

Meeting Minutes, Tuesday March 7th at 7pm

Laura Witkowski welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. A special welcome to Principal Ian Wilson and Vice Principal Lori Campbell from Hodgson who came to speak tonight.

Approval of February Minutes - Laura

Laura requested someone approve the February minutes from the last council meeting. Jill Furnival made the motion to approve and Gaya Sivam Sathiyamoorthy seconded the motion.

Hodgson Transition – Principal Ian Wilson and Vice Principal Lori Campbell

Ian Wilson welcomed everyone for coming and explained they are going to the four feeder schools Council Meetings to possibly reach families they may not have met yet and make themselves available for any questions parents may have.

- Hodgson has been approved for a 12 room addition
- Parent/Student info night on Feb 2nd had really positive feedback
- Started a Mentor Program to have former students come back and sit with the grade five and six classes, answer any questions.
- Wilson and Campbell plan to visit each of the 5 / 6 classes
- Spring will have a meet and greet at Hodgson's. Grade 7's will do tours and make everyone feel comfortable for the fall.
- Staff at Hodgson is excited to have students in music or physical education for three years instead of two.

Open for Questions:

Q: I've heard there is an issue with the size of the lunchroom being very small. How will you accommodate another grade?

A: Currently there are 344 students at Hodgson and about 1/3 of them stay for lunch, 1/3 go home and 1/3 go out to sit on benches or in the neighborhood. We are in the process of purchasing some more tables but we have more than enough room. Lunch attendance is based on parental permission at the beginning of the year. We anticipate most of the grade 6's will stay for lunch and attendance is strictly enforced during the lunch hour. (Follow up on max student in the lunchroom)

Q: When is the construction going to start?

A: The target they have given us is based on all the things from the ministry falling into place. It is to start Spring 2018 and finish by 2020. There are six portables coming in the summer and we are renovating a classroom into a kitchen which will be really great.

Q: Will the entrance off Harwood stay open?

A: Yes! In fact parents are encouraged to drop kids off at the back entry on Harwood. It is a lot safer than Davisville. We are looking into trying to get a proper pedestrian crosswalk at the front of the building but in the meantime we ask students are dropped off at intersections so they can cross properly or at the back of the school.

Q: How do you know where to place the kids? Which class, which teacher etc.

A: We sit down with the teachers and go through each child and select who we think would be best for your child. We rely on the current school to help a lot with this information. If there is something you'd like us to know, please send an email, give us a call or come visit us. We ask though that you please don't request a certain teacher.

Q: Can we make a request to have your child with a friend?

A: Yes absolutely. If you sign up for our newsletter it'll tell you when to send in your requests in.

Q: Do the kids have to leave the school right after school?

A: That's a safety piece. Our yard duty ends at 3:20pm so it's a huge liability for us. So we ask them to leave and come back after 6pm. A lot of the kids are involved in after school activities though. Out of

340 students in our building there are about 100 still after school working on projects, music, drama, you just have to sign up for it. Friday we have open gym for example and two teachers stay in the gym until 4:30/5pm so kids can stay and play. There is always something going on.

Q: Will the grade 6s get to try out for sports teams?

A: Yes! Based on interest. The rules are we can have any number of teams depending on interest. All depends on tryouts. If it's all grade 6's who want to try out for a grade 8 team, that's allowed to. 84 girls tried out for the volleyball team, we took two teams so a division 1 and a division 2 instead of turning them all away. Did the same thing with basketball etc. Grade 7 and 8 like to run with lunchtime programs and house leagues. We started an athletic association so we can maximize participation.

Q: What are the numbers for next year?

A: Projected enrollment is 564 from 344 but it changes from year to year.

Q: Do you have Guidance Counsellors to accommodate the grade 6's? How do the kids know who to go to if they are having problems?

A: Our allocation won't necessarily change because it's based on grade 7/8 numbers. The grade 6's get the benefit from our guidance counsellors running programs though. We also do some counselling in the office and try to help as much as possible. We are really the first point of contact and are very welcoming.

Kudos:

Mr Nigro complemented Wilson and Campbell on how great Hodgson is and how our Cody kids are in good hands over there.

Parent commented son is graduating from grade 6 and I came to the info night (on Feb 2) and was so excited. Hats off to the teachers, the kids are getting ready and learning how to act at a middle school. This whole transition is going to be great.

In conclusion Wilson and Campbell welcome your email, phone calls, drop ins to discuss anything personal about your child you'd like them to know anytime!

Dance-a-thon - Christine

- The dance-a-thon raised \$12500 for our school
- Great fundraiser, kids had fun and was an easy fundraiser to do
- Mr Nigro is going to get a pie in the face!

Mr Nigro commented how great the kids enjoyed it and the team building aspect was fantastic.

Only issue was a lot of people don't know what XMovement is that the money was being raised for.

Laura: Thanked Christine and her crew on another amazing Dance-a-Thon for the second year in a row.

Budget - Ryan

- We have \$6k left over from Dance-a-Thon
- We are on track to raise \$106k from fundraising this year
- Student allocation money is due, please remind teachers we need to get those receipts by end of March
- **We are in need of a Treasurer and Chair for next year. We'd like to get someone committed now who can shadow the current team.**

On a personal note, thanked Christine for doing such a wonderful thing at our school with the extra money raised at the Dance-a-Thon

Social Network Safety – Paul Davis Presentation – Nathalie

Talking to fellow grade 5 families a lot families are concerned about social media. Paul Davis is someone who comes in and talks to the kids about Social Networking Safety and they actually listen!

- He has one spot left for 2017 which is June 21st.
- He would talk to the grade 4,5 and 6's for 60 minutes

- Comes back that evening for a 90 minute parent presentation for grade jk to 6
- He does a lot of work with the police force.
- Teaches kids about the dangers of social media, if and when you use the internet.
- He is \$800 plus hst

Motion was made by Christine Rigby that \$800 plus hst would go towards having Paul Davis come and speak at Cody. This motion was seconded by Elisabeth Bossick. All in favor? Passed.

Spring Fair – Laura and Raj

- Saturday May 27 9:30 to 3:30 all the favorites, all the fun.
- Our theme is celebrate Cody, celebrate Canada.
- Always looking for help day of and new people to help out
- Same as last year with wrist bands, maybe Cody water bottles at the water truck
- Raj and Jill will not be on the team next year so looking for new people to help out

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

Please visit the Principal's 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:

- Our grade 3 and 4 Girls Empowerment group has 57 kids signed up so far. They have some great tools at their disposal with this new initiative.
- Ms Appel – kudos to you and the MCAA organization. Your group of kids really helps bring different groups together in the school.
- Kudos to Ms Snow and the upcoming Primary Concerts!

Other Business - Laura

Adjournment - Laura

Motion to adjourn Ryan Hurley and seconded by Elisabeth Bossick

Our next FSA Meeting will be on April 6th at 9am in the Staff Room.