

# Secord Parent Council Meeting Minutes



## **Minutes from the meeting on November 7, 2018**

### Attendance:

Phil Pothen, Kelly Holden, Simone, Erin Bradford, Shannon, Phil Pothen, Kelly Holden, Rob Wallis, Kathleen Garrett, Sonya, Laura, Allison, Fabiola, Hong-Sa, Valerie, Galen, Shelly, Michelle Bennett, teacher, George Vlahos, principal, Nigel, vice-principal, Ian, Community support worker

This meeting was a workshop to prepare for the school's Festival of Lights event, which will take place on December 13, 2018.

We discussed a range of holidays in winter than have a focus on lights: Diwali, Hanukkah, Winter solstice/yule (including an indigenous perspective), Christmas (cultural/religious), Kwanzaa, Bonfire night, Tib's Eve (PEI), Chinese New Year, New Year's around the world.

We discussed how each holiday looks different for each person and that the event should be as expansive and inclusive as possible.

We discussed involving the kids in the classrooms – the parent council will be putting the event together with the teachers.

We talked about various format ideas: storytelling circle, carols, etc.

We broke into small groups and brainstormed further about what we'd all like to see at the festival.

Following group sharing of our brainstorming sessions, some responsibilities were assigned. Erin Bradford, parent council member and lead on this event, took notes of all responsibilities.

### **Principal's update**

The principal, George Vlahos provided an update on Secord's co-ed football championship win. It was the first championship for the school and we were the only co-

ed team. The school is looking for opportunities to keep sharing and extending this story.

The school has collected names for a new mascot. The administration will be going through them and facilitating a consultation. Then a logo will be developed.

The principal and staff recently invested \$8,000 in new library books and furniture, with a big focus on equity and indigenous. This is part of rejuvenating the library – by introducing more books kids can relate to. Last year, a \$6,000 investment was made. For furniture, new chairs, tables and a soft cushiony space are coming.

George stressed the importance of the privacy of student photos, following an unfortunate incident in Toronto where a public school class photo was used inappropriately.