**Meeting Minutes – Fairmount Parent Council Meeting – Oct 5, 2016, 7 pm.**

**Attendees:**

Jodie Blazo

Myrrah Brady

Jennifer Franco

Ann Inkpen

Lora Judge (school social worker)

Kate Kennedy

Barb Ledermann

Colin Lewis

Janice Lewis (principal)

Rosie Lewis

Shawn Lalonde (vice-principal)

Susannah Musselman

Lee O’Neill

Caroyn Penheiro

Karin Petrou

Stephanie Reid

Lorna Robertson

Sandra Rosekat (teacher)

Kris Sulep

Jessica Summerfield-Boddis

Jessy Tellis

Michele Walsh-MacDonald

**Agenda Items**

1. **Welcome and call to order**
2. **Approval of minutes from September 2016 meeting**:

Motion to approve: Colin Lewis

Seconded by: Lorna Robertson

1. **Report from Fairmount Social Worker, Lora Judge**

Lora introduced herself and indicated that she will be working with Fairmount students one afternoon each week until December 31, 2016. She is planning to hold anti-bullying workshops for the junior grades. The priority will be to engage students in changing the culture by involving them in plan on how to decrease bullying. All are responsible for participating and encouraged to not be bystanders but rather “care-standers”. If kids come up with the ideas it will be more empowering and thus a more successful program.

Some of the key themes over the next few months will be:

**Empowerment** (rolling out the peer counselor concept, getting buy-in from students).

**Assertiveness/early intervention** (to prevent long term damage)

**Cultivating kidness and empathy**

**Cyberbullying** (aimed mostly at the grade 7 & 8s in preparation for highschool)

**How to make and keep friend/resiliency.**

Lora is open to parent/teacher suggestions in order to properly tailor the program to the school.

1. **Principal’s Report**

Janice provided an update of the recent reorganization of classes recognizing that it was difficult for students and parents. The goal was to achieve results with a minimal amount of disruption by adding a 3/4 and a 1/2 split. Janice also shared the news that Mr. Ricci is back at Fairmount.

We also have long term occasional support equal to 1/3 of a FTE teacher who provides extra support in terms of prep time and extra programming in the classrooms with a high number of students as well as a 1/2 of a Special Needs Assistant who will be at the school every day for a half day.

Arts Stream – Personal Development Opportunities – the Learning Network is offering courses for Junior level teachers.

Tech support – So far 7 laptops and 3 iPads (one per division) have been purchased.

Since there have been many parents concerned with the atmosphere at the school, the Trinity Program (peer mentoring) will be offered again this year. Mr. Lalonde is also introducing a peer mentoring program by partnering some of the older students with the younger ones.

Progressive Discipline Committee update – there is a plan to have the processes identified by November.

Lunch Program – New! 3 lunchtime supervisors will be assigned to the three divisions. ECEs will supervise all the kindies at lunch. The grade 7/8s will also be supervised and the juniors will have 2 supervisors as well as the teachers. The primaries will have Janice and the teachers. This works out to almost one adult for every class.

Kids are being asked to “promote excellence” at lunchtime.

Bullying – There is a lot of meanness/namecalling as well as some physical violence. Janice indicated that the school does not have a zero tolerance policy. Suspension does not correct the behavior so we are moving towards using progressive discipline. Suspension should always be the last resort. Lora will be focusing on helping kids by changing the culture and behavious.

A parent asked Janice about the bell ringing each period and Janice indicated that the timing of the bell is off and will be fixed. The bell should only ring at 8:42 am, before and after morning and afternoon recess, before and after lunch and at dismissal time.

Another question that was asked was regarding students in the portables needing to access the washrooms inside the school and stating that it was a safety and a health concern, to which Janice replied that (6) keys have been ordered to ensure that these concerns are addressed.

1. **POR report**

Sandra Rosekat elaborated further on progressive discipline initiative and stated that discussions are taking place with all of the teachers to ensure that everyone is on the same page and consistent before escalating to Shawn and Janice taking into account the needs of the student.

Sandra also indicated that the school is in the process of establishing a School Safe and Caring Committee with parent and community representation ensuring that this is a safe and inclusive place. Stephanie Reid will be a parent representative on this committee.

1. **Treasury Report**

Myrrha Brady indicated that $3,654 was spent on the Fall Fair, the Artist in the school and teacher requests. There is $18,202 left in the account.

We broke even for the back to school BBQ event which was successful despite the inclement weather. $1400 was made at the event. Unsold food/drinks will be sold at the Fall Fair. Ann Inkpen suggested we look into other leads for the BBQ next year rather than continuing to use Jetsuns.

1. **Budget Proposal**

Myrrha Brady and Lee O’ Neill went though the budget items and indicated that as a whole most of the incoming funds were underestimated for this year in order to leave some wiggle room to allocate funds to upcoming activities such as a Grade 8 class trip.

There was a proposal to take the amount allocated to Scientists in the School out of the budget and reallocate those funds for later consideration or for math focused programs such as the Prodigy or Rubic’s Cube programs. Last year ½ of the teachers in the school did not use this service.

Silver Birch was well received as were the RAZ books for the kindies.

Unfortunately the application to receive a Best Buy Grant was not approved, so it was proposed that we hold $7,000 for the potential purchase of Chrome Books and possibly a 3-D printer for the school. The plan is to top up the tech budget once it is known how much money is raised by the fall fair and Fresh from the Farm sales.

The new budget total is $31,050

Move to Approve : Jennifer Franco

Seconded by: Susannah Musselman

1. **Fall Fair**

Before providing an update of the Fall Fair, Jessy Tellis commented regarding the state Room #7 having had a floor and requiring new carpet and whiteboard. It was suggested that each year we designate a particular item to be bought with Fall Fair revenue as this would provide a concrete goal that we could share with community partners who provide sponsorship for this event.

$1,600 was made in wristband sales on BBQ/Curriculum night. There will be another pre-sale on October 13th before and after school near the entrance. Signage is already getting put up to promote the event. Parent volunteers are needed and flyers are being sent to the area high schools to encourage students to volunteer.

Gently used Halloween costumes and books and baked goods can be donated. We also need items for the haunted house, bats, etc…(note that if you would like the items returned to you, you are asked to mark it with your name).

We are also in need of more corporate sponsors. Class baskets will be announced tomorrow and items are due by October 20th.

1. **Farm to School**

Barb Ledermann spoke about the soft launch of this initiative at Fairmount which promoting locally grown fruits and vegetables. Orders are due by October 13th and the locally grown produce will arrive in November with one week’s notice. Volunteers are needed to help pack the product and cheques can be made to Fairmount School Council.

A suggestion was made to send these forms out in September next year to give parents more time.

1. **Other Business**

The topic of Fairmount Gear came up and Lee O’Neill indicated that the plan is to sell the grad hoodies, but otherwise just selling off existing inventory. A suggestion was made to have a table set up at the Fall Fair.

Bag 2 School pick up will take place on Monday Nov. 21st.

1. **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn: Kate Kennedy

Seconded by: Lorna Robertson