

## Central School Council Meeting Minutes: October 28, 2014

**Present:** Barbara Gibson; Belal El-Hassan; Bridget O’Shaughnessy; Christine Suntz; Cynthia Silversides; Emily Ens; Holly Etherington; Jennifer Donato; Kathryn Litke; Kristie Kuiper; Kristin O’Connor; Laura Davidson; Laura Wohlgemut; Lauren Pitkeathly; Leanne Greenwood; Linda Padgett; Mira Stakic; Mario Zeoli; Mehrnoosh Afnan; Melinda Cowan; Melisa Barnard; Nicolai Zydownyk; Samantha Bell; Sandra Mercuri; Sue Rapin; Tania Mercuri

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION/ RESPONSIBILITY
<p>Presentation “Our Outdoor Play Area”</p>	<p>The Central Public School Kindergarten Teachers gave a presentation about enhancing their Outdoor Play Area along with a hand-out with suggestions for planning an outdoor learning environment. They would like the fence moved to open up the play area, also donations of time and materials for several items to make this space more of an extension of the classroom: music wall, water wall, mud kitchen, benches and tables, tree stumps for sitting areas, pathways, rocks, gardens, sandbox, bird feeders, and storage shed. They are getting support from the school to join ECCDC who will do an assessment of the outdoor play area. They are requesting further support from the Council.</p> <p>It was requested that a Council member be able participate in the assessment day.</p>	<p>The Kindergarten teachers will arrange for Laura Davidson, Vice Chair, to attend the outdoor play area assessment day.</p>
<p>Welcome &amp; Chair Report</p>	<p>All Council meeting participants were provided name tags.</p> <p>A board was set-up to generate ideas for the Council moving forward. Sticky notes were provided for making anonymous suggestions and sticking in the categories: “Stop - Start - Continue”</p> <p>Review and approval of the October 2014 Agenda. Cynthia Silversides moved that they be accepted. Lauren Pitkeathly seconded the motion. CARRIED.</p> <p>Review and approval of the September 2014 minutes. Cynthia Silversides moved that they be accepted. Sandra Mercuri seconded the motion. CARRIED.</p> <p>The “Annual \$100 Contribution to Teachers” check was written and given to the school carrying on this tradition to assist teachers</p>	

	<p>carrying on this tradition to assist teachers with the costs of school supplies for their classrooms. The amount of \$3,400.00 was given to 34 teachers, \$100.00 each.</p> <p>Signatories for the Council Bank Account are Holly Etherington, Laura Davidson, and Sue Rapin.</p> <p>Insurance is being arranged through the school to cover all volunteers during Council activities. The cost is \$151.20 for the OSBIE policy term from November 1, 2014 - November 1, 2015.</p> <p>In light of the current Council funds available and after consulting with Principal Zeoli and Vice Principal Donato, it was decided to hold off on fundraising until after Council receives their "Wish List" and Council has a clear purpose for fundraising.</p> <p>A hand-out was provided with web address and information about the "People for Education" organization and their annual conference on November 8th.</p> <p>Reminder of Parent Involvement Conference in St. Catharines on November 5th.</p> <p>It was announced that the next Parent Council meeting will be held on the 4th Tuesday of November in the Central School Library at 6:30 p.m. as usual (not at the Grimsby Secondary School on the Thursday night of that week).</p>	
<p>PIC Grant Funds</p>	<p>Decisions need to be made by Council on how to spend the \$500.00 annual parent involvement funds. Suggestions include setting up a "Resource Center" for parents/guardians with information about Central School, Council, and education system with a book lending library, and another to add a social "meet and greet" aspect to Council meetings for the first 15 minutes with refreshments to create a welcoming atmosphere for all attendees to feel connected and included.</p> <p>A request was made for Council members to come up with ideas for how to use the PIC Grant.</p>	<p>Council Members to come up with ideas to present at the November Council meeting.</p>

<p>Treasurer Report</p>	<p>The current balance of the Central School Council bank account is \$17,232.50. A recent cash withdrawal of \$70.00 was made to cover award payments from the last school year for recipients who had not cashed the checks received. Once the check written for the annual contribution to teachers is cashed, the new account balance will be \$13,832.50.</p>	
<p>Playground Fund</p>	<p>Council has \$3,000.00 earmarked to support playground maintenance and future replacement. It has been determined that these funds can be placed in an interest-bearing savings account and more details of how this will be handled is being researched. The annual playground inspection has not yet been conducted this year. Typically the school covers costs for required repairs identified, but would appreciate support from Council. The school will provide the playground inspection results to Council.</p>	<p>Holly Etherington to research savings account options and set-up for playground funds.</p> <p>Principal Zeoli to provide results to Council after annual playground inspection takes place.</p>
<p>Principal/Vice Principal Report</p>	<p>Progress reports are being sent home on November 6th. This “snapshot” is a prediction of progress. Teacher meetings will be scheduled on November 12th from 3:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. to discuss student progress.</p> <p>The school newsletter for November will be available on the school website soon and paper copies will be available in the school office. Blaze-casts are done at the beginning of the month.</p> <p>The need for library books was discussed. Principal Zeoli indicated \$3,000.00 of school funds are being used to purchase additional library materials in the coming weeks.</p>	

<p>PRO Grant Programming</p>	<p>An evening at Central School, “How Can I Help?” has been planned for parents and guardians of French Immersion Children for Monday, November 17th from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Central Public School.</p> <p>Pizza and salad will be served. Child care will be provided by Grade 8 Students. Central School Teachers are presenting sessions of which 2 can be chosen to attend. Materials from this evening will be available on the school website for those not able to attend.</p> <p>A challenge was made to invite additional participants.</p>	<p>All parents and guardians attending the workshop are challenged by Principal Zeoli to bring 2 additional participants each.</p>
<p>School “Wish List”</p>	<p>Principal Zeoli provided an informal “Wish List” for Council to consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Technology purchases</li> <li>2. Playground equipment</li> <li>3. Improvements for school office entry area</li> </ol> <p>Central has the largest enrolment (578 students) of the 98 DSBN public elementary schools. Technology funds allocated by the school board are proportionate to the size of the school. Central is receiving \$11,832.00, 2.38% of the available funding.</p> <p>The school currently has SMART Boards in 17 of 25 classrooms, with the other classrooms set-up with projectors and white boards. Other technology used in the school are first generation iPads, netbooks, and computers located in the library.</p>	
<p>Vice Chair Report Canadian Parents for French</p>	<p>Hand-outs were given about available resources including the Canadian Parents for French (CPF) organization which has a wealth of free information for parents, students, and educators (more information is available to members for annual fee of \$25.00), and French for the Future website.</p> <p>A potential grant of up to \$300.00 to match Council spending is available from CPF.</p>	<p>Laura Davidson to research CPF grant further.</p>

<p>Vice Chair Report School Communication</p>	<p>It was requested for advance notice be provided to parents and guardians about sports, clubs and activities offered by the school. It was noted that children can join activities at any time, and there is a poster board near the office with listing “day before/ day after” activities.</p>	
<p>Vice Chair Report Student Learning Strategies</p>	<p>A suggestion was made for additional guidance for student use of agendas to help them manage projects and due dates.</p>	
<p>Vice Chair Report Santa Claus Parade</p>	<p>Clarification was sought on Santa Claus parade participation and Council was advised this is not a Council initiative. The school coordinates participants who walk with a banner (no float).</p>	
<p>Fundraising Chairs Report Pizza Chair Appointment/ Pizza Committee Proposal</p>	<p>It was decided to get weekly Pizza lunches started. Lauren Pitkeathly is coordinating this effort with volunteer Melisa Barnard.</p> <p>Discussion ensued about other lunch options including Subway, and Lunch Lady which does not require parents or teacher involvement.</p> <p>It was decided to include a survey with Pizza lunch forms to get feedback on other lunch day options.</p> <p>No Pizza Chair was appointed.</p>	<p>Lauren Pitkeathly and Melisa Barnard to coordinate Pizza lunch activities and volunteers through to the end of this calendar year.</p> <p>Envelopes to be prepared for sending home on Friday, November 7th.</p> <p>Envelopes due back and to be collected on Thursday, November 13th.</p> <p>First Pizza Lunch day to be coordinated for Friday, November 21st.</p>
<p>Fundraising “Opt-out” Recommendations</p>	<p>Agenda item was deferred to another meeting.</p>	<p>Cynthia Silversides to include this item on a future agenda.</p>

<p>FUNDScrip Chair Report</p>	<p>A FUNDScrip blitz is planned for November, in advance of Christmas shopping. It was noted to use cash or check payments for Council to make the most from this fundraiser. Credit card payments reduce the percentage donated to Central School.</p>	<p>Emily Ens to coordinate blitz and order forms for the school to send home on November 24th.</p> <p>Principal Zeoli to add FUNDScrip web page link on the school website.</p>
<p>New Business: Fundraising Idea: Holiday Bazaar</p>	<p>Suggestion for fundraising by Amanda Ridge for a Holiday Bazaar to rent out tables similar to a “Mom to Mom” sale. Discussion revolved around level of work required and benefits obtained. Many parents had experienced this type of initiative at other schools and suggested other fundraisers would raise similar funds with much less effort (e.g. dance-a-thon).</p> <p>A subsequent suggestion to have a gift basket auction during a parent information night was made and it was noted this type of effort has proven successful.</p>	
<p>New Business: Fundraising Idea: Winter Festival</p>	<p>Suggestion by Laura Noble-Wohlgemut for a winter festival in February for fundraising. It was noted the school is currently planning a festival type event for January or February focused on school curriculum and culture - not fundraising. Parent support for this event is welcomed.</p>	
<p>New Business: Proposal: Yoga at the School for Kids</p>	<p>A presentation and proposal was provided by Tania Mercuri for Children’s Yoga sessions during nutrition breaks at the school. She explained benefits and pricing.</p> <p>It was noted that M. Lauzon is currently setting up a Yoga Club (40 members so far).</p>	<p>Tania Mercuri to provide yoga brochure to Principal Zeoli for inclusion in the November school newsletter.</p>

<p>Open Forum</p>	<p>Alternative means of online communication was discussed for people who are not Facebook users. A suggestion was made to add a blog/threaded discussion to the school website for parents and guardians to use.</p> <p>A question was raised about holding a Lamontagne chocolate bar fundraiser. The Fundraising Chairs will consider this fundraiser and make recommendations at the next Council meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that the younger children cannot reach soap in the bathrooms.</p>	<p>Principal Zeoli and Vice Principal Donato will find out if it is possible to add a blog/threaded discussion section to the Council web page on the school website.</p> <p>Fundraising Chairs to investigate Lamontagne fundraising options and make recommendations at the November Council meeting.</p> <p>Principal Zeoli and Vice Principal Donato will review and resolve the soap access issue.</p>
	<p>Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.</p>	