

Irwin Memorial Public School
School Council Meeting
May 10, 2018 3:15 pm

In Attendance:

Jenn Clark-Principal, Andrea Gillespie-Board Superintendent, Emma Platts-Boyle-Chair, Sarah Roberts-Co-chair, Tamara Wright-Secretary, Nicole Bradley-Treasurer, Lynda Richards, Kim Fairhall, Christine Demarco, Rebecca Birnie, Jenn McCague, Rebecca Simm, Aaron Simm.

Approve Agenda:

Emma handed out the agenda for the 7th Council Meeting. There were no changes or omissions from the March 28th meeting.

Principal's Report:

- Jenn introduced Andrea Gillespie who is a Board Superintendent and she is appraising Jenn's Performance at the school.
- Jenn confirmed at this point there are 8 new kindergarten kids enrolled to start in September 2018.
- This year Irwin has 7 classrooms of students, starting in September this will decrease to 6.
- Susie Stronach will no longer be at Irwin, she will be taking a position at PineGlen.
- Students/Parents will be informed before the Labour Day weekend who the teachers will be at Irwin for the Fall start.
- Lynda Richards is retiring. Words cannot express our appreciation for all that she has done for all of us-students, staff and parents included.
- EQAO starts May 23 and ends on June 1st for Grades 3 & 6. It would be really appreciated if appointments for these students can be avoided if possible during this time.
- Irwin has been working on innovation and math wellness. Jenn reports that there were two wonderful ladies -Diane Reall and Stephanie Meineeke that flew in from Thunder Bay to learn with the school. Irwin has been involved in a project called Reimagining Grade 1. This looks at the transition from kindergarten into Grade one and what does this mean for reimagining school. These ladies were involved in deep thinking with Jenn and the early years staff in regards to all the above.
- Irwin has put in an application for a project called EDWIN. This is a digital learning platform that was piloted at Riverside this year. This puts tech in the hands of every student that is curriculum based. This allows students to access learning in different ways as needed and they are empowered to do so. This would be for the Grade 7 and Grade 8's. Jenn also liked the fact that this information could be accessed without internet connection which can be a concern in rural areas.
- Teachers have set learning intentions and written them out on the boards on their classroom doors. This is helping Jenn create a learning culture in the school and if any parent is interested to inquire to their student's teacher about these, they are encouraged to do so.
- Intermediate students went to a LIVE It Out presentation at Riverside that was very impactful about self empowerment. Some students went to a cardboard boat race and some students went to the math Olympics. There are 4 students going to "Tech it out" at Georgian College for 3 days. There are also some students going to a social justice leadership conference.
- Earth Week was a lot of fun and a success. The recycling fashion show and the clothing exchange were very well received.

- The garden that the school started in the fall is progressing along, plans are being finalized for the gazebo and some plants are being planted imminently.
- 60 people attended the Volunteer Appreciation Lunch. Jenn wanted to extend an extra thank you to Margot, Lynda, and Sharon for working so hard on the thank you cards the volunteers received.
- The lounge has had the Dwight Garden Center in as well as the Public Health Nurse to educate about Oral Health. The Huntsville Judo Club also visited the lounge. The lounge also obtained a “new” couch set to replace the old one.
- Jenn discussed the Irwin Memorial Personal Technology Expectations Information sheet. This sheet lists guidelines about personal technology on the school property, and in the school environment and is updated annually. This information sheet was formatted with input from Council, staff, and students. Part of the purpose of this sheet is to recognize and harness the capabilities of this tech for learning purposes but also educate on how this technology is to be used wisely, safely, and properly in today’s world. Jenn encourages and looks forward to any input that anyone can provide to contribute to this information sheet. Proactively, to encourage teaching in regards to this, the OPP provides some teaching, classroom discussions occur and Brittany from the Canadian Health Mental Association also provides education on this subject. Reactively, when guidelines are not followed, there will be a response from the school. Grades K-5 are encouraged to not bring personal technology to school.

Updates from the Chair:

- 58 responses came back from the survey that the Council sent out looking for feedback on a variety of questions. Overwhelmingly, the survey respondents supported the water hydration station. The school is in the process of working with Plant to get this installed.
- Parent Engagement Night- approximately 48 families attended, it was well received. Families liked the fact that it was hands on and dinner was provided.
- Due to expressed interest for baseball equipment and upgrading the basketballs at the school, Jenn will look into what she can do to replace some of the well used basketballs. Emma will look into costs of requested baseball equipment.
- Track and field day is Tuesday June 5th, rain date is June 7th. A hot lunch will be offered on that day. Pizza day will be Wed June the 6th.
- Fri June 1st, as well as Sat and Sunday of that weekend is the fundraising barbecue starting at 11am at Your Independent Grocers. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Emma.
- In the past, the School Council has sponsored the Most Improved Student award for a graduating student. There is a plaque which is retained at the school with the student’s name inscribed on it and the student receives a smaller plaque to keep. The award will be presented Mon June 25th at the graduation ceremonies at Port Cunningham Lodge.

MOTION: Rebecca motioned to go ahead and have Council sponsor the plaque. Christine seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED.**

Next Meeting :

The next meeting is Wed June 20th at 3:15pm. It will be a potluck.