CES School Council Meeting

February 25th, 2014

**Attendance**: Kim D’Angelo, Erin Fletcher, Deirdre Mander, Stephanie Nasmith, Sara Fitzgerald, Ron Henry, Natasha Smith, Carmen Brubacher, Sheila Ball, Josh Kemp

**Meeting called to order** at 7:06pm

**Approval of Minutes:** *(with Carmen's modification)* Sarah, Josh

**Approval of Agenda**: *(replace Teri with Sarah, OCASC)* Josh, Kim

**Review of Action Items:** *Ron to enquire about security measures taken with construction workers:* Ron spoke to a number of colleges who have had workers in their schools and have had no issues. He still intends to look further into the question of background checks, and will put in a call to Roger, the board lawyer, soon.
\*Update on construction: It is now looking like the job may start a little bit later (end of April?), but there are still high hopes it will wrap up before school begins in September.

**Chair Report** (Carmen Brubacher)

As Carol is on vacation, Carmen is chairing this meeting.

*Coffee club* a few weeks ago brought out about 15 people (Carol to circulate notes when she returns). Some of the items that were discussed include parental involvement in the school, communication between the school and families, expectations of our children, math and literacy, the importance of communication with teachers, technology, lock down (2 practice lock downs to take place in there coming months, one announced and one as a little more of a surprise for the students), snow removal. Locked doors also came up in discussion; the direction we are moving is key card doors. *To chat more about in the future...what impression are we giving our children about society by placing them in a “locked building”?*

**Upcoming events**...

Council will hold a *Bake Sale* the 27th of March
*Festival Meeting* March 17th @ 9am
*Movie Night* on April 4th

As always, volunteers are needed to make all of these events possible.

**Principals Report** (Ron Henry)
Ron’s “pet project”, evening reading events, have been a great success! He had a blast at the last event and was thrilled to see approximately 50 people come out. Ron, and the families, are looking forward to doing it again soon.

Ron provides us with a little bit more information about *self regulation* and how teachers are learning more about their students. The *"Mind Up Program"* is a series of 15 lessons that the school is working through together, each lesson taking approximately 2 weeks.

The core practice of the Mind Up Program is a breathing exercise that Ron guides us through, and we watch a video of a group of students practicing it. Teachers are doing this after major transition times, and noticing changes in the calmness and clarity of the students.
Natasha tells us that she is now sometimes giving students one particular thing to think about during their breathing, ie. “think of something that you are proud of”. It has been hugely beneficial for students with anxiety issues and teachers are finding that some students are now using these tools on their own.

Ron showed us a video (that he intends to share with parents at a larger scale session), providing us with further information about the program as a whole. The idea is that at the end of the year they will look back at the success of the program this year, then plan accordingly to either make it part of the culture at this school, or not.
The lessons that we will be moving into toward the end of the year are about gratefulness.

He mentions optimism, and that we have to help these kids become more optimistic.

The school just started lesson four. Coming up next, the mindful senses.

**Teachers’ Report** (Natasha Smith)

The *Winter Olympics* were a great time for all!!
We recently did *100 Day* activities, different classes took part in different ways.
*Craft Club* started a few weeks ago.
*Math Club* started this week, a competition will take place March 23rd for any interested students. 30-40 students have signed up for math club, far more to an expected.
The classes loved the chance to watch parts of the Olympics on the TV in the front entrance.
The *EFI grade twos* have Scientist in the Schools coming on March 4th. And workshops at the Museum of Civilization at the end of the month.
The grade two and three teachers have been attending *math workshops* which have been very interesting, the first was a few weeks ago.

**OCASC Report** (Sarah Fitzgerald)
(thanks to Teri for her notes from the meeting)

The following motion was carried:

1. Up to $3000.00 to spend on updating the OCASC website.

2. Up to $3000.00 to spend on a guest speaker. ( a few suggestions were made, some involving People for Education, but no decision on the speaker was made)

3. Up to $1000.00 to be spent on a joint speaker event with the Catholic Board.

Presentation by Vicky Kyriaco from OSTA:

\* There is 3 million dollars in potential savings if OSTA can earn a higher efficiency rating. There has been a bell time review, and a hazard rating review.

\* Time line: Dec 2014 the final Bell Time adjustments will go to the Trustees, final results will be known in Jan 2015.

\* There will be an effort made to have the same driver for am pickup and pm dropoff.

\* OSTA was clear that they don’t expect any child under 11 to walk alone to school, that it is up to the parents to ensure that their child gets to school safely

\* A points system will determine if your child is eligible for the bus. It will be a combination of distances from the school and the hazards that were identified. JK -3 60 points = bus

Grade 4-8 100 points = bus. There are certain criteria that affects the hazards that are identified: crossing guards, pathways that are maintained by the city in the winter

\* There will be public consultations where maps identifying walking routes and hazards will be available. OSTA indicated that the maps will be available on Mar 3rd, the public consultations will take place from April – June. There will be a newsletter coming with maps and bell times and the proposed date for a public consultation.

\* Castlefrank Rd. will NO LONGER be considered a hazard. This will affect the points system for determining the student’s eligibility for the bus.

\* OSTA is looking for feedback. The feedback MUST be specific. They are looking for details, and how the changes affect you personally. Send your feedback to: feedback@ottawaschoolbus.ca

\* Note: OSTA has a total budget of 60 million dollars.

\* Bus routes will not be known until August.

**Treasures Report** (Josh Kemp)
Not much has changed in the financials. So far $21884 have been brought in, mainly outstanding funds include bake sale, coffee, movies and lunch lady.

Note: We decide to add April 30th as deadline to submit the teachers’ allowance receipts.

**Fundraising** (Carmen Brubacher)
The *Coffee* campaign started last week, and will end the 4th of March (for delivery after the break).

**Spirit Committee** (Carmen Brubacher)
*School Color day* was the Friday after our last meeting, Mrs Oldfeilds class won this time, with every child being dressed in school colours (one little girl had her hair AND nails coloured).

The *Olympic days*, along with Olympic doors, were a hit!

*Kindness week* went over very well. Thanks to Sylvia for make staff cards, and Jen Christopher and Carmen for providing the staff treats,

Any other ideas for March and April??

**Other**...
*Hot lunches*? What do we want to add or replace for the coming year?

**Action item**: Ron to send Carmen a board approved list of food companies, so we can discuss in the future.

Next month...principal profile.

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:28pm