

# SMPS Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @7pm

Virtual meeting

## **Attending**

Alison Boyd, Heather McAskill, Meaghan Fraser, Brooke McKnight, Joanne McRae, Tanya Menzel-Jones, Sarah Jones Tubman, Jessica Livermore, Christine Moulaison, Dongwei Deng, Kristin MacKay, Monica V-S, Anuraga Jain.

## **Welcome-** Christine

- Thanks everyone for being flexible and switching to virtual. Waiting for members to join.
- No Children's Village

## **Treasurer Report-** Joanne

- We have an opening balance of approx. \$26 000 and a closing balance of approx. \$43 000. But keep in mind that the pizza money must still be taken out.
- Regular funds: \$33 586.14
- LTR: \$7 108.20.
- PHP: \$2 612.24. Last year we spend \$775. Holiday Market will be going towards PHP.

## **Holiday Gift Market-** Joanne

- We have spoken to people who have had this done at their schools. It is a trash to treasure type of event. It will give children the experience of shopping and buying presents for family members. The items can be wrapped.
- Everything will cost either \$1, \$2, or \$5.
- We will be collecting donations of items for the next 2 weeks.
- A big sort of everything received will be held on Dec. 8.
- The event will take place Mon. Dec. 11. Classes will go to the gym to shop and each child will be able to bring home a wrapped item.
- Leftover items will be donated at the end of the day.
- Need lots of gift-wrapping supplies.
- Volunteers are needed for the sorting day and during the event.

- Can older children help the younger ones?
- Need space to store the items. Look at booking the computer lab for the 2-week period.
- Making sure we have enough supply for demand. This is the first year, not sure how much we will get.
- Can have boxes in the hallway to collect items. Parents are welcome to come in and drop things off.
- This event has to be as inclusive as possible for everyone. Children are not just buying presents for Christmas; can be for anything they want.
- Must determine if there should be a purchasing limit. Will decide closer to the time depending on amount of stock.
- For the sale this year, all money raised is going to PHP. We are hoping to make approx. \$1 000- \$1 500.

### **Principal's Report-** Alison

- Stairwell going up to Sandhill must be closed due to safety and liability concerns. This is starting Dec. 1.
- Look into the possibility of starting up the Kiss 'n Go section again. Will look at all other options.
- Less parking spots available now since the preschool is fully running.
- Encourage all children to either walk or take the bus.
- Make sure the city clears the path to Marconi. Parents can park on Marconi.
- Trying to have children enter quicker in the morning.

#### EQAO Results:

- Grade 3's math (62.5%), reading (73.2%), and writing (64.3%) scores decreased from last year but were higher than the OCDSB's and the provincial average.
- Grade 6's math (60.3%), reading (86.6%) and writing (83.8%) scores all improved from last year. They are all higher than the OCDSB's and provincial average.
- The board has a big focus on math and literacy at the moment.
- It would be better to compare the same cohort in Gr. 3 with Gr. 6, not from year to year.
- Interventions-funding was given for tutoring but only during school hours. Lexia reading program is available to some students.

#### Budget:

- Enrollment: This year 516.6 Last year 485.5
- JK/SK: This year 116.5 Last year 92
- Spec. Ed staff: This year 2, not sure why the number is down. Last year 4.
- There have been lots of cutback with the board.

## **Movie Night-** Brooke

- We made \$450 which is a significant amount for a last-minute event. Everyone had great time. Lots of families showed up and donated to the school.
- Try to plan for something else in the spring.

## **School Wish List-** Alison

- Gym equipment: \$1500 for recess balls, pool noodles, and class sets of yoga mats
- Library: \$1500
- Recorders: \$900
- Other wishes include Scientist in the School (cost approx. \$250/session), materials for classes, education around indigenous issues.
- Dance presenters: Love 2 Grove would cost approx. \$2500 for the whole school
- Normally between \$5 000 - \$6 000 total is given.
- We need to determine the exact amount we are able to donate.
- Want something that benefits all students. Can split presenters between primary and junior.
- Determine what the priorities are from the teacher's wish list. Have not had a chance to look at the divisional wish list items. Each division needs to decide their priorities.
- Can start by giving money for gym equipment and library right now (\$3 000) and get budget for other items later. Change the Library amount to \$1 000, Forest of Reading Program costs \$1 000, can give more later.
- \$2 500 is being voted to donate to the school. It is voted as \$1 000 for the library and \$1 500 for gym equipment. Will determine if it is cheaper for parent council instead of the school to purchase some of the gym equipment items.
- Dec. meeting is still scheduled.
- When will we revisit the wish list items? Try to make the decision as soon as possible.

## **New Business-** Christine

- Begin collecting skates/helmets for children to use when classes go skating at the rink behind the school.
- Cross-country medals have still not been given out. Will try to find out what happened.
- Chess club- no staff member has signed up for it yet. Can have a parent co-run the club. The school still has significant amount of chess sets.

Meeting adjourned 8:24pm