CES School Council Meeting

January 28th, 2014

**Attendance**: Kim D’Angelo, Avan Hoshyar, Jen Christopher, Teri MacDonald, Stephanie Nasmith, Susan Wehrmann, Ron Henry, Natasha Smith, Carmen Brubacher, Carol Mothersill, Josh Kemp

**Meeting called to order** at 7:05pm  
  
**Approval of minutes**: Carmen, Kim

**Approval of agenda**: Teri, Kim

**Review of Action Items**

Update in regards to the funds for the teachers: $100 was allocated for playground equipment, $60 for kindergarten kids pop up soccer nets. With respect to the $2000, no decision was made in December.  
  
  
**Chairs’ Report** (Carmen Brubacher, Carol Mothersill)

**Calendar of Events**

*Coffee Club* will be held on Feb 7th. The first was held in early December and was very well received. Things that came up at the last event included field trips, snow days and nutrition...  
*Kindergarten Winter Activity Day* the 6th of February.  
Council will be doing a *Bake Sale* in March.  
We are planning for another *Movie Night* and *Coffee Club* in April.  
  
**Festival**  
Our second annual festival in conjunction with KES is planned for June 11th. It will be held at Katimavik again this year due to the construction at our school (KES council very willing said we were welcome to host the next two years if we would like). All entertainment for the event has been booked and confirmed. We are currently looking for committee members and volunteers to be actively involved on the event night. The committee meets once a month, with the next meeting being held March 18th at 9am at the Burbs. Everyone welcome!  
  
Please help spreading the word for volunteers on Festival day!! This event is not possible without sufficient help.  
  
  
**Principals Report** (Ron Henry)

*School budget*: We started the year with a little more money than usual at $78000, and have spent about 44 percent of that to date. As always, a big chunk goes to supply teachers (about half). The budget includes all elements of the school’s operations including supplies and repairs.  
Note: As far as long term occasional go, the first ten days comes from the schools budget and the remainder is then funded by the board.

*Full Day Kindergarten* will begin in September! Currently it is anticipated that there will be five kindergarten classes. All of the supplies to stock the new classrooms have been ordered by Ron, with the assistance of our existing kindergarten teachers. Storage of the incoming products may create a slight issue while we are in construction mode this spring. Plans are in the works, one possibility is the use of portables for storage. Phil will be putting in a proposal to the board and Ron will back it up. As for the existing kindergarten products, much of it will go to the board’s surplus depot, and items that can be used in other classrooms within our school, will be.  
  
Along with full day kindergarten comes the *Extended Day Program*. The program will run from 7am to 6pm. This is a board run program and will be replacing the current YMCA program. Information packages have gone home to parents outlining all options and costs. The school is currently looking to find out how many people may be interested in before or after school care, or both. This program will run PA days, and school breaks such as the March Break. There is the possibly of a summer program, but it may not be at this location.  
  
*Renovations*: not much change since the last report.  
  
 **Action Item** – A parent asked what the protocol is for construction workers in our school during the renovations is. *Mr Henry to look into security measures to be put in place while workers are present.*  
  
*Timeline:* Planning for next year is underway. Once numbers come in after kindergarten registration this week, Ron sends them into the board for approval and staffing. By April 1st he will have a proposed staffing organization for the fall. Although he does not currently anticipate much change, he will have plans in place by Aril and he will formally present the information including any staffing changes.  
  
The *Mindfulness and Self Regulation* program has started with great success. All teachers in the school are working on similar lessons. The first of these was how the brain works and some classes made brain hats to identify the various parts. This new program is bringing lots of buzz between staff and students alike. We hope that this school wide initiative will become part of everyday living for both staff and students. A few other schools, including a neighbouring school, are doing it as well and we look forward to their additional feedback.  
More information will go out to parents in the near future, as well as information as to how to implement these changes in your home.  
  
*Math* is another focal point of our school improvement plan and is something that is continually being worked on throughout the school. An instructional coach from the board office has come to meet with the teachers and introduce them to the idea of "balanced math", preparing everyone for a movement in the school.  
  
The one large proposal that the teachers brought forward to council prior to Christmas was a *tradansa.* Council had a few concerns. Our original hope was to get the children outside of the school with the funds we were providing the teachers. Additionally, this one event would use the entire $2000 we have budgeted. We were concerned that we were perhaps not on the same page as far as getting the children out for a field trip.  
After further research, Ron’s update on this is that trandansa would indeed cost approximately $2000. Staff remain very keen on this idea; The enterprise was very roundly supported within the school because all of the students and parents would be included. Although Ron does think that it is a good idea to encourage the teachers to get the children out of the building, staff are concerned that it is difficult to get sufficient volunteers and it is difficult to get that many primary children out of the school. Also, it is expected that kindergartens would not be included in field trips, but tradansa would.  
  
Ron offers to cover “experiences”, if we support the in school proposal.  
 **Motion**: Mr Henry to provide $2000 field trips/ experiences, council to pay for Tradansa (Motion by Josh, and Teri. All in favour.)

A parent brings forward the idea of a field trip to a nearby swamp for the Kindergartens. Ron will pass on the suggestion.  
  
  
**Teachers Report** (Natasha Smith)

Lunch time games have been taking place on Monday, Tuesday and Fridays. The grade 1-3’s are going to the gym, two classes at a time, during morning recess to take part in games including tag and ball games. Mrs Rockburn and Mrs Crow are running this.  
  
Recently, Mr Henry brought some grade two and three boys to the gym during indoor recess to play mini sticks. This is something that that boys were very excited about.  
  
Congrats to Lindsay Duncan who won the Remembrance Day contest put on by the legion, for a colored poster.  
  
Choir continues.   
  
Kindergarten Winter Activity day will take place next week. The children will have a morning of sliding, snowshoeing and snow and ice play, followed by hot chocolate.  
  
Something similar is potentially being planned for the older children as well.  
  
  
  
**OCASC Report**

\*Thank you to Teri MacDonald for the submission of her notes from the evening...

**OCASC Notes from Jan 23rd meeting**

 On Thursday February 27 at 7:00pm, the Earl of March will be hosting a parent information session on '(How to) Talk to your Kids about Sex' (no kids or teens for this learning event for grown-ups)

[www.Scientistsinschool.ca](http://www.Scientistsinschool.ca) – Hands on workshop that could include parents. This would qualify for a PRO grant.

Trustee Mark Fisher – Cyclical Replacement of Play Structures.

* There is a lot of time being spent by school council raising money for play structures, when their efforts could be spent elsewhere. She also wanted to note that the Board seems to be moving -towards having councils raise less money, and focus efforts in other areas.
* the process to be equitable, so it does not produce a climate of “have” and “have-nots”. A play structure is a big part of a child’s education, and the process needs to be standardized.
* surprised by the removal of their play structure. They would like to see schools notified well in advance of the removal date, so that they can plan for a replacement. There seems to be a disconnect between the inspectors, and the school councils. The School Councils need to know the realistic time frame so that they are not caught off guard.
* a lot of fundraising, and would like to raise the point that there are a lot of long term effects regarding too much fundraising. There is burn out within the community, and there are repercussions to other fundraising needs.
* would like to know if “play stations” would be included in the proposal just like play structures. It was recognized that accessible play structures are more expensive, and Trustee Fisher advised that would be built into the process.
* they could not duplicate any of the structures within a 1.5 km radius. They could not have any of the features that were on those structures.
* would like Trustee Fisher to be prepared for the critics who will say that the play structures can only be used for 4-5 months of the school year is it worth the money?

Marie-Claude Lang – Active Transportation

* Ottawa Public Health would like to encourage students/parents to use “Active Transportation”. Some parent councils have introduced “International Walk to School Day” in Sep/Oct. There is a “Winter Walk to School Day” on Feb 5th, and “Walking/Wheeling Wednesdays”. There are “walking clubs” and “walking school buses”. Resources can be found on the Ottawa Public Health website, and each school has been assigned a public health nurse. The Ottawa Safety Council does pedestrian safety talks.

We are in need of a Secretary and a Communications Officer. (facebok, twitter, social media) To revisit next month.

* Treasurer: current balance $ 17 000.00 of which $ 7000.00 is a PRO grant. The allocation of funds will be discussed at the next meeting.

\*\*Josh asks, is there a maintenance schedule for the play structures? Is it something we can pay into for repairs?

**Treasurers Report** (Josh Kemp)

We have currently spent about half of our funds allotted for the year. Ron, please remind teachers about their allowance, currently only about 1/3 of teachers have used it. If it has been used, please provide receipts.  
Josh asks spirit committee if they require additional funds, approximately half of budgeted funds have been used. Carmen says wait a few months and see.

Librarian still has about $400 to use.  
  
The remainder of funds will be spent at the end of the year.  
  
At this point it looks like we will have a $900 surplus. As we get closer to the end of the year we can come up with other spending ideas. Ideas: Grade threes “graduation”? Spirit? Clubs?  
If there is a teacher who feels they cannot get something together for a club or activity due to finances, they are encouraged to come forward with a proposal.  
  
  
**Fundraising** (Carol Mothersill)

2013 - Entertainment books, community events (dance, movie night, bake sale).  
2014 - Community events (bake sale march, movie night April) reminder that we are always looking for volunteers for these events.

Coffee fundraiser, do we still want to run it? This was our only sent home selling fundraiser last year and was very well received, especially by the he kindergarten families. Council decision: Go ahead with coffee.  
  
Reminder that not every fundraiser is for every family, if you cannot or do not want to participate in any given fundraiser there are other options in the future!

**Spirit committee** (Carmen Brubacher)

Carmen looking for volunteers for future activities!!  
*Olympic fun days* are being proposed by both the teachers and the committee, so this will take place in some form.  
  
*Kindness week*: perhaps matching up classrooms and having them do secret acts of kindness during the week, promoting the idea of being intentional about kindness.  
  
Carol mentions that the teachers are asking for a school colour day.

A decision is made to make Friday, January 31, *school colour day*! Wear your red, yellow and blue!  
  
  
**Other business**...  
*Family fireside reading night* - Ron to think about another date for this winter.  
  
We need to update our Principal Profile, Carmen and Carol to prepare something and send out for review.  
  
*Proposed bell times for 2015*  
It was brought forward at the Kanata zone meeting in early January that the different school boards and the bus line are working together to put forward a plan that will better utilize our bussing funds. For our zone this means better aligning bell times at different schools. This means a proposed change for Katimavik, a 9:15 start of day. Because it needs to be changed more than ten minutes a public consultation needs to take place, this will be done this spring. Although this does not directly affect our school, many of our families have children at both schools.

Anyone with concerns can forward them to the trustee. Since KES is our sister school they have been flagged. If the proposal is passed, it will mean a 45min time difference between the two schools and will be an inconvenience for many parents dropping off at both schools. There is also concern about the crossing guards.  
  
Note: 8am, 8:30am, 9:15am are the three proposed bell times within the Ottawa area.  
  
**Meeting adjourned** at 9:08pm.