

Moffat Creek P.S. School Council Meeting

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

In Attendance

Sue VanWyngaarden, Kelly Balsom, Sheri Green, Donna Allen-Rutherford, Sheetal Shenoy, Tracey Walker, Sabrina Gaudet, Amanda Kelly, Amanda Murray, Christine Roth, Jennifer Almas, Wendy Lillie

Regrets

Jocelyn Seeley-Baechler, Kristine Duench, Sonia Bryson, Georgeanne MacGregor-Fox, Lillo Ognibene, Vicky McKenna, Sarah Peterson, Jennifer Hacking, Lisa Christy, Andrea Harper

Welcome

Meeting brought to order at 6:35 pm.

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

Motion made and seconded.

Treasurer's Report

Jen Almas handed out a revised Proposed Budget for 2013-2014.

Jen made a request to give an additional \$100 to two of the split Gr.3 classes who used their full field trip budget on their trip to Crawford Lake. The teachers did not take into consideration the fact that the Gr. 2's were not benefiting from the allocated funds. Discussion was had on the need for teachers to allot their budget monies accordingly and a concern that if these class budgets were 'topped-up' that we would be setting a precedent for future classes to make the same request. Allan indicated that the available funds were clearly communicated to teachers and it is their responsibility to ensure they are used fairly. Tracey brought forward a motion that the request for an additional \$100 in field trip funds be denied. Motion was carried with 6 votes for and 4 against.

ACTION ITEM: Christine Roth was requested to reiterate to teachers that there is \$100 set aside for each class to use at their discretion for off-campus field trips.

The Primary Divisional spending from the 2012-1013 year exceeded the approved amount given by Council by \$51.00. Jen suggested that the excess funds of \$51.00 be divided between the primary teachers and be taken out of their allotted classroom budgets for this school year. Jen will ask the teachers their preference of either paying the expense out of pocket or reducing their current classroom budgets.

Sue proposed that a portion of the Compassion Fund be used to remember and give condolences on behalf of the parent community at Moffat Creek to the Mahamadoolly family on the passing of Umar. The suggestion was given that School Council fund an award to be given to a grade 7 student each year. Umar loved books and was an avid reader, and so it was agreed that a book be given as the award. Allan and Bobbie will present the idea to staff and get their feedback on the

name and wording of the award. Tracey made a motion that \$40-\$60 be set aside in the School Council Budget each year to purchase a book to be given as an award to a Gr. 7 student at Moffat Creek. Unanimously approved.

ACTION ITEM: Allan will speak to the family and staff. He will also ask Shirley to help find an appropriate book and provide a cost for the next meeting.

Bobbie indicated that the Board will also be purchasing and planting a tree with a plaque in honour of Umar.

We are still in need of names for the Pizza Compassion Fund.

ACTION ITEM: Christine will bring this request forward to teachers again.

Teacher's Report

Christine Roth reported the following:

- Intermediate girls and boys volleyball is underway with both of our teams ranking in the top 3. Volleyball intramurals have also started with the Junior classes.
- Junior teachers are currently involved in collaborative learning workshops with other teachers from the region in mathematics.
- Character development continues through the monthly school-wide assembly. This month is R=Respect.
- Representatives from the school and community attended a Safe, Caring & Inclusive Schools seminar on November 5th. The input given by the Gr.7&8 students that attended was valuable.
- There have been several field trips over the past month, and there are several coming for the Kindergarten, Primary & Junior divisions.
- Intermediate teachers are looking into doing a yearbook for the Gr. 7&8 students.

Sabrina asked about the year-end trip for the Intermediate students. Discussion was had about the importance of looking at a variety of different options, i.e. leadership retreats, the JUMP program, Ottawa trip. There is a lot of pressure put on families regarding this tradition, and the financial burden can be heavy. A request was made that the decisions made be sensitive to all families in this regard. Allan indicated that a plan for a trip this year has been put together with parent and student input and is currently at the board for approval/feedback.

Teacher Budget Requests

A request was received from Shaina Malcho to purchase books for her Gr.7 classroom. Jen made a motion to approve the request. Motion approved.

Bobbie clarified that items purchased with classroom resource budgets should be stamped with the Moffat Creek stamp and stay in the respective classrooms. She also suggested that a master list of items purchased as classroom resources be kept by School Council.

ACTION ITEM: Christine Roth will ask teachers to stamp purchased items with the Moffat Creek stamp, and remind them that these resources are to remain in the classrooms.

Jen Almas will put together a list of all of the purchased items for classrooms to date.

WRAPSC

Sheetal Shenoy, our WRAPSC representative, gave a summary of the last WRAPSC meeting. Discussion at the meeting was centred on the budget deficit and the proposed bell time changes. A survey has been developed in an effort to gain parent feedback regarding the proposed bell times, and parents are encouraged to go online and take the survey. Survey feedback can be given to November 14th.

Bobbie and Allan confirmed that there is no proposed change to the bell times at Moffat Creek at this time.

Sheetal also reported that information regarding EQAO testing was shared at the meeting. Details with respect to grading the tests and sample answers in all levels were given. Sheetal encouraged us to go online and see the sample EQAO questions and answers.

Playground Update

Sue indicated that a committee is being established that will include administration and staff along with our current committee members. There are site audits pending with Dennis Wendland in order to confirm the dedicated playground areas on the campus. The next step will be to begin design work and this will include providing forums for parents and students to give their feedback and get involved.

Movie Night Update

Kelly gave us a run-down of the October movie night. The evening was very well attended and the popcorn and candy kebabs were a big hit. Donations for the movie night were low and the committee is discussing location, signage and number of boxes for future movie nights.

The suggestion box for the intermediate students was well received. The students indicated a choice of 'Grown Ups 2' for the next movie night, however it is rated PG-13 and the movie ratings for sexual content and language are not appropriate. The committee will need to re-visit the movie choice and choose another – suggestion of Percy Jackson was made.

There is a need for more supervision in the Gr.7-8 movie. The music room was left in a mess and there were issues of students walking around in the halls, socializing while others tried to hear the movie and bringing outside food into the school. Sue suggested that clear expectations need to be given to the intermediate students prior to the next movie night, clearly stating that if we have a repeat of last month there will be no separate movie for them next time. Despicable Me 2 will be the movie for the K-6 students and families on the next movie night of January 23.

Christine shared that the www.kidsinmind.com website is a great tool to check out the movies.

Special Lunch Update

Sheri brought an update on behalf of the Special Lunch Committee.

October's sausage lunch was a big hit. Pizza sales continue to be popular, and cash sales on Wednesdays are doing well.

Monday, November 25th will be a Grilled Cheese lunch day. The committee is looking for volunteers!

In December, the Lunch Lady, will be catering a holiday turkey lunch for the students. Date is December 16th. The committee would like to purchase candy canes, or a small treat to hand out to each student on that day. Motion to approve purchasing of candy canes for students was made by Tracey and unanimously approved.

Holiday Gala Update

Sue gave an update with regards to the Holiday Fundraising Gala.

The Holiday Gift Store is set for the week of Dec.9-12. The store will be set up on the gym stage and wrapping will happen in the concourse outside the library. Donations for the store are being accepted and tables will be set up in the concourse along with signs tomorrow. Reminders will be sent home to families over the next few weeks.

Letters to staff about the Silent Auction of Themed Gift Baskets went out tonight. Teachers will make a decision on a theme with their classes, and then letters will be sent home to families asking for donations if they would like to participate. The Silent Auction will take place during the School Holiday Open House on December 18th during the last block of the day.

Parents Reaching Out Grant Update

Amanda reminded council of the ESQ Science Night that is coming up on November 21st! It is a FREE event for all ages. Parents do need to accompany their children to the event. All students that go will get a ballot to enter into a draw to win their class a free workshop.

ACTION ITEM: Christine will take care of having a class put together announcements for the mornings to help get the students excited about the event.

Safe, Caring & Inclusive Schools Initiative

Bobbie informed council that on November 5th she, with Allan MacKay, Christine Roth, Jocelyn Seeley-Baechler, Gwen Bowdring along with 2 students attended the Safe, Caring and Inclusive Schools workshop.

A focus will be put on obtaining and collecting data over the course of this school year, specifically by way of a survey to be completed with students, to be used in this important initiative.

Principal's Report

Allan has a meeting set for November 28th with the Region, City and Board to discuss the safety concerns at the front of the school. The meeting is set to take place during a drop off/pick up time so that the road and parking lot traffic concerns can be observed and addressed. In the near future, parents can expect to see signage stating that no car traffic is to enter the school parking lot during bus times. The area will be 'policed' for a time to this effect.

Allan stated that his immediate concern needs to be what is happening on the school property and the safety of the students there.

There were some items damaged on the gym ceiling while a rental group was in the building last week. Damage to the items has been addressed and the gym is operational again.

Staff and students were very saddened by the news of Umar's death early this week. Allan expressed his appreciation to the staff at Moffat Creek for their superb support and counselling of the students following the announcement as well as in their sincere support of the family. The trauma team that was in the school on Monday was also very helpful to staff and students. The flag is being flown at half- mast this week in honour of Umar and his family.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

NEXT MEETINGS

All Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the Library.

December 10, 2013

January 14, 2013

February 11, 2014

April 8, 2014

May 13, 2014

June 10, 2014

NOTE: No meeting in March due to Mid-Winter Break