

School Council
May 15, 2017

Attendees: Dale McIntosh; Rebecca Toth; Jennifer Canham; Michael Candelora, Myf Marshall, Violeta H, Dora Chiu Markus Lutz, Irem Lutz,

Staff: Ms. Stockton, Mr. Taylor, Ms. Gorham, Ms. Stockton, Mme Elena MONASTYREVA

Minutes of April 6, 2017 – moved by Rebecca, second by Michael. Passed

Agenda for May 15, 2017 – moved by Rebecca, seconded by Micahel.

Principal's Update

Grade 6 update:

The decision was made to defer the elimination of Grade 6 at GS for 2017-2018 as they examine the situation and obtain a better understanding of future enrollment.

It is hoped that the decision as to whether Grade 6 will remain long term will be made by December/January of the next school year.

29 current grade 5s have indicated they will remain at GS for Grade 6; with 9 electing AMG and 1 not responded. Once staffing has been decided a broader communication will go out to the school.

Questions sent to School Council:

Rainy Day recess – if heavy rain, they stay in their classroom. If over lunch, then when they finish lunch the children go to the empty half of the gym for JK-4, and 5/6 sometimes go to the library. Play games, draw etc (not watching movies).

How Phys Ed works and the curriculum?

It is on TDSB website (Health and Phys Ed Curriculum)

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/health.html> This year up to Grade 3 has Ms. Grassman teaching phys.ed. Grade 4 and up are taught by their home teacher. This is the model this year. Next year the model will be that home room teachers will cover the health element and the phys.ed teacher will cover gym and dance (or home room teacher for grades 4 and up)

Mr. Taylor and school Council would like to put together a committee to look at team and intermural sports overall.

Roots of Empathy Program – any interest? It was done here many years ago in a Grade 4/5 class. Mr Taylor thinks that with the Wellbeing Committee doing other initiatives it might not work for this coming school year but Mr. Taylor will follow up directly with the parent sending in the question.

Question asked about whether there was any mindfulness or mediation being taught or done in the classroom. The teachers indicated that if there are parents who have skills in this type of activity, they would love to connect. Please reach out to your child's teacher if you would be interested in volunteering.

As always we encourage the community to visit the website -- www.givinsshaw.com for all things Bulldog.

School Council Committee Updates

PRO Grant – PRO Grant, via the TDSB, provides funds for workshops for parents. Application has to be made by May 25 and is awarded in July. We considered several parent experts and would like to partner with the Parenting Network (<http://parentingnetwork.ca/>) as a provider, if the grant application is successful. A few workshops of particular interest – “Reducing Anxiety” and “Are Power Struggles Driving you Crazy?”. See attached overview. Many other schools have done these types of workshops. The workshops offered by the Parenting Network are cost effective and fit within the grant maximum award of \$1000. This would provide for two workshops, one in the fall and another in the spring. References for these programs were good. See parentingnetwork.ca/talks.php

Moved to proceed with applying the grant - Jennifer C, seconded Myf M). Approved.

Ms Stockton asked whether there were any programs for parents on how to make a healthy inexpensive lunch for their children.

CARE City of Toronto kids staying home alone program. Jennifer Canham will send along the contact information. This type of program could be of interest to provide at the school next year for parents and kids.

Retiring Teachers – what is the school doing?

2/3 teachers who have decided to retire have been identified (Mr. Franklin and Ms. Mac). The 3rd will be announced in the near future. The teachers are figuring out what the retirees would like as a celebration and thank you and will follow up.

Teacher Appreciation Breakfast/Snacks/Lunch –

Mr. Taylor will get back to us on what the teachers would like and when.

Treasurer's Update (recent requests granted)

Approved the dance program, the Canada 150 program Youth Wellness Network program and a few scientists in the classroom. \$30,000 current balance and of that, \$5500 is sponsorship money for the Fun Fair. In good standing for remainder of the year.

Only one official receipt/invoice has been sent in.

Ms. Stockton would like to have Knights in the Classroom. Working with another class to do it for both. Ask is \$500. Funds are available.

Nutrition Committee

Sales for the cookbook seems to have done well. They are still working on having two cooking classes in June and are in talks with Ms. Halton to sort out the details.

Upcoming Events

Fun Fair – MAY 27th

Flyer to go home with details and information on how to volunteer:

<http://signup.com/go/sLeenfY>

Email from Mr. Taylor asking all families to participate (either donate a salad, baked goods, set up, take down, man a station etc – EVERYONE NEEDS TO PARTICIPATE TO MAKE IT A SUCCESS)

MAY 18th - Parent Social on Thursday at Cadillac Lounge.

Tickets are cheaper if you buy in advance than at the door.

JUNE 20th – Art Show 3:30-6:30 Open House. Can drop in to see the art the kids have done for Canada 150.

Meeting Adjourned