Castlefrank Elementary School Council

Meeting Minutes

April 28th 2014, 7pm

**Attendance**...

Jennifer Christopher, Nilay Ertemur, Miriam Walker, Jennifer Guerra, Deirdre Mander, Teri MacDonald, Ralph Quapp, Christine Kirkland-Klerks, Ron Henry, Rene Poettcker, Kim D’Angelo, Carol Mothersill, Sheila Ball

**Meeting called to order** at 7pm.

**Approval of minutes** from last meeting by Deirdre/Ralph.
**Approval of agenda** by Nilay/Jennifer C.

**Chair report** (Carol Mothersill)

The last **“Meet Up”** for the year was this past Friday. A small group attended but great conversation was had. Discussions included running/skating clubs and group activities for the KES and CES to get together.   Thank you Deidra for doing the minutes again (they have been posted to the blog).

**The Bike Rodeo** will be held May 20-21. Based on the information that the Safety Council has sent, Carol has put together a schedule for all classes from SK-3 to participate for one hour. Time will be spent completing an obstacle courses, bike/road safety session and some time with our health nurse. A sign up schedule is posted but more formal information will go home shortly.

**Festival Update:** June 10th. The call will go out soon for volunteers, as well as a “save the date” for families, including a reminder that this year’s event will be held at CES. This event is completely free for families with the exception of the BBQ and splash bucket.

The **Book Fair** is next week at KES. It is also **Education Week**, kudos to our teachers for putting together a week filled with great events!

Carol is once again applying for the **PRO grant**.  She will be meeting with Mme Smith, Mme Taggart and Mr Muldoon Roy soon to start working on our future (hopfelly) event and finalize the proposal. Ideas for next year’s event include literacy, mindfulness, nutrition...
KES has also applied, asking for funding for a technology based event.

There is a **Spirit Day** this Friday “dress like your favorite sport/activity”. Next week, as part of education week, there will be another spirit day inviting students and staff to “dress like your favorite book character”.

The staff has decided to use the funds from our Entertainment Book fundraiser in the fall to bring **Scientists in the Schools** into all of the classrooms. Council has also supported both Tradansa and Drum Fit this year!

**Principals Report** (Ron Henry)
The **Play Structures** will open after the sand has been rotatilled for safety reasons. Only after this has been done can the structures safely be opened. Please encourage your children to stay off the structures until then.

Elementary teachers are in a **strike position** as of May tenth, a full blown strike however seems unlikely to happen at this point in time. Note that this union in particular encompasses only our teachers, not EAs and other support staff who actually fall under the high school union. If and when Ron receives additional information he will share it with the public.

Ron shares with us the **tentative organization** for the 2015-2016 school year.
Note that we have gained a .25 learning resource teacher and one full time teaching position, which is good news for our school. Also, we are moving from 6 ECEs to 9, placing 5 in the school at all times with some overlap.

Tentative Organization –

Regular English: JK, 2 x K (will be a mix of JK and SK), 1/2, 2/3, 3

EFI: 2x SK, 2x 1, 1/2, 2x 2, 3x 3

Special Education/ESL: LLD, LST, LRT (2x 0.5), ESL (0.5)

Core french

Support: English Support (0.25 + 0.73), French Support (0.16 + 0.27), ETFI, ECE (9)

**Hot lunch** (Rene Poettcker)
**Pizza** surveys came back with a mixture of results, but the masses seem to want to stick with Dominoes at this point in time.  A very significant number of forms came back including several from families who do not currently order. A few strong opinions came back saying they don't order because it is Dominoes, as well a few are looking for a gluten free option.  We did explore different options, and may continue to do so for other (evening) events which involve parents in the future and charge a premium for a higher end pizza.  At this point the pizza program will stay the same, as that is what the children seem to want.

**Teachers report** (Miriam Walker)
Not much to add at this point other than to **thank council** for the continuous support! Tradansa and Drum Fit were both fabulous and enjoyed by all, and classes are getting excited about SIS...a special thanks for consideration for the light tables for the kinders.

**Communication corner** (Deirdra Mander)
Nothing to report. Blog will continue to be updated regularly.

**Other business**
The **Staff Appreciation Brunch** (Jennifer Christopher) will be June 5th. Top secret! Watch for the signup genius.
Jen will be looking for all sorts of help! *Action item: list of specifics to be compiled, and a blog post to be sent out (with teachers eliminated).*
Secret envelopes will again be sent home to families.

**Last meeting** for the year **May 26t**h, 7pm in the CES Library.

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:01pm.