money, and poutine. The 1967 time capsule was planned to be opened during this event, however, due to concerns from a community member, Jenn decided to pause on this and set up a Historic Committee to determine how to archive and store historic documents.

Terry Howell and Mary Spring, former teachers, hosted a quilting clinic with some students from grade 6 and 7.

A climate survey has been sent out on social media from OurSchool.net.

The Ministry of Education is coming to Irwin to review and film how students transition from full day kindergarten program (now in year 8 of implementation) into grade one. Jenn feels that Irwin was chosen for a lot of reasons and mainly because Irwin is an innovator when it comes to the early years learning curriculum.

November 22nd was Education Assistant & Designated Early Education Assistant (EA/DECA) appreciation day

Basketball stats- Boys won three out of seven games. Girls won one out of seven games.

New programs- Girls Unplugged is a YWCA program for grade 5 girls to promote girl empowerment. The girls meet once a week with Marcia Hill.

The Roots of Empathy program has started in the grade two/three class. Ms V, who taught 4/5 last year, had her baby, Eliza, and Eliza is now the focus of this program.

Ms Maxwell has started a ukulele club with a possible appearance at the Christmas concert.

Student Parliament, which promotes leadership skills and empowerment for the students, is now running. Positions were determined after a mini election: Prime minister is Morgan, Deputy Prime minister is Raquel, secretary is Emma and Luke is Minister of Finance. Grades 4-8 will have a female and male rep who will provide input.

Spirit wear order forms were due Nov 23rd.

Parent/Teacher interviews were held on Nov 23rd.

Catherine West is leading the Battle of the Books event this year.

December 19th is the Christmas Concert at 6:30pm.

Hydration Station: Jenn has sourced the options of filtered and refrigerated water at a cost of approx. \$1500 with a centrally located installation fee of up to \$1000. The school would have to pay for annual filter replacement (approximately \$100 each time.) This will replace plastic bottles and provide equity to all students. The current water bottle machine is owned by Coke.

ACTION: Emma to look into possible grants to support this option.

The United Church Women made a generous donation to the school's breakfast program.

Jenn is considering purchasing a new sound system and finding a feasible way to store it.

Hot Lunch:

The hot turkey lunch was a success. 62 students purchased lunch and provided for an additional 12 students through donations. The lunch cost \$34.90 to make the fruit kebobs. 5 volunteers helped.

The next hot lunch will be Fri Dec 15th (later changed to Dec 13th). A spaghetti meal with gluten free noodles will be provided at first lunch break. Emma has approached Erika's to donate gingerbread cookies for the students who purchase the lunch.

Christmas Concert Cookie Fundraiser:

Homemade cookies will be on sale at the Christmas concert on the 19th of December at a cost of \$1 for a cookie and a beverage. This is a fundraiser for the school.

Winter Electives: Emma reported that these electives historically occurred on Fridays. Jenn outlined the pros and cons (including cost to some families) of having set activities vs free choice options for winter electives. **ACTION:** Jenn to bring this forward to the staff.

Family skate night:

A family skate night (6:00pm -7:30pm) is being considered as a free social event with free hot chocolate and a bake sale. Dates discussed included the Friday night of the Dwight Carnival.

ACTION: Emma to look into the Dwight Carnival and whether they would be interested in the School Council hosting this.

Fundraising:

Leanne Webster has some toys and books that she is donating for sale at the Christmas concert. Kim and Sarah will staff the table. The council may have a 50/50 event at the concert.

Parent Engagement Event:

Science North will come on April 23rd with a customized presentation. Costs are \$200 for customization and \$276 for mileage. The balance of our grant will be allocated for Science North to design take home books and materials. Science North would need 5 volunteers to help set up. BBQ food will be provided. A draw would also be held.

Additional community agencies may also be represented.

A sub-committee will be formed in the New Year to finalize planning and determine who should be involved.

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Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be Wed Jan 17th at 3:15pm