

Meeting Minutes, Monday January 16th at 7pm

Laura Witkowski welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

Approval of the December Minutes - Laura

Laura requested someone approve the December minutes from the last council meeting. Sandra Rayner made the motion to approve and Kristi Murl seconded the motion.

Skating party - Anne / Sandra

Sandra - is now shadowing Anne who has been putting this party together the last couple of years for next years event. There will be hot chocolate, organic tea and coffee - Starbucks. We decided no cupcakes this year - generated a lot of garbage. Just bring your skates, helmets and a mug for your hot beverage. Volunteers are still needed to help patrol the ice. Jill and Steve will supply the music.

Laura - Thanked Sandra and Anne for getting the permit and sponsorship

Parent comment - last year we just handed out vests to Dad's already on the ice to help patrol.

Question: Is there anything we can do on our end to ensure everyone has helmets?

Answer: we will start to add it into all the communication and post on the website

Question: I've had kids that are not skaters who want to know if they can come or if they'll be ok

Answer: of course! There are two rinks so we'll put the more experienced skaters on the shinny rink.

Budget Update - Ryan / Laura

- Previously we had budgeted \$100k on spending for the year based on the revenue stream but now we are looking at more like \$94k. The finance committee and executives have gone through several conversations to keep the budget on track
- We are suggesting reducing the budget on Technology (\$17k to \$12k), Scientist in the School (from twice to once a year) and Sports (return back to \$2k from \$4k)
- We are expecting a surplus of \$11k now. If that changes any reductions can be reinstated if desired.
- In the past there has always been money left from the year before and the concern from the finance committee is next year everything will change with the cohort graduation. Currently the cushion is at 10% and this is debatable.

Question:

Is there anyway we can keep Scientist in the School?

Answer:

Kindergarten sessions were already booked in the fall but could be canceled at no cost. Teachers could still hold it and use their student allocation towards it. Its \$200 / session and that's within their allotment. Last year we overspent.

Parent: (Becky)

Introduced herself as a Biologist at U of T and wonder if there is something she could do to help? Maybe bring in some grad students on a volunteer basis to work with some of the classes. In her child's class she gave a presentation about her research, brought in field equipment and went through a typical day.

Mr Nigro: Could we rope it into existing programming?

Becky - of course. I could also reach out to some of the other departments.

Ryan - what you're describing fits into generally whats covered. We could get you the feedback of what has happened in the past with the Scientist in the School. Right now we don't have a replacement so if you can do anything to supplement that would be warmly welcomed.

Mr Nigro - I will email teachers and see what they were hoping to cover in the Scientist in the School and send it to you (Becky) and you could see if there is something you could work out.

Ryan - to clarify the Scientist in the School from two to one is just for this year. Next year we could reinstate the two sessions again.

Laura - Two things not on the budget.

1. Nathalie and I are going to do a sub lunches pilot project from Feb to June for the grade 1-6's. Not sure how widely it will be received but we're going to try it.
2. Dance-a-thon. This would help cover the cost of the Aussie X initiative with Mr Nigro. There is a push to do Dance-a-thon in February so maybe if we can cover Aussie X and have money left over could we use it for Scientist in the School?

Mr Nigro - I will look at the school budget with Frida tomorrow but I'm confident the school can cover the cost of the second session of the Scientist in the School.

Parent comment: The buffer is a wise choice because there are so many variables for next year.

Ryan - I'd like to make two motions then. Motion number one to hold money not spent on tech (\$5k) and Sports (\$2k)

Motion number two any funds we raise in excess at the dance-a-thon would go to Scientist in the School.

Motion to approve Sandra Rayner and seconded by Jen Dobson. All in favor? Passed.

Dance-a-thon – Christine (Laura)

- Currently looking at dates for Feb or March - last year was done in April
- Christine Rigby and her group are leading this initiative again.
- Professor Jamz will be coming in again. It'll be in the gym by grade.

Principal and Vice-Principal's Reports - Mr Nigro and Ms Vala

Please visit the Principals Report at mauricecody.ca for more detailed information and initiatives not presently listed here. The following is just a sample of some of the highlights:

- Winter Sports have started – hockey won first game, season ongoing to March break
- Ms Appel has started Benchball Intramurals for the grade 1-4's
- Junior and Boys choir will perform at Kiwanis this year.
- Ms Snow wants to do two concerts late winter, early spring. Once dates are determined, we'll let everyone know.
- Feb 2nd meeting at Hodgson for the four feeder schools for grade 5/6 parents and family

Other Business – Laura

Considering all the changes for next year, we thought it would be a good idea to put out a survey out in April of this year before we draft budget for May.

A suggestion was made on the survey to ask what grade your child is in.

Lice checks – since professionals have come in, there was one lice check last year where not one student had nits. It's all learning for us moving forward but Nathalie and team of volunteers are definitely appreciated.

Looking for volunteers - This is Raj's last year organizing the Spring Fair so we are looking for someone to step up and shadow this year's preparations to make the transition for next year a lot smoother.

We are also looking to replace Laura and Ryan on our FSA next year as regulations state an individual can only hold those positions for a maximum of two years.

I think we need to encourage those parents out there who want to get involved to take the step of getting involved. We'd like to have someone in place this year to shadow for next year. If anyone is interested please send them our way.

Valentine's Day - Mr Nigro

Discussions have been happening with the kids of what they can bring in besides food items.

- Effective January 2017, students are not to bring food items into class for celebrations.
- Teacher can have a celebration or a party it just has to be non-food.
- Teachers were in favor of this.

Adjournment - Laura

Motion to adjourn Jen Dobson and seconded by Kristi Murl

Our next FSA Meeting will be on Feb 7th at 9am in the Staff Room.