

**BIRCHVIEW DUNES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 2, 2017 @ 6:00PM
MINUTES**

Present: Jodi Baldwin, Brett Bartle, Darlene Schwann, Victoria DiBiase, Amy Huestis, Cheryl McNally, Lyenne Dunlop, Tanya Bradley, Dave Strudwick, April Gennings, Jamie Campbell, Dana Jalonen, Karen Jakobus, Michael Giffen, Melissa Mortimer, Barbara Anne Smith (Babs), Amy McQuillan, Jennifer Smallwood, Jennifer Ballard
Regrets: Kelly Cox, Christy Strothoff, Tiina Keetch, Gabby Vetro

Welcome & Introductions

- Chairs welcome everyone and introduce any new attendees
 - Victoria explained how the meeting is run, motions, how many voting members we have (14). Quorum – min. 8 members (60%), an overview of what council has done in the past and that we raised >\$20,000.00
 - Requesting help at events – volunteering

- Distribute copies of agenda and the last meetings minutes

Approval of Minutes from previous meeting

- Note and approve any changes – motion to approve by Victoria seconded by Lyenne
- Introduction of all attendees

Treasurer Report

- Christy not here – balance in general needs \$4500 balance in technology account \$16,670

Teachers Report

- No teacher member present

Principals Report

- Strategic priorities plaque on the wall in the lobby – each school is to create their own action plan. This plan includes 4 areas of interest –
 - 1) excellence in teaching and learning
 - 2) Well-being
 - 3) Equality, diversity and inclusion – how do people feel when they enter our school
 - 4) Community – school council is a big part of this

- EQAO – Reading, writing, math being assessed. Math is being seen as an area of concern. Government considering overhauling math program in our public schools. Provincial average 75% - Grade 3 math 46%, grade 6 is 23%. Our children are falling below the provincial standards. What is it about mathematics that our children are struggling with?

Our children making strides in reading from grade 3-6. Was at 56% (grade 3) and went to 71% (grade 6). Writing stayed close to the same – was at 62% (grade 3) and now at 65% (grade 6). So now what? Teachers are looking at how to change their instructional practice with this acronym: S (specific), M (measureable), A (attainable), R (relevant), T (Time-bound). What tool can I give this child so they can reach their potential? What change am I making to the curriculum to meet the needs of that child? Also, looking at accommodations for children with special learning needs. Michael spoke with teachers and explained that we have these kids for 6 hours/day. We need to be able to explain why we are doing what we are doing. TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More). Provincial standard – 75% of our children completing level 4. This work has already stated – PD day in October will be focused on math and what needs to be done in the classroom to increase these math stats. How we teach and reach the kids to keep the engaged and on task to prevent behaviours. Babs wondered about different teachers teaching styles and how those styles change throughout different classes. Michael suggested to go to the SCDSB website and download the curriculum documents. Parents can read the overall expectations as well as very specific expectations that teachers must meet while teaching.
- Melissa Mortimer thanked all for assisting with the community night and to hear the feedback from all parents and vendors so positive.
- Breakfast club has been fantastic so far and our partnership with Tim hortons continues daily
- Forging partnership between school council and staff and if they have a request, how it needs to be formed
- AV – should be completed at the end of the month – will be a surplus so looking at possibly wireless handheld microphones as well. School council can re purpose funds if they choose
- Home Depot – connection made with Home Depot rep, follow up to occur to determine involvement and next steps – Tony – just a matter of if they want to participate and hook up with us – pruning, mulch – only trouble is that the kind of work done but be mostly done by Board employees due to liability. Brett has spoken with Tony and he is still interested in helping the school garden
- Amy asked if there is something wrong with the school playground? Michael replied yes. Issue with climber is the platform and the covering over the steel of the platform – has chipped over time and Michael got a quote for approx.. \$3000 to fix. Jen asked if we can have the playground inspection after the snow could be moved up. Michael said he would bring it up with the Board. Kids not allowed to play in outdoor classroom in the morning before school – this is only due to

the amount of supervision we have with staff. Jamie said that before and after care still use the playground. Michael has spoken to them already. Jen has a concern about supervision – particularly winter – would like to have the outdoor classroom area open in the winter because it is so much warmer on that side of the school. Also, the kids personal property is left alone on that side of the building and not being supervised. Michael will look into having more supervision over there.

- Amy H wondered if parking is allowed in front of the Y daycare – Michael will speak to daycare
- DPA Bags – Teachers Carson and Ewaskiw will be finalizing the process this week

Updates to Old Business

- Fun Fair – Brett Bartle – Total expenses \$4449.92, \$1000 in grants, \$1200 in local sponsors, sales for night \$2074.30 between wristbands and soaking the teacher. Based on the schools report, profit is \$293 but something isn't adding up – because we got tax rebate on inflatables etc. \$371.73. Sold approx. 400 wristbands – great success. No complaints.
- Community evening – Victoria – Victoria spoke with each vendor – they were thrilled that there were so many people there – lots of information given out. Some want to come back to the school and work with us for future programming. All want to come back if it is done again. Took a lot of pressure off of the teachers. Youth centre sold out of everything. Great for them. Mini workshops weren't a great success – cold outside – would be beneficial to look at in future. Community night was supposed to be funded with the PRO grant – we bought fruit and veggies and bags for business cards – we did receive the grant (\$1000). We spent \$350 approx. \$600 allocated to community cards.
- Little Caesars – Jodi – Goal to have everything done by October 27 – order has to go in November 1. Every child will be getting an order form. Orders will be in November 15.

New Business

- Ladies night – Brett – 5th year running – every year we make approx. \$4000. 5-9 – anywhere from 50-60 vendors, pay for the table and donate door prize. Each grade does classroom baskets as well. The date is also the same as it is for teacher interviews. Current date: November 16 - ? new date of November 9? – date is being moved to November 9. Christy has been working on vendors – 45 signed up as of yet. Waiting for 5 more to arrive via mail. Approx. 10 spots left. Boston pizza donating pizza for Grade 8 café. Christy – vendors, Victoria – advertising – need more help for getting community prize donations – April stepped up. Can

council decide on how much we can use to top up the classroom baskets – it was \$300 last year as a loan until profits come. Victoria motions that we use \$300 from councils budget to help top up baskets, Carrie seconds – all in favour. Jen has volunteered to give some baskets for the classroom baskets.

- 12 days of Christmas – Victoria and Carrie – always a huge success – 2700 1st year, 2200 last year – split between my friends house and food bank. Victoria would like to run this again but is considering a challenge with Worsley and St. Noel. We will go ahead with that. Victoria and Carrie will meet asap.
- Boston Pizza school lunch program – Victoria/Brett – need a committee in council to put this on. Brett and Victoria met with BP today and are extremely interested in working together. Meals are peanut free and they also offer gluten free. Chicken fingers are baked not fried. Each meal comes with a main, juice box, side and dessert (cookie or apple sauce) and will cost \$4 each. If we charge \$5 ea, we will make \$1/meal ordered for fundraising. Council would need the manpower to a) organize forms when they come in b) send info to BP c) deliver meals (already organized into classes) to classrooms. BP needs 3-4 days notice with orders. Maybe we could start with ordering the last Friday of every month? BP hot lunch committee: Jen, Babs, Jennifer and Victoria
- Movie Nights (October 19/December 8) – We will cancel Oct 19 as it is too soon to organize. Will revisit Dec 8 at next meeting. Movie night committee: Cheryl, Lyenne, Amy M.
- Fundraising Plan 2017/2018 – we have no teacher requests as of yet but will expect some to come in in the near future.
 - Our fundraising plan (FP) has to be in by end of October
 - Victoria will let Michael know re: events and what it is benefitting
 - Could we fundraise for a new electronic sign for the school? Cost is ++ to get electricity to the road – likely between \$40-50,000. Could we look into a solar powered sign? Maybe Mr. Pinkerton would have some input into this.
 - Michael will approach the Board facilities people to see if there are any grants or if they have any good suggestions
 - Carrie motioned that FR goal be to 'Beautify Birchview in way of a new school sign, completing library decals and outdoor equipment such as greenscapes. Darlene seconded. All in favour. Michael will look into options and costs for next meeting
 - Jodi will send out Little Caesars fundraising letter with the fundraising goal in it
 - Spirit wear – Can we order Dunes pack colours with the wick away fabric – would need orange, pink, purple, yellow, grey, green, blue and red. Cheryl will get quotes from a company she knows and Jodi will do the same with another company. Results to come to next meeting.

- There is a connections meeting at the Board Office Oct 24/17 @ 4pm. Victoria and Brett are going – there is one spot still open if anyone else wants to go – no one volunteered.

Questions & Other General Business

- In the past winters, snow clearing has been a big issue – Cheryl would like to know if this will be addressed? Michael will talk to Rick @ Facilities and operations to get more information.

Adjournment at 1939. Motioned by Victoria and seconded by Brett.

Next meeting: November 6, 2017