

SMPS Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday September 26, 2023 @7pm

Attending

Alison Boyd, Heather MacAskill, Megan-Children's Village of Klondike, Tim Westover, Christine Moulaison, Brooke McKnight, Joanne McRae, Tanya Menzel-Jones, Michelle Cruickshanks, Monica Valsangkar-Smyth, Meghan Fraser, Dongwei Deng, Megan Millette, Sarah Jones Tubman, Jessica Livermore, Kristine Bennette, Anuranga Jain, Kristine Mackay, Mayan Gilly, Khalique Gharatear, Krista Doyle.

Welcome- Brooke

Thanks everyone for coming for the first meeting of the new school year. Today we are going to be discussing planning for the year and are looking for input into new fundraising initiatives and also ideas for spending council money.

Principal's Report- Alison

From Churchhill Alternative School. Moved to be closer to home, better work/life balance.

So far, an excellent start to the year, smooth transition with the staff.

District enrollment numbers are down but we are luckily to be staying status quo.

Many clubs have started up including cross-country team, Junior Explorers club, and soccer intramurals.

Mme Brassard is organizing morning announcements for the Gr. 6's, after will be the Gr. 5's.

Friday afternoon there will always be a weekly email update.

Forms need to come back to the school, especially the field trip form for Janita Snelgrove Park.

Will be updating the school website calendar with dates of important events.

No crossing guards at certain locations. It is not a school issue. Must contact Ottawa Safety Council or the City of Ottawa.

Gym club will begin after Thanksgiving for gr. 4-6. Debating on the scheduling.

Rowan's Law Day, Sept.28, will be activities for each grade.

Truth & Reconciliation Day: No one coming in. Students are doing their own in class learning.

Treasurer Report- Joanne

Last year was a recovery year. We have 3 separate categories within our account. PHP-Penguins Helping Penguins, this fund is used to help families within our community to pay for essential items such as food, clothing etc. Interested families may simply contact the office. LTR- Long Term Reserve, used to pay for purchases of larger items such as speaker system in the library, and Regular funds.

PHP: \$2 612.24

LTR: \$7 108.20

Regular Funds: \$ 10 111.45

Last year our top fundraiser was the pizza lunch, but the cake raffle and spring dance did very well.

We are looking at ways to spend money which would benefit the whole school community. Parents, please let us know your ideas.

Teacher wish list items. It takes time to put together. Last year we gave the school \$5 000 to use for various purchases.

School budget is not as much as it was. Also cost for supplies are going up, photocopy paper.

Do we need new science equipment? Already have a request for recorders.

How do we increase awareness of the PHP fund? Maybe we should inform more of the staff, if they know of a family in need. Include info about it in the weekly update.

Fundraising last year:

Cake raffle: \$2 200

Spring Dance: \$1 700

May Flowers: \$700

We would love to hear what other fundraising ideas parents may have.

Children's Village Update- Megan

Toddler, infant, kinder and school-age programs are all running at full capacity. Already have 110 children on a waitlist. Currently have 16 staff.

Always looking for donations of clothing etc. for infant/toddler programs. Anything size 18months +. Take toys but nothing battery operated. Items can be dropped off at our entrance which is door closest to the parking lot.

Adjournment- Brooke

Nominations were received and reviewed.

Council Elections- Christine

The following positions were filled as only one person was nominated for each:

Chair-Christine Moulaison

Vice-Chair-Brooke McKnight

Treasurer-Joanne McRae

Secretary-Tanya Menzel-Jones

Volunteer Coordinator-Anuraga Jain

New Business-Events for this year- Christine/Brooke

New idea of having a parent's night out. But not possibly due to liability concerns.

Dance is the first week of Nov. but it's the same week as Halloween, might be too much for children. See if we can move it to another day. Nothing is available. We can change it to a movie night. Families can donate whatever they wish to attend. This event doesn't cost us anything to operate. Can appeal to families who don't celebrate Halloween. Make it a Spooky themed movie night.

Welcome BBQ will be at the end of the year.

Cake raffle is changed to being called Parade of Cakes.

May Flowers fundraiser.

Move the dance to a future date.

Looking at the possibility of having an international food event.

WOW popcorn. Will use a different company from last year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

Next meeting to take place October 17, 2023 at 7:00pm SMPS Library.