

## Huntley Centennial Parents Council

Wed. March 6/13

Meeting called to order 7:05pm

### **Attendance:**

Donna Christie Colleen Irvin Diana MacFarlane

Tim Pychyl Debbie Millar Dianne Bramble Tracy Facchin Amy Durant Mark Tymowski

Dan Oliver Jo-Anne Graham Jennifer James Laurie Dillon Sue Grant Sarah Smith

**Agenda Approved:** Sue & Dan

**Jan Minutes Approved:** Sarah & Sue

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

**Council Meeting Attendance by voting members** - As stated in our Council Constitution- "3 consecutive meetings missed with no notice to the chairperson(s), then they lose their vote & become Members at large".

2 new voting members required on the Parent Council.

Motion to make Mark Tymowski and Tim Pychyl voting members: Sarah & Jo Anne. Vote – all in favour.

**PROfund** - Dr.Mamen will be coming to speak on April 29/13 at 7pm. Childcare will be provided by Gr 8 with their payment going to grad fund. Parents will be asked to RSVP to give an idea of numbers. Gym 1 or Arts Room are available, depending on likely attendance.

Jo Anne & Laurie to organise refreshments.

Any remaining money from grant to go towards purchase of Dr. Mamens books to add to parent resource library.

**Fundrazr website:** Jo Anne asked for technical assistance in setting up. Debbie volunteered to help.

**School Equipment-** require 15 youth jerseys (for basketball, soccer, bordenball, etc) & 15 adult jerseys.

Track singlets – (used by approx 100 children – 70 juniors, 30 seniors) – for consideration.

Volleyball – suggested using Huntley t-shirts, in green with large logo to clearly stand out (\$10 each)

Cost: Pineys approx \$400, 15 t-shirts \$150. Total **\$550**

Motion to purchase pineys & t-shirts: Dianne & Jennifer. Vote – all in favour.

Other equipment on the wish list:

- good quality leather basketball **\$65**
- flip video cameras \$104 plus memory card \$25 8 x \$140 total **\$1200**

- 12 laptops. Currently have 1.5 portable labs (ie one lab contains 24 laptops, one with 12 laptops so insufficient for one per student for a class). Approx \$800 each, total **\$9600**
- soccer goalposts. Jo Anne to clarify whether cost of \$3150 is per pair or for 1 individual junior sized goalpost.
- Math Manipulators eg 3-D blocks, money, bingo chips, unifix blocks. Total **\$1500**  
(NB EQAO results show Huntley is weakest in math)

Motion to purchase basketball and math manipulators: Sue & Dianne. Vote – all in favour.

**Photographer** – LifeTouch will be coming on 24<sup>th</sup> April to do a Spring Fundraiser. \$1 for every child photographed will go to the school. These are more casual photos, including group shots with friends and siblings. Packages containing all photos will be sent home for parents to choose which they like and then return remainder (printed on recyclable photo paper).

### **Treasurers Report**

Balance at March 6 is \$53751.14. Several expenses still to be deducted for Lunch and Milk programs. \$2000 to go to Grad committee for their help with the Milk Program.

Amy to provide projection forward for next meeting.

### **Principals Report**

Presently there are 34 JKs registered for next year. Close to projected number of 38. Currently have 65 JK. 41 Gr 8's will be graduating. Board are already working to determine number of teachers required for next yr. Likely to be very similar to this year, as projected numbers very close to this years student numbers.

First coat of paint done in Gym 1 (now hallway beige). Hope to add dark blue and green stripes and school logo.

School has no eavestrough! Quote is now being prepared.

No drainage in parking lot. Photos are being taken by staff and sent into the board to monitor and highlight the issue.

The grass in the Kindergarten playground has been trampled away due to volume of use.

Still on target with overall budget expenditures. Spent just under 60% of budget.

Took part in Twoony Tuesday; also, \$500 raised for World Vision. Also held Proud 2 B Me banquet.

Serious concerns raised about safety during morning drop-off. Due to snow on Langstaff, the road is narrowed and now a serious hazard for parents dropping off children. Reminder to parents that the school parking lot and entrance is not accessible from 8am to 8:20am.

There is a gate on Robert Lee where parents could drop children safely, however there is concern that this might cause problems with residents on Robert lee. Also, there are no signs to warn drivers that that area is a school zone.

Tracy to call 3-1-1 to request a by-law officer come and review the situation  
Colleen/Diana to contact board and also arrange for reminders in school newsletter  
Jo Anne to contact Constable Erin Daniels, Community Police Officer to see if he can help.

### **Teachers Report - D. Christie**

Next school Spirit Day is March 28<sup>th</sup> - Disney theme. Gr 8`s doing a great job organising Spirit Days and helping with outside performers in the school.

Popcorn fundraiser was overwhelming success.

Kindergarten classes are currently exploring sea world.

Staff meeting yesterday – call for teachers to fwd photos for the website.

NAC coming in on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>. “Looking at Pictures” - Art appreciation for Primary and Junior grades.

Currently under budget for arts funding. First NAC performance were able to accommodate a larger group so required fewer performances. Same for upcoming “Bangers & Smash” performance. 3 performances coming up:- MASC, NAC and finally a High School group. Funds had been allocated for an Aboriginal Group performance, however scheduling proved impossible, but are now booking for next year.

A parent volunteer to occasionally check equipment in gym 1 would be appreciated. Katharine Nell & Heidi Lowry are maintaining equipment.

Music Mondays will be linking with other singing groups online. They have created an opportunity to sing with space astronaut Chris Hadfield!

**Q: Will there be a Huntley Arts Festival at the Agricultural Hall this year?** This has been extremely popular in the past, so would be wonderful to revive.

**A:** there is a lot of organisation, which requires teachers to be onboard with the idea. The teacher representative will get back to us for the next council meeting.

### **OCASC-Mark Tymowski**

OSTA presented update:-

- increased use of social media to keep parents informed
- efforts to standardize snow day cancellations. Tie-in with Ottawa Airport to utilise their advanced technology to make better judgement call.
- Tightening geographical proximity and applying strict standards when assessing who is eligible for busing. Risk calculations will also be based number of intersections, and how busy those intersections are. Eligibility may change next year to reduce empty seats on buses.

Marjorie Loughrey Arts Award (\$2000) for Elementary teachers. This award is for any area of art. Parents or teachers can nominate. Nominations to be submitted by May 17<sup>th</sup>

Alternative education survey is now available online at OCDSB.ca

Gladstone Theatre are performing Taming of the Shrew, (all male cast to increase historical accuracy). Tickets are \$15, but as a fundraiser \$5 goes to the school.

Concern that teacher strikes jeopardizing year books in some schools. Huntley Gr 7/8 year book is progressing well.

### **Gr8 Grad Update**

Popcorn fundraiser went extremely well. Frozen fruit fundraiser not as successful.

Bottle drive will be held early April. Notification will go out to parents soon so they can start saving bottles.

### **New Business**

**Q:** Can the laminating machine be moved to a more appropriate location as it is in the way in the servery?

**A:** It was previously in junior photocopy room, then staff room, so has moved around a lot. It is only a problem in the server during those times when food is being served. A solution will be investigated.

**Q:** What is the school policy on homework? There seems to be a widely varying experience between grades. Would Gr 7 & 8 especially benefit from more homework to help prepare them for the heavier workload in Gr 9?

**A:** Reading every night is strongly encouraged for all pupils. There is no formal policy. Teachers assign as they see necessary.

Fewer of the large projects to be done at home as it is hard to assess how much work was actually done by the child.

Next meeting: April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013, at 7pm in the school library.

Motion to adjourn: Jo Anne & Sue