**Ecole Publique John Fisher**

**School Council Meeting Minutes**

**November 24th, 2015**

**In attendance:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Christina Thomas | Erika Boone | Meredith Weir |
| Leslie Uy | Jasmine Bourret | Liane Downs |
| Candace Holtzman | Sogol Zamanian | Peter Hiddema |
| Maryam Meffe | Jennifer Boudreau | Cindy Fraiser |
| Anne Carty | Sandra Kwon |  |
|  |  |  |

**Principal:** Marlene Harroun

**Vice Principal:** Lee-Anne Maier

**Teachers:** None

**1. Welcome**

Anne Carty called the meeting to order at 6:50pm.

**2. Minutes from the October 20 meeting.**

Motion: For approval of the Minutes from the Oct. 20, 2015 meeting.

Moved by: Maryam Meffe

Seconded by: Anne Carty

Motion approved.

**3. Principal and Vice Principal’s Remarks (Harroun & Maier)**

Marlene Harroun began by thanking the parents for their ongoing support; things have been going well, with lots of positive comments and the concerns that parents are willing to share with Marlene and Lee-Anne.

Room 4 is preparing for Mme. Oxford’s return on Dec. 7; M. Eishelman’s (sp?) last day will be on Dec. 4. Meredith Weir commended M. Eishelman’s work during his time at John Fisher; Marlene was pleased with his participation in the Remembrance Day assembly.

Room 6 (our FDK half-size class) has been taken over by Mme. McEachran, as Mme. Sementelli is on medical leave. M. Chin’s class has a new special needs assistant in his grade 1 class, who has worked in the school before.

Job action has been settled provincially, but some details at the local level will likely be settled in January. But things are back on track! The staff had their first staff meeting in over 6 months, and a real sense of cohesion and community could be felt. Some professional development has occurred, with more planned for the new year. There are just a couple of individual education plans (IEP) outstanding, the deadline is Dec. 4. Progress reports will be distributed on Dec. 10, but will reflect student progress for the period from September to October 29 only. Students will have likely improved over the weeks in November, but this will not be included in the progress reports. There will not be any parent-teacher interviews at this time. As for SK students, progress reports will not be provided; the administration is waiting to hear back from the board about whether parents can expect some kind of report before June. Marlene and Lee-Anne will share any information, once they are notified.

Lee-Anne has created an FAQ’s section on the John Fisher website to address any parent concerns about the construction on our property. This construction was initiated after regular maintenance visits discovered that some areas needed work. The demolition phase is nearing completion, with reinforcing and replacements occurring next. The workers have been respectful, cooperative and professional throughout the project.

Tomorrow evening, there will be a meeting with police officer Matt, our administration, the John Fisher community about the constant traffic issues near our school. Marlene and Lee-Anne have noticed “repeat offenders” who regularly make 3-point turns in front of the school, drive/park on the sidewalk, and stop illegally. There has been some inquiry about having a crossing guard (requests to Jaye Robinson). Parents expressed frustration with the development on Keewatin, their regular blocking of the sidewalk, construction vehicles during peak drop-off/pick-up times, and vehicles occupying the pick-up zone for extended periods of time. Candace Holtzman recently contacted the developer and shared these concerns; the developer plans to discuss these issues in a meeting in the near future.

Many students were excited for the Wizard of Oz dress rehearsal today; it was wonderful to have 50+ students participating, an increase from the spring program. Volleyball and basketball teams continue to compete, as well as the start of hockey. The Sapin-guin is beginning to collect ornament donations from students who have brought in decorations. Marlene and Lee-Anne enjoyed seeing the les autochtones projects by the grade 5’s, and the artistic science displays from the grade 6’s. Spirit wear is still on sale; an updated penguin design is planned for next year.

**4. Presentation of the Proposed Budget (Meffe)**

Five parents attended the finance committee meeting to determine the budget. Total budget requests were $19K over the funds available this year ($82K), so cuts were required. Anne encouraged parents to consider being involved in the budgeting process next year. The committee’s goal is to make decisions based on what is best for the whole John Fisher community, and not satisfy the specific agendas of individual children or groups.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Committee/Activity | 2015-2016 proposed budget ($)  **Comments regarding budget decisions:**  - $5/child for the author visit was collected because the budget was not prepared at the time  - the music department will not be getting their second set of risers (for the stage)  - the Scientists in Schools budget was matched to last year’s amount  - request for the fridge cost was not approved, since it doesn’t serve all students (just those doing RFRK)  - finance committee was very supportive of the technology initiatives, and chose to fund 80% of the cost  - we hope to get one water-filling station, and maybe another in the future  Motion: to approve the school budget  Moved by: Peter Hiddema  Seconded by: Meredith Weir  Motion approved. |
| Agendas | 1500 |
| Athletics | 3215 |
| Carnival | 1800 |
| Cultural Enrichment | 4300 |
| Fridge (RFRK) | 0 |
| Finance Committee/website | 1417 |
| Graduation committee | 3400 |
| Graduation committee (school) | 500 |
| Green committee | 1958 |
| Green committee (school) | 0 |
| Music (Band & Strings) | 5102 |
| Music program (accompanist & Orff) | 5171 |
| Mental Health Initiative | 2000 |
| Safety | 300 |
| School Sound System | 0 |
| Scientists in School | 6000 |
| School Spirit | 500 |
| School trip subsidies | 2500 |
| STEM initiative | 0 |
| Teachers’ Discretionary Fund | 7000 |
| Technology team | 500 |
| Technology | 30530.32 |
| Television – school communication | 0 |
| Water Filling Stations | 3500 |
| Welcome & Recognition | 1250 |
|  |  |
| **TOTAL: $ 82 443.32** | |

A detailed spreadsheet of the budget can be found on the John Fisher website:

<http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/johnfisher/SchoolCouncilParents.aspx>

**6. Other business**

Anne wanted to extend her gratitude to several parents who have recently contributed a lot of effort:

* + Jen Hinder, Meredith and Vernita, for initiating, organizing and running the parent council pizza lunches; they are bringing in a lot of funds with their hard work!
  + Rachel for bringing in Real Food for Real Kids to John Fisher, and the administration for facilitating this program; there are about 70+ students participating and Marlene concurs that RFRK have been great to work with, even being kind enough to accommodate the requests of some fussy eaters
  + Marlene and Lee-Anne for keeping John Fisher running smoothly, with minimal disruption during the teachers’ job action
  + Lee-Anne for the informative and fun tweets on John Fisher’s twitter; Anne encourages families to follow the account!

The Fete committee still has no chair (last year’s was Jaquie Siklos); Meredith is prepared to be the treasurer again, and assures any one considering the chair position that there is a small army of parents who will participate in planning the event. The committee needs a chair to pull it all together and coordinate the activity. There is some talk about simplifying the silent auction, eliminating the small, wrapped tangible goods, and continuing with the items that tend to attract several bids (teacher experiences, summer camps, local restaurants). Last year’s Fete netted about $30000.

Lorraine and Anne will co-chair the June fair.

John Fisher is currently fourth on the list to have artificial turf installed on our field, which means it is likely to occur summer 2016, but there has been no notice or information provided by the board. Many parents have learned that the board will have the turf installed, but does not do anything outside of the four edges (landscaping, etc); neighbouring schools have typically fundraised for the remaining areas surrounding the turf. Anne suspects that there will be a community meeting once plans for John Fisher’s turf are underway.

A parent suggested that it would be good to have John Fisher parent(s) attend Geri Gershon’s (our TDSB trustee) community coffee meetings, to represent our school. It may be a good idea to post the dates in the Squawk (the next one is on Feb. 8).

For more information on Geri’s meetings, visit:

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ward13/Ward13/WardForumMeetingInformation.aspx>

**Motion to close the meeting:** meeting adjourned at 6:45pm

Moved by: Sandra Kwon

Seconded by: Candace Holtzman

Motion approved.

Minutes prepared by Sandra Kwon