

Huntley Centennial Parents Council

Monday 7th November 2016

Attendance:

Jo-Anne Graham Deanna Wainwright Debbie Millar Mark Tymowski Beth Rohr Martin Pieroni
Ginette Taylor Lynn Scott Colleen Irvin Heather Adeney Donna Coutts Janet Howse Rachelle Elie
Heather Brown Anita Gibbons Mandy Eustace Jenna Boyce Lisa Murphy Creann Pieroni Sarah Smith

Apologies: Jay Blauer, Debbie Heuchert

Meeting called to order 7:06pm

Agenda Approved: in advance, by email

September Minutes Approved: in advance, by email

Creann opened the meeting by welcoming some newcomers. Round table introductions.

O/A Items: Creann

- **Tractor:** not able to purchase. Not deemed to be what school council funds are designed for.
 - **Bank Fees:** need to meet with the bank to discuss. Planning to make an appointment soon.
 - **Rain barrel fundraiser:** we pay \$45 per barrel. Sell at \$55. No minimum. If we want to set delivery date (ie to avoid storage), minimum 100 barrels. All done online.
- Motion (Mark & Lisa):** Creann to set up rain barrel fundraiser to run in April. Passed by consensus.

Treasurers Report: Lisa

- Currently \$9184.66 available.
- Garden Club would like a new rain barrel.

Motion (Creann & Lisa): Provide a new rain barrel. Passed by consensus.

Principals Report: Colleen Irvin

- New fibre art in front hall. Every student in the school last year helped to make the felt and incorporated it into the project.
- **Report cards** go home on Thursday 10th November (except kindergartens). Interviews for all students. Also running scholastic book fair.
- **Changes within OCDSB.** Board is looking at combining and reconfiguring schools. For Huntley we're already JK-Gr8 school feeding to Gr9-12 at West, which fits the preferred model. One aim is to minimise transitions. Board has been seeking parent input through their website and will continue to review. As it stands right now, there are no proposed changes to our area. In future, one thing that might have an impact is that they're looking at identifying a second site for the International Baccalaureate program. Gifted program also under review. Any changes likely wouldn't happen until Sept 2018. Important for all parents to comment
- **Remembrance Day:** Assembly at 11am, in the gym and Art room (for kindergartens).
- **Budget:** remains on target. Just over 20% spent (10% per month), so just over \$25000. Audited regularly.
- **EQAO results:** now public. Had mixed results. Areas of strength – Gr3 reading & math has gone up (above provincial level). Gr 6 reading also above provincial levels. Dropped in Gr3 writing and just below provincial in Gr6 writing. Gr 6 math low across the board and ours were lower. Gr6 boys were actually above province, Gr6 girls below.
- **PD day:** Staff focussed on Math.
- **School goals this year:** numeracy – effective descriptive feedback. Wellness goal – resilience. Specifically for math, academic resilience. Keep trying!
- **Volunteer Appreciation:** This year the staff members in the parent appreciation committee have a new idea. Instead of trying to arrange a tea at the school, they'd like to bring the tea to the volunteers, so will be bringing a tea to the December meeting to say Thank you. This way they can directly show appreciation at what is hoped to be a more convenient time. Also, possibly send home a hand written note and treat.

Teachers Report: Donna Coutts

Sports

- Cross country running for students in grades 4, 6, and 8

- Football for intermediate students
- Soccer for junior students
- Intramural dodgeball for intermediate students

Clubs

- Leadership Council
- Character Crew
- Lunch and Bus Monitors
- Dragonflies
- Yearbook Committee
- Opportunity club for intermediate students
- Gardening Club
- Media Crew for intermediate students
- Instrumental Group
- Jam Club
- We Team

Field Trips

- Our intermediate students went to the Bill Mason Centre.
- Junior students have also gone to the Bill Mason Centre.

Awesome Social Awareness and Community Involvement

- Random Acts of Kindness Challenges. Kindness is Cool!
- Terry Fox Run was held on Sept. 29. \$4, 100 was raised for cancer research.
- We Scare Hunger Food Drive collected a record amount of food.
- A Pumpkin Walk was held on Oct. 28. The proceeds went to our global village in Haiti.

Special Events

- Canterbury Information Session for Intermediate students was held on Oct. 5
- Felt Art was unveiled on Oct. 24.
- Bus Evacuation Awareness occurred on Oct. 25
- Immunization Clinic was held on Oct. 11
- Intermediate students participated in a Hip Hop workshop.
- Orange Shirt Day was observed on Friday Sept. 30.
- Students in grades 4-6 participated in a workshop called "Improve with Improv" on Sept. 19

Cultural Arts Performances booked for 2016-2017

- Just Aissi was here on Oct. 28 for the intermediate students
- Luv2Groove will be here on Nov. 14 for the primary students
- Jennifer Cayley will be visiting for grades 3-6 on Nov. 22
- Rag & Bone Puppet Theatre will be here on Jan. 26 to perform The Flying Canoe
- The Celtic Rathskallions will be performing in February.
- Rhonda Doxtatar will be here on April 18 and 19 for hoop dancing workshops with junior students.
- Colores Andinos will be here on April 26 for two performances.

Thank you to the Parent Council for your support.

OCASC: Mark

- Anyone is interested in finding out more about changes to the gifted program, there is information available online.
- School Council training day on November 19th. Free workshops throughout the day. Register online at <http://www.ocdsb.ca/par/parentconference/Pages/default.aspx>
- P4E – People for Education conference in Toronto. OCASC sending 4 representatives, including Mark. See <http://www.peopleforeducation.ca/>

Motion (Creann & Sarah): Pay \$35 membership for OCASC. Passed by consensus.

Arts Festival: Heather/Mandy

- Previously in May, typically Mothers day weekend

Grade 8 Grad:

- Dont have a committee, as yet. Not yet confirmed who will lead the committee, but email going out to parents soon.

Xmas Bazaar: Anita

- Planning to follow same as previous year.
- Friday 9th December
- Laura Bell will be helping organize student volunteers.
- Debbie will add a volunteer sign up sheet online.
- Buy 2 or 3 boxes of cookies from Costco as baked goods sold out. Looking for bakers.

New Business

- **Constitution:** unchanged from previous year.
Motion (Mark & Sarah): approve the constitution. Passed by consensus.
- **Staff Appreciation Lunch:** Shelley McCormick & Jo McGillavry will coordinate again (thank you!). Planned for Monday 19th December.
- **Lunch program:** traditionally one child per volunteer had a lunch at no charge on the day their parent volunteered. Now there are many more volunteers and there has been a reduction in revenues from the lunches. So, as of September, there will no longer be a free lunch provided. Also, when there are field trips, could teachers please provide details to the lunch coordinator, so that lunches can be kept back.
- **Parent Involvement grant:** we've received \$500 to improve parent involvement. Also can be used to encourage parent involvement with their child and their child's learning.
Suggestions: dance, games night, skating at the rink ... to be discussed further at the next meeting.
- **Volunteer Survey:** why are parents not volunteering? Suggestions of a grand parents club? Further discussion at next meeting.
- **Audit:** We are being audited! Asked about investments. Lisa to approach the bank to review investments.
- **Magazine fundraiser:** so far have \$792 offline & \$3194 online so \$3986 total. \$1000 profit.
- **Labels labels:** \$83.96 profit.

OCDSB Trustee: Lynn Scott

- **Conference for Parents:** on November 19th. Intended for all parents. Lots of sessions on topics such as special ed. Childcare will be provided for first 50 registrants. Details at ocdsb.ca
- **Complaints Resolution Policy:** Currently consultation underway regarding a new draft complaints resolution policy. If you have a concern it is not always obvious where to go. Suggests where to go, info about policies and processes already in place. Available at ocdsb.ca – please read and provide feedback.
- **Gifted Program review:** programming for gifted students will not be eliminated, it just wont necessarily be special classes for gifted students. Gifted classes are unbalanced (a lot of students are boys. Why are there fewer girls?). Also, a lot of parents with children in gifted classes have paid for their own psych ed assessment – what happens for parents who cant afford that? A lot of issues with what is in place right now. Looking at providing more consistency as to what is available for the 40% of gifted students in regular classes. Every gifted student is different and has very individual needs. More details available at ocdb.ca
- **Elementary school program framework:** programs on offer & expectations around trying to move to K-6 and 7-12 or K-8 and 9-12 approach. Not have triple & quadruple track. Typically 1-2 grade classes within a program. Avoid more than 2 programs running within the same school, to improve ability to staff properly. Setting out a concept to work towards while accommodations begin review.
- **New report out on the addition for West.** Attached to school board agenda for meeting tomorrow night. Issues with original plans as initial quotes too costly.

Next meeting: Monday 5th December at 7pm in the school library.

Motion to adjourn (Debbie & Lisa).