

Huntley Centennial Parents Council
Wednesday 4th March, 2015

Attendance:

Debbie Heuchert Lisa Murphy Mark Tymowski Jay Blauer Colleen Irvin Christine Heath
Donna Christie Donna Coutts Beth Rohr Heather Adeney Sue Grant
Carol-Lynn Fifield Jo-Anne Graham Debbie Millar Sarah Smith

Regrets : Mandy Eustace

Meeting called to order 7:05pm

Agenda Approved: Mark & Debbie H

February Minutes Approved: Sue & Mark

O/A Items:

- Armbands: to be used for all students and adults on school ski trips. Waiting on 2 quotes before making a final decision
- Penneys: low priority right now

Treasurers Report : Lisa Murphy

\$8K difference overall in lunch orders from last year. Some late orders still coming in from parents.
Over \$7K presently available to council.

Presentation on Changes to Special Education specialized Programs by Christine Heath.

Changes being made to criteria for eligibility to specialized programs and application process.

Aiming to eliminate wait lists by making programs available to all who meet criteria. Phased implementation.

Applications no longer have April 1st deadline but can be made at any time during the school year. Aiming for precise, tiered, individualized intervention; effective multi-disciplinary support; and increased parental engagement.

Principals Report : Colleen Irvin

- Surprise visit from Superintendent on Monday. He was impressed with the school and the school climate.
- Toonie Tuesday raised \$900. All students received hot chocolate outside at recess.
- New Epsom Brightlink now installed in library & Kerry Chick's classroom
- Amanda Zeyl now on maternity leave.
- Early stages of staffing for next year. As of March Break, 605 students. 75 Gr8 students graduating, only 30 students currently registered for JK (40 projected). Projecting 568 students for next year.
- Operating budget on track
- OSTA will be changing their policy to accommodate children with parents who are separated, living at 2 separate addresses with a fixed arrangement, to have a seat on 2 bus routes, if necessary. Empty seats will be allocated through a central system, not the school, although application process and deadlines remain the same.

Teachers Report : Donna Christie

- Report cards went home Feb. 4th.
- Arts Committee held drumming performances for the entire school by the West African Ensemble "Masabo" with financial support from School Council and a grant from the City of Ottawa.
- Arts Festival will take place this spring. Donna has booked the Ag. Hall for the May 8th Fri. p.m., 6 - 8 and Sat. a.m., May 9th, 8:30 – 11:30. Art grids are reserved with W.C. Art Society. Committee met and all is in place. Mandy will be seeking parents to help run the refreshment booth and assist with take-down.
- School sports teams continue to practice and compete. Intermediate Inter-murals are also ongoing.
- Classes continue to take their turn skating at the local arena

- Intermediate students (Social Justice/Character Dev.): Minga program launched to raise funds to support schools in Nicaragua. Minga Challenge ongoing over the month to raise funds: teachers vs students competing in games competition during morning recess, Feb. 25.
- Primary & Jr. choirs, Jr./Int. winds ensemble, Int. drumming circle, Dragonflies & Chess Clubs continue.
- Prep (planning & rehearsals) for the school musical, Peter Pan, is now full-tilt for their performance in May.
- Ski Days for Juniors at Mount Pakenham, Feb. 10 & 18 and Ints at Calabogie, Feb 5th & 19th.
- Spirit Day was red/pink/white & or hearts day on Feb. 14 and Anti-bullying “Pink Day” & Tweek Tuesday was Feb. 25th
- Gr. 8 yearbook is done and Grad photos have been taken, trip planned, high school registrations done
- Scientists in School for primary grades have occurred (or are about to)
- All-school Assembly was held on Feb. 20
- WITS program continues with “Caught-ya” rewards to acknowledge those using their wits.
- Many classes marked Groundhog Day, Family Day, Valentines Day Chinese New Year and Black History Month.

Coming Events:

- Daylight Savings March 8
- Intermediate coffee House, evening of March 11
- March Break, March 14 - 22
- NAC Musicians perform on March 23rd for Jr/Ints. Funded by Council.

VP Report: Jay Blauer

- Feb 23rd Aboriginal speaker came in to speak to Intermediates.
- Tell It For Me: coming in April/May.
- Jr triple volleyball/triple ball tournament – placed 2nd! Practices now open to all students who tried out.

OCASC: Mark

- Defibrillator in school: some schools have installed a defibrillator (cost around \$1500). Needs training and costly maintenance. Battery is single use. Part of community use of schools.
- Junior Achievement Ottawa: looking for volunteers to share their experience with students.
- OSTA: allowing students to have seats on 2 bus routes, where parents are separated, living at different locations and have a fixed arrangement.

School Ground Greening sub-committee: Beth Rohr

- Current structure expires 2023.
- Evergreen Workshops – Beth & Heather have attended and will continue to attend where possible.
- Now planning for a long term school ground greening project.
- Staged approach – start by replacing trees (7 have been removed due to disease over the past year, mostly shady perimeter trees).
- Beth has been contacted by OCDSB about tree replacement.

Speaker Series: Beth (on behalf of Tim Pychyl)

Tim is willing to talk to Gr7/8 and parents (separately) in April about Procrastination. Colleen to confirm a date.

Grade 8 Grad: Sue

- Bottle drive raised \$900. Planning to repeat after Easter.
- Ag Hall, photo booth booked. Need to confirm DJ.
- A binder will be created with all committee information to pass on to next years committee. It will be stored with parent council information at the end of the school year.
- Popcorn fundraiser going well.

Tech Committee: Debbie M

- Lunch Program: still concern about parents who hadn't ordered for second session. As well as paper order forms, and global email reminders, 3 emails were sent directly to parents who had ordered in September but not re-

ordered in January. There were still many students who had expected pizza/sub but whose parents had not ordered. Lunch program volunteers did their best to ensure all students had food, and extra pizza & subs were provided by parent council.

- Booster Juice: trial run coming in Spring.
- Kindergarten Info Sheet: Jo-Anne & Sarah will produce a sheet for new parents to direct them to the parent council website and email subscription.

New Business

Food Cupboard: number of students coming to the office for food is increasing, atleast 6 every day. Over \$400 has been spent already. There are few healthy snacks. Need to supply some healthier options (eg applesauce, cheese).

Motion (Debbie M & Jo-Anne) : Allocate additional \$500 (to bring total to \$1000) for food cupboard. All in favour – passed by consensus.

Carp Connect: Jo-Anne met with other like-minded groups in our community. St James Community garden are looking for help. Toby Jones interested for his Gr5 class.

Next meeting: April 1st, 2015, at 7pm in the school library.

Motion to adjourn : Lisa & Sue