

Irwin Memorial Public School
School Council Meeting
Feb 15th 2018 3:15pm

In Attendance:

Jenn Clark-Principal, Lynda Richards, Emma Platts-Boyle-Chair, Sarah Roberts-Co-Chair, Tamara Wright-Secretary, Christina Demarco, Kim Fairhall, Leanne Sibeon.

Approve Agenda:

Emma handed out the agenda for the 5th Council meeting.

Minutes of Jan 17, 2018:

Emma motioned for approval of last month's minutes. There were no changes or omissions; they were accepted as is.

Principal's Report:

- There has been an increase in the EA allotment from Feb until June which has allowed the school to hire Ms. Kruithof to provide more assistance to students that may need it.
- School reports were sent home Friday Feb 16th. No interviews are given with these ones but parents are encouraged to contact teachers if they would like/feel it's necessary.
- Roots of Empathy program with the Grade 2/3 class is continuing with Ms.V and baby Eliza.
- Volley ball teams are doing very well and the Grade 6 class is included this year.
- The Grade 2/3 class is participating in the swim to survive program at the Summit Centre.
- Outdoor activities continue outside, ie. skating and cross country skiing.
- Feb 21st is Olympic Day at Irwin.
- Arrowhead Day for the Kinders to Grade 5 is booked for Feb 26th.
- FSL grant has been awarded to Irwin. Mme. Lovegrove (French Teacher) will run a program for the Grade 4 to Grade 7's. The school will have a chef come in June who will prepare a french recipe and the students will speak in french while doing this and immerse themselves in the whole experience of it.
- The Girls Unplugged Program with Marcia Hill is now done. Irwin is advocating for this to continue next year.
- The school is also interested in the Boys Quest program, however the cost is \$3000. The Girls Unplugged had been funded through the YWCA. It was discussed to possibly approach the Lions, Rotary Club, possible Corporate Sponsor or private donations to fund this program so it can be offered for the boys at Irwin.
- The Battle of the Books is running at Irwin, however there has not been as much as interest as in previous years.
- The featured artists of the month over at the Dwight Library are Irwin students.
- Wool Painting seminar with Pam Carnochan occurred in the lounge, there was great interest. The artwork is currently displayed in the showcase.
- Results of Climate Survey were discussed. Half of the families filled out the survey. It came back quite favorable. All numbers were out of 10--Parents felt welcome:8.4, Parents are informed:7.8, Parents support Learning at Home:6.8, School supports learning:8, School supports positive behavior:8, Safe School:8,5 and Inclusive school:8,5. In all but one category Irwin was above the National Average.
- The student part of the climate survey results were also discussed. Sense of belonging: 59 % of Grade 4 students had a sense of belonging, , 75% of Grade 5 students, 33% of Grade

6 students, 67% of Grade 7 and 80 % of Grade 8 students. Positive relationships with their peers: Grade 4 had 82%, Grade 5 had 94%, Grade 6 had 50%, Grade 7 had 92% and Grade 8 had 94%.

-19% of Grade 4 felt they had medium to high anxiety (as they understand anxiety), Grade 5 had 31%, Grade 6 had 17% Grade 7 had 33%, Grade 8 had 12%.

-38% of students reported they were victims of moderate to severe bullying--31% were girls and 42% were boys. The definition of bullying was discussed. Jenn has only had one true case of bullying at the school. Conflict between students vs bullying was discussed. Jenn reports that discussions are occurring in class that talk about conflict, bullying and what the definitions are so the students and staff are all on the same page. Jenn is working on sending information home for parents and families so they understand what has been discussed with the students.

Jenn has reached out to CMHA (Children's Mental Health Association) and they offer programming where they come into the school and support the students in regards to decision making, how to get support when you feel you have anxiety, and in other aspects. This is going to be aimed at Grades 6, 7 and 8 and will discuss common language and common understandings of such.

Updates from Emma:

-Family Skate Night at the Dwight Winter Carnival was a success. Lots of people turned out and it's definitely something that will be done again.

-\$337 was made at the Bake Sale and the raffle at the Dwight Carnival.

-The Jan 31st taco lunch was a success.

-Fruit kabobs that were offered on Feb 14th went over well too.

-Wed Feb 21 is Olympic Day at Irwin. The School Council is providing free meat and veggie chilli for all the students. Students are asked to bring a mug and a spoon for this day.

-A survey is in the works to be sent home for students and parents to get feedback from them on Council related items, ie. fundraising priorities, what fundraising ideas are popular as well as suggestions for the School Council, etc....

-Emma discussed in the future having an "Irwin" day that would allow the students to learn the history of our school and in turn teach each other about what they discovered.

Parent Engagement Night:

-Monday April 23rd is the confirmed date from 5pm-7pm. Science North will be present to engage students, families and staff with exciting demonstrations.

-Makerspace will be open in the library for students and families to engage in.

-There will be 2 organizations present (YMCA and AETC) that will be offering information in regards to alternate learning options in Muskoka.

-There will be also demonstrations/tutorials on Google drive and Overdrive.

-There will be a bbq available as well.

-To compliment the event, the School Council will be providing take home booklets to continue engaging students and families.

-If you are interested in volunteering for this night, please contact Sarah Roberts.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be Wed March 28th at 3:15pm.