

## Huntley Centennial Parents Council

Wed 6th Nov 2013

### **Attendance:**

Laurie Dillon Deborah Bradley Mark Tymowski Jo-Anne Graham Debbie Millar  
Stacy Tzavelas Dianne Bramble Allison Erickson Pat Ross Jason Blauer  
Colleen Irvin Donna Coutts Sarah Smith

### **Meeting called to order 7:05pm**

**Agenda Approved:** Sarah & Dianne

**October Minutes Approved:** Mark & Sarah

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

Goalpost nets : Sylvain Flipsen's soccer team has donated a pair of nets. Thank you! Not solved problem yet of how to secure them. Suggested trying zip tags. The soccer pitch is now very popular, although not easy to have all Grades using it fairly. 2 fields have been painted again. Approx \$150 to add 2 more mini fields.

**Motion (Jo-Anne & Sarah)** : Pay to have lines for soccer pitches, including 2 additional mini fields, painted (Approx \$200).

### **Treasurers Report : Jo-Anne on behalf of Amy Durrant**

BBQ raised \$2091  
ProFund grant of \$100 and \$500 Parental Involvement fund received

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

- A very busy month with many activities, field trips and sports and some exciting tech news.
- Huntley is involved in a pilot project involving the dismantling of our mobile cart of 24 laptops and distributing them in our classrooms. To add to these, we were given 74 i-pads (in protective Otter boxes), 40 Chromebooks and 10 laptops. The devices will be allocated to every classroom as follows:
  - JK – 2: 5 i-Pads
  - Grade 2/3 - 3 : 2 i-Pads and 3 laptops
  - Grade 3/4 – 5/6: 1 i-Pad and 4 laptops
  - Grade 5/6 – 8: 1 i-Pad and 4 Chromebooks
  - Spec Ed: 4 i-Pads and 1 Chromebook
  - Art Room: 2 i-Pads and 3 Chromebooks
- School Council and the school have also paid for the purchase and installation of 6 Epson Brightlink interactive projectors. The school has paid for the installation of 4 ceiling mount projectors. We had hoped to pay for ceiling mounts for the remaining classrooms, but due to the angled ceilings, we

cannot install projectors this way. We will need to wait until we can afford wall mount interactive projectors for these rooms.

- Staff have started participating in professional development with regard to proportional thinking in mathematics. We are asking our families to get involved by working with their children on basic math facts as well as reading each night. We are developing web links to give you a selection of fun games and activities to support this learning. Further professional development will continue this month.
- Report Cards go home on Nov 7th for all grade 1-8 students. Interviews will take place on evening of Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Nov and morning of Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Nov. Staff have worked very hard to schedule interviews for siblings close together. As a result, it can be very difficult to change interview times without changing a time for many other people. We appreciated your understanding of this.
- Our Scholastic Book Fair will run next week and we thank all of the parents who have volunteered to help make this a success. This event allows us to purchase more books for your children each year.
- Two soccer fields were lined this fall on the upper field and appreciated by our soccer teams, phys ed classes and students at recess.
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> Nov we will recognize Remembrance Day with a ceremony at 8:30 in Gym 2. Parents are welcome to join us for this wonderful ceremony of remembering and recognition.
- We remain on target with our budget expenditures this month and have spent just under 20% (or \$21 000) of our \$124 000 Operating Budget to date.

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

- We launched our WITS anti-bullying program with an assembly, which was also attended by our SRO – we then supported students by distributing books to teachers for read aloud programs to be used in French and English and in all divisions
- Huntley students competed in Board tournaments for cross country running, junior boys and girls soccer and intermediate boys and girls football.
- Our boys soccer and girls football brought home the regional banners.
- The girls football team competed in the Board championship and lost by six points.
- Staff have been running Leadership Council, Character Crew, spirit day committee, drumming circle, Instrumental group, yearbook committee, Dragonflies environmental club, garden club, open studio in arts, School assemblies, a Halloween food drive – WE Scare Hunger (2078 items), Unicef, and an Intermediate Halloween dance.
- Bordenball and volleyball teams have started up.
- We have had field trips to Parliament Hill, the public library, a walk to Hidden lake, Acorn Creek, and the grade 8 World of Work.
- Starting up soon – Snow Suit Committee
- Just a big thanks for all the outdoor equipment you gave to the students to use at recess. What an amazing yard.

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

- Updates to assist webmaster done as far as possible, will continue
- Garden Club Fall expenses are all in and receipts submitted to treasurer. Daffodils, tulips, and crocuses were planted and beds put to bed for the winter.

- Arts Committee has the season finalized. There are English and French, primary, junior, and intermediate level performances and some whole school and a wide variety of genres from dance, drama, puppetry, and story-telling to Blues in the Schools.

**Motion (Jo-Anne & Sarah) :** \$4500 be made available to the Arts Committee to book shows for the year

- Staff is on-board with Arts Festival the spring. A committee has been struck for this event.
- Our school sports teams have been doing well at the board level and are proudly sporting the new athletic clothing you provided.
- The Junior division is preparing a wish list for a science material centre.

### **OCASC Report : Mark Tymowski**

- Paul Whitney shared info about Honey from Africa fundraiser. % of sales goes back to the school
- Schools were encouraged to purchase milk and food through the school to ensure they get HST back. Huntley milk and lunch programs set up to do this already. HotLunches.net is used by many schools to run lunch programs
- Security concerns were discussed. The boards Security Officer is attending next OCASC meeting. There is no official security policy across the board. One option used by some school is a "buzz-in" option. Colleen listed many reasons why this is not ideal and has chosen not to install one. An Emergency Response button might be a better option.
- Some schools are installing a skating rink over soccer fields during the winter, relying on parent volunteers.
- Creative Cardboard Initiative Spirit Day has been very popular in others schools. Students are encouraged to bring in cardboard and be creative. Displays are then judged by peers based on various criteria.
- Bell Time Review will be happening soon. Aim is the have all schools across all boards start at the same time to share busing. Busing is now equalized across all boards. Harmonize busing to reduce empty seats.
- Improving by Improv. Details about workshops to help students be creative using improve.

### **Sub-Committee Updates**

#### **Technology Sub-Committee : Debbie Millar**

- Decide what we are doing with the old centennial.org web-site and email server
- Look at options for possible on-line payment and management of lunch/milk programs
- Look at options for fundraising website / links to other web-sites

We are currently paying \$100/year for hosting of the <http://huntleycentennial.org> school council website. There is an issue on this site with malware, and it doesn't appear to have been updated for several years.

A local business, Koallo Internet, has offered to host a new Huntley School Council Website for a reduced fee of \$50/year. The owner of the business used to have children at Huntley and is happy to offer this 50% discount (Thank you Stuart Hodge!)

By having a separate external school council web-site and e-mail server, linked from the school OCDSB web-site, parents would have a friendly site that contains all school council documents, planned events, and fundraising activities as well as be able to place milk and lunch orders and pay on-line.

Sarah & Debbie Millar can set up the web-site initially, and then Debbie will continue to be the webmaster for this new school council web-site as well as the Huntley OCDSB web-site.

Huntley Centennial Public School already has the majority of parent's e-mail addresses and is already using e-mail communication for monthly newsletters, which makes e-mail the most effective method for school council to communicate with families.

Dan Oliver has already got agreement from school council to move the existing mailing list to Google Groups. This will allow easier management and archiving of the mailing list, and provide a collaborative communication method for parents who are group members.

**Motion (Debbie M & Jo-Anne) :** The technology sub-committee would like to cancel the existing contract for the web-site hosting and move it to Koallo Internet at a reduced cost of \$50/year.

The milk and lunch programs are currently managed manually with paper communications and bi-annual cheques for payment. The technology sub-committee proposes that we move away from the manual process to an on-line lunch management and payment system. This will save our milk and lunch team volunteers countless hours of management time and improve the accuracy of the process. It will also make it easier for parents by not having to fill in paper forms and send cheques into school, (although this option will still be available).

HotLunches.Net is a powerful and easy-to-use on-line system developed specifically for school councils and school hot lunch programs. The service costs \$300 per year and includes:

- Unlimited Order / Payment Schedules,
- Drag & Drop Menu Items,
- On-line ordering options,
- Acceptance of on-line payments (paypal),
- Ability to generate supplier orders
- and much more...
- To create the hotlunches.net site, you need:
- A Verified PayPal account
  - Amy Durant has set up a paypal account that can be used for all on-line payments

After the initial set up, at the beginning of each school year, parents would be required to register their parent/student account on the [www.hotlunches.net](http://www.hotlunches.net) website, and use the school access code in order to pay on-line for the milk and the lunch programs.

**Motion (Debbie M & Dianne)** : set up on-line milk and lunch management system using hotlunches.net. Cost \$300 per year, with setup complete for Sept 2014.

The technology sub-committee proposes that we set up on-line fundraising and donation payment system using fundrazr.com. Initial set up is free. However, for every donation received, School Council would pay 5% FundRazr fee + PayPal fee of approx. 3%.

To create a FundRazr campaign need a Facebook account for the Huntley Centennial School Council & a Verified PayPal account.

In order to issue tax receipts, money needs to be paid into the school bank account. The new PayPal account is linked to the School Council bank account. Colleen will investigate how other schools manage this.

**Motion (Debbie M & Jo-Anne)**: set up an on-line fundraising using Fundrazr.com for the annual donation campaign

#### **Donation Campaign : Jo-Anne on behalf of Sue Grant**

Debbie Bradley offered to help set up the fundrazr site for the annual donation campaign, and work with Sue Grant to customize the content accordingly.

Sue has drafted a flyer to be distributed to parents

#### **School Improvement Plan/Numeracy : Jo-Anne on behalf of Tim Pychyl**

Tim has found 2 colleagues willing to come in as guest speakers (for free!). Need to come up with some dates – suggested late January, March and June.

It was agreed that approx \$300 would be reasonable budget for childcare, refreshment, etc

Debbie Bradley offered to set up a survey (using SurveyMonkey) to find out the reasons why parents dont come to school council meetings.

**Motion (Jo-Anne & Dianne)**: Use SurveyMonkey.com to survey parents to find out reasons for low attendance at council meetings.

#### **Gr8 Grad Committee : Pat & Allison**

Pat Ross & Allison Erickson have offered to help lead the committee, along with Robin Gyimesi. M Muldoon-Roy will be the teacher representative. Committee updates to be sent to Jo-Anne.

\$2100 has been carried over from last year.

#### **New Business**

**Website** : Debbie M asked that teachers let her know if there are any Apps she could include on the website to encourage home use. She also asked for any photos that could be included on the website. Colleen asked Debbie to include links to teacher's websites and blogs on the school website.

**Huntley Gear** : lots of interest in seeing orders for clothing etc go out again this year. Plan to use same supplier as before. Jay to coordinate.

**World Maps** : should we purchase pull-down World Maps for classrooms. Cost is approx \$200 each. Easier and cheaper to use classroom technology instead. Revisit in the New Year.

There will be no meeting in December or March. Instead, sub-committees should report an email update to Jo-Anne to be shared amongst Council members.

Next meeting: January 8<sup>th</sup> 2014, at 7pm in the school library.

**Motion to adjourn : Mark & Dianne**