

## Huntley Centennial Parents Council

Wed. 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2014

### **Attendance:**

Dan Oliver Jo-Anne Graham Debbie Millar Jay Blauer Colleen Irvin

Jennifer James Stacy Tzavelas Sue Grant Karen Parker-Zander Beth Rohr

Amy Durant Mark Tymowski Tavis Findlay Donna Christie Donna Coutts Sarah Smith

### **Meeting called to order 7:33pm**

**Agenda Approved:** Sarah & Mark

**February Minutes Approved:** Sue & Amy

### **O/A Items:**

- Jo-Anne has contacted Jim McKaig this week about the microscopes. Waiting to hear back.
- E-Waste Fundraiser : Mark is waiting to hear back from Waste management before he can confirm the date. Hoping for April 26<sup>th</sup> to tie in with the Gr8 Bottle Drive.
- Mabels Labels : link to fundraiser is available on the website. Colleen to add a note in the April newsletter.
- Parking in bus lane : OSTA rep visited 2 weeks ago to perform a random check. They were pleased with how efficiently the bussing was working. Well done Christine Heath for doing such a great job! They will be returning to offer suggestions and comments. Jay will contact them about moving the bus lane sign further up the hill to make more room for parent cars at drop-off/pick up time. Also, the option of making the rear exit 4 season. This may require some partnership with the City.
- Wednesday lunch program : considering changing suppliers for the salads. The salads from Browns are smaller this year, but still the same price. Karen will follow up with Sobeys.

### **Treasurers Report : Amy**

Projected balance is \$11713. Mazola cheques have been received (paid 3 monthly). Still waiting for revenues from QSP fundraiser. Receipts have been received for all science equipment that was ordered.

Mucho Burrito trial raised only \$30. Council makes 40c profit per burrito. Planning second session as lots of positive feedback from those people who ordered. If there are not sufficient orders, then this will not be continued for September.

### **Vice Principals Report : Jay Blauer**

Tell It For Me Survey : Gr4-8. Paperwork will be going home to parents this week. Parents can choose to opt out. Survey will be completely anonymous and done online during school time. Questions relating to school culture & climate, feelings about school, family background and feedback for improvement. Also optional parent survey.

### **Principals Report : Colleen Irvin**

We have had another fabulous month for staff and students at Huntley. There have been many activities and field trips.

- We will be participating in another whole school math challenge this month. The problem will be differentiated by difficulty, so your younger children will work on a slightly different problem than your older children...but they are all themed together. Stay tuned!

- We will try to have one more lockdown this year and then begin our three remaining fire drills.
- Ms. Racine (kindergarten prep and LRT) is leaving Huntley for full time position at Carson Grove. We wish her all the best in her new position. Jay and I will begin the staffing process for this position tomorrow and hope to have the new teacher in place on Monday.
- Staffing has begun across the system for next year and I will be informing staff next week if we have surplus staff, vacancies or are remaining staff quo. Our present enrolment is at 628 and we are projected at 598 next year due to our anticipated lower JK and SK numbers for next year. I will have more information on the number of teachers for next year at our next meeting. Principal and Vice Principal assignments will be completed by the end of the month.
- All schools in the OCDSB will be taking part in a survey with grade 4-12 students called Tell Them From Me. The survey asks questions about bullying and safety and provides valuable feedback for the school to use to improve their culture. If you have any questions, Jay will be pleased to answer them.
- We are still currently under budget with our School Operating Budget. We have three months remaining and we should be able to continue to purchase new resources for the school. We have ordered the projectors that you gave the school and they have arrived and are already installed. Next steps involve getting the electricians and board tech staff to finalize the installation to make them operational. This is happening much quicker than we anticipated and staff are thrilled!
- Staff were also really happy with the gym equipment. The first portion of the order has been placed and we should start receiving materials shortly.

### **Teachers Report : Donna Christie**

- Arts Committee held "Blues in the Schools" daily during the last week of February involving blues performances from various artists and culminating in a last day assembly with a performance involving selected intermediate students. It was FABULOUS. Next month we will be hosting the Blind Story-teller, Kim Kirkpatrick.
- West Carleton High School Children's Theatre group performed for Primary classes on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Arts Festival occurs in May. Teachers are beginning to collect art work or decide on what they will do. Call for performers will go out soon.
- Our school sports teams continue to practice and compete. Int. Boys & Girls Basketball teams won the Regional Championships. (Wooo whoooo). Junior basketball is now underway.
- The Jr. division has been busy shopping for wanted and needed science equipment. Receipts submitted to Amy. We extend sincere thanks to the Council for funding this.
- Intermediate students (Social Justice/Character Dev.): They held a very special and successful Coffee House as a fund raiser for their Rajasthan School Project. This month entails their "Vow of Silence" activity.
- Primary & Jr. choirs, Int. winds ensemble, Int. drumming circle, Dragonflies Club, Sports Stacking Club and contemporary singing groups continued.
- Prep (planning & rehearsals) for the school musical, Alice in Wonderland, is now full-tilt for their performance in May.
- Ski Days for Juniors and Intermediates at end of month, 2 days
- Most classes went skating at the local area by March Break.
- An educator from the Mississippi Valley Conservation came to speak to students about Spring Water Awareness.
- A member of the Huntley Curling Club came to introduce this sport to our Primary classes.
- Spirit Day was Beach Day in March and will be Sports Day in April.
- Popcorn days continued to raise money for Gr. 8 Grad.
- Many classes are having curriculum related field trips and visits such as The National Art Centre's "Looking at Pictures" program coming in April. Scientists in School Workshops for several grade levels have occurred or are about to do so.
- Many teachers have had some professional workshop opportunities on such topics as algebraic thinking, multiplicative thinking, assessment continua, painting and sculpture...
- We held Earth Hour from 1:30 to 2:30 on Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **Arts Festival : Sue**

Arts Festival is May 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> at the Agricultural Hall. Seeking volunteers to help serve refreshments, take down and council greeters. Also suggestion that Gr 8 could sell popcorn and provide refreshments.

### **Gr 8 Grad Committee : Dan**

Fundraising is on track. 2 more popcorn days are scheduled.

Looking for Gr7 parents to chaperone Gr 8 Grad

### **Speaker Series : Beth (for Tim)**

Next speaker is Rob Copland on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 7pm in the Arts Room. Reminders being emailed to parents on Thursday & again Monday to ensure a good attendance. At least 20 people have RSVP. 5 children requiring babysitting.

### **Tech Committee : Debbie**

Mucho Burrito lunch trial had 80 orders. Lots of positive feedback and the hotlunches.net online orders worked really well. Offering Mucho Burrito again for May & June, in the hopes of generating more interest. Offering options with or without beans, and cheques will be accepted.

Pizza/Sub lunches and milk program will be added online starting in September (again with paper forms & cheques still available). Offer the same schedule with orders for Sept-Feb and then Feb-June.

Suggested adding a 'Subscribe' button on the Parent Council website so parents can receive a notification when new posts are added.

**Motion (Debbie & Sarah) :** add subscribe option to website. All in favour.

A parent has volunteered to set up a Facebook page for the school.

Fundrazr : Sue & Debbie Bradley to get organised ready for launch in September.

### **OCASC : Mark**

OSTA : presentation about bell time changes. Still not finalised. No changes for Huntley.

Numeracy: Discussion/feedback about how math is taught. Common issue that parents are unable to help with homework as they are not familiar with new approaches. Encouraging parents to learn new methods. Emphasis on 'All strategies are valid'. Math is not taught in French from Gr4 onwards.

Use of Calculators: mandated by teachers.

Nominations: many of the exec are not returning so nominating committee are looking for new members within school councils.

April 17<sup>th</sup> – Technology Discussion. Eager to gear feedback from Huntley about our pilot scheme. Mark to give details to Colleen.

### **New Business : Jo-Anne**

Constitution: needs reviewing yearly. Council members to review and bring feedback to next meeting. Principals profile is also done yearly, but has not yet been requested.

June Council Meeting: move to second Wednesday (June 11<sup>th</sup>).

Frost Family: Thanked council for their support and gift cards.

Jungle Sports: Rock climbing, high ropes (with mats & helmets) can be set up in the school for a week (4-5 sessions for K-Gr3). \$3700. Fully insured. Colleen to check board rules & regulations.

EQAO (Education Quality Accountability Office) Parents Forum: Sue

Feedback: pressure put on kids, cumulative (cant study for tests), increased homework load, IEP's used to improve performance. Provides large amounts of data. See EQAO website to see school results.

Key note speaker : Linda Colquin (Faculty of Math at Queens University) [www.edu.queens.ca/coc/resources](http://www.edu.queens.ca/coc/resources). Suggestions for things parents can do to change how kids view math.

Movies in class: Tavis

Concerned about the quantity and content of movies being shown in the classroom, eg Elf, Despicable Me (Gr 1 class). No educational content. Colleen suggested Tavis speak with the teacher, plus she will follow up.

Raz Kids: Beth

Current licence is up for renewal. Have 45 individuals currently registered, although some kids are using it more than others.

**Motion (Beth & Amy) :** Renew 1 licence (\$90). All in favour.

IXL.com : math website. Offers a free trial – currently being used very successfully in Gr 3 class.

Next meeting: May 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm in the school library.

**Motion to adjourn : Karen & Sue**