**Castlefrank Elementary School Council**

**Feb 24th 2015 - Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance**: Carol Mothersill, Teri MacDonald, Jennifer Christopher, Ron Henry, Deirdre Mander, Christine Kirkland-Klerks, Ralph Quapp, Kim D’Angelo, Chris Brown, Natasha Smith, Renee Poettcker, Megan Venner

Meeting **called to order** at 7pm

**Approval of minutes** from last meeting. Teri MacDonald, Jenn Christopher

**Approval of agenda** for today’s meeting. Kim, Deidre

**Chair’s report** (Carol Mothersill)

1) Kanata Zone Meeting – with Christine Boothby (Feb 5th)

The bell time review and walk zone maps have been finalized. OSTA will accept feedback, but there are strict criteria. The Board is looking at how to manage prom type activities without a 3rd party involved. This is new for the Board. The EDP is looking for feedback. This is time sensitive due to the current budget talks. If you have any specific comments regarding the EDP, (i.e.: snacks, costs, programming) please forward them to Christine Boothby. christine.boothby@ocdsb.ca

Kindergarten budget: there were several letters sent to the trustees. This issue exists across the board. There might be motions coming to extend the deadline for final numbers, or have a contingency plan in place. Seven trustees need to approve a motion. Christine wanted the CES community to know that the letters helped, and our issues were heard. She will continue to address our concerns. Thank you to Deidre and Katie for the letter, it was well received.

It is important to let the School Trustees know what types of programming you appreciate, that you want to remain in place, and which ones you don’t. This is important at budget time.

The report on the English program is available.

Drum Fit: there was lots of positive feedback, and lots of positive dialogue on social media. Mme. Martel’s class has presented school council with a thank you drawing, for sponsoring the event.

2) Math Night

There was a fabulous turn out. 111 families RSVP’d and 100 showed up. There was a very strong community feeling, and the evening moved along without any incidents. Hats off to Natasha for getting a great group of teachers involved. The feedback that was received was all positive. There might be a possible “Literacy Night” in the planning. Thank you to Carol Mothersill and her team of volunteers, to Food Basics, and to Sergio for taking pictures.

**3) Hot lunch**

There might be a new pizza provider. On Math night, we sampled Willy’s pizza. At the beach dance it will be Gabriel’s. At the March meeting Jojo’s will provide samples.

Hot dogs - A parent brought to our attention that the nutritional guidelines are not currently being met on Hotdog days. There are specific amounts of fat, sodium, and fibre, and we are not meeting them. There was a discussion regarding how we can alter our hotdogs so that they meet the requirements. On the Feb hotdog day, we will serve Schneider’s wieners and whole wheat buns in order to meet the guidelines, and solicit feedback from the students.

**4) Calendar:**

Beach dance – Mar 6th. Carol is looking for somebody to organize the beach dance. The music man is booked. The Grade 3’s will make the posters, Ron will determine boot/coat storage, Carol will check the signup genius link.

Fri Mar 13th – spirit day.

Mar 11th – Raising Resilient kids at KES

Book fair – Mar 4-5 at KES there was discussion regarding the inability to generate enough sales in the French book category to host a bilingual book fair. The fair will be mostly English books, with a small sample of French books. The provider of the French books will not deliver books to our fair because we cannot meet the minimum sales required.

Bike Rodeo- possibility, Carol is checking with the City

**5) Principal’s report – Ron Henry**

Projected numbers for next year: 350-353 (up 20 from this year) we won’t lose any classes, and it will be likely that we gain a class. We can go up 2 classes and still be able to accommodate everyone in the building, with no portables. There will be more information at the April meeting.

There are 2 heating units being installed.

There will be some training regarding the new Health curriculum. Details to follow.

Extra-curricular activities - the staff will continue to offer activities during the breaks. There are no staff members interested in offering a before or after school activity.

**6) Teacher’s Report – Natasha Smith**

Math club has started. Grade 2s on Thur, Grade 3s on Fri. Indoor games are still being held. The Kangaroo math contest will be coming soon; information will be added to the blog. There will be no coffee fundraiser this year.

**7) OCASC - Jenn Christopher**

**Chalk it up**

**Charity Fundraiser Maple Ridge**  Allencyn@hotmail.com

Who does and chooses what external fundraising (charity) that the school does. Is it parents, teachers or parent Council?

* 1st Ave has a Philanthropist club who has both staff and parents involved to help the children choose a limited number of charities to support throughout the year
* Lake view counsel has created a policy in its constitution and all charity events must be chosen by counsel

**AED’s Stone Craft**

Defibrillator, does your school have one?

There are a number of things to consider if a school is looking at getting an AED.

* The cost of the unit
* The cost to have more than one person trained on how to use the unit
* The cost of maintenance (battery replacement every few months and after each usage)
* Accessibility/location of the unit

The cost of a unit is around $1200 however the training and maintenance costs can be more prohibited. (No number were mentioned) If for some reason there is no one trained (over time) the cost of the removal of the unit is a consideration. There must be a member of staff who takes on the responsibility to ensure that the unit has been maintained and is in good working condition. From the Board: This is not a school board mandate. Therefore if a school wishes to install an AED, the cost of training, installation, maintenance would come out of the schools budget.

**Junior Achievement Ottawa Network for Education** rkack@onferope.ca

They offer 4 different programs teaching children about entrepreneur ship. The programs are geared for children in grades 5, 7 and 8. They require parent volunteers for the program to run smoothly. The Ottawa Network for Education will provide on line training for interested parents.

P**ick up/Drop off challenges Sir Winston Churchill** caragraybaas@gmail.com

Maple ridge contacted bi law officers with little effect, they sent home notes to parents however it was not until the Principal and VP went outside during the challenging times and managed the parent’s behavior that there was an improvement. Maple ridge has also contacted Bi law and their SRO , they are now looking at having an unmarked car available to ticket parents disregarding the signage. Bridlewood had issues with parents, contacted bi law but had difficulties getting bi law officers arrive at the proper time. Things did not improve until the principal and VP were involved. John Young also struggled with this challenge, again called bi law but again found it ineffective, they are still having struggles but it’s improving as now the principal is outside directing parents as to where they can and cannot park. A few of the comments that were brought up:

The schools that had the principals involved did so after having staff and volunteer parents verbally attacked by parents who were frustrated with having to park further away from the school legally and walk to the school to pick up their child.

It was suggested that a social medial wall of shame be created. Photos of the offending vehicle are permitted just not the driver.

There was a suggestion of having children had out tickets to the parents who are parked illegally as well as the parents who are parking inappropriately such as on the school yard, sidewalks, on the grass (up on a snow bank) blocking traffic flow etc.

The discussion was halted at this point due to time

**Book Fair - Stephen** Leacock is hosting a French book fair taking place Wed, Feb25, from 2 – 8 pm for interested families. All proceeds are to be used for their library

**Trustee Update Chris Ellis (?)**

The board is starting to look at schools as community hubs. Such as having nurses available at high schools. Trying to look at more ways to utilize the schools to make them more efficient and cost effective. Input will be offered to the public as to how you see the school integrating into the community. No date given

The EDP program is going well with a few growing pains. If there are challenges parents are having with the EDP please contact your trustee. They are aware of some of the challenges and would like to work with parents to solve them.

Because of the EDP schools and playgrounds are being used for longer periods of times. There is concern over adult to child ratio when children go out doors to play and there are a mix of EDP children and other families using the facility. Again please let the trustee know if this is a challenge for us.

The Budget will be happening soon. The mandate from the province is that the funding will be “flat” this year. There is discussion about closing schools and looking at accommodations that may be up for discussion

Next guest to attend the meeting is Mike Carson

**School Transportation Vicky Kyriaco OSTA**

Changes have been finalized with both the Bell time review and with walk zones. All maps are now available on the OSTA web page. The Bell times are finalized and no longer available for change. Vicky discussed the number of public consultations about the changes to the walk zones. They were well advertised but sadly were poorly attended. The OSTA web page will have listed all of the times that they had made available to the public on their web pages.

The walk zones have been finalized there is an appeal process if anyone would like to challenge the walk zones in their area. They will only look at the appeal for the following reasons

1. They must demonstrate that staff did not follow procedure or showed negligence in determining the walk zone in their area
2. There is new information that was overlooked such as more accidents at an intersection creating a new hazard area
3. Safety issues that staff inadvertently over looked.

OSTA will be communicating with negatively affected parents by letter between April and May of this year. At this point parents who now qualify for bussing (and had not before) will not be contacted. Vicky mentioned that there are two types of schools, those that prepare before a change and those who react to the change. She did discuss the walking buss in as much as to say that proactive schools will have more success. When asked about snow days and cold weather days the response was it’s up to the parents to choose to let their children walk. However, at this time there will be no cold weather warnings from OSTA. It will be expected for children as young as age three to walk up to the 1.5 km in all weather conditions to school.

Due to a decision from the Human Rights Commission there will now be bussing available to families who share custody of children. Because of this decision there will no longer be any cross boundary transportation of children on OSTA busses. Variable transportation will be available with the following conditions Both homes must qualify for bussing. Such as they must be outside of the walk zone but inside the schools boundaries Application for bussing must be made by BOTH parents. Separate forms must be filled out and all information be matching.

OSTA will only accept the following three custody schedules:

* 2-2 3 (mt, wt, alternating fss)
* 5-5 alternating 2
* 7-7

Deadline for application is June 15th. Late application Sept 15th. This Policy is only available for Joint custody families. If there is a question of Custody then the old rules apply and the child will be bussed to the address that’s on the child’s file.

**8. Treasurer - presented by Carol Mothersil**

We have raised more money that we projected; therefore, we need to allocate more funds. Teachers are encouraged to submit their receipts. There was a reminder that there exists a $100.00 gardening budget. At the March meeting, we will need to approve and allocate any extra funds. There is a possibility that there will be requests for funding for: Bike rodeo, playground line painting, Buddy Bench, additional Teacher requests. Action item – Jen Christopher. There is the possibility of a long term gardening project. This will be presented at the March meeting. Jenn is looking for a partner for the planning of the Staff Appreciation Luncheon.

**9) Communication Corner - Deidre Mander**

Math night – Deidre would like to do a follow up on the blog with links, pictures, on line resources. There some privacy issues that have to be resolved, and Carol will forward pictures to Deidre.

**10) Other Business**

Musical – Frozen This is a play that was written by Phil. He designed the sets, wrote the music, and has championed this project. Phil selected some kids to participate in the play. He went through the grade 2 and 3 classrooms, and selected some kids to play roles. Any student that wants to play a role in the production can choose to play the role of a toll. All students that tried out have been included in some way. March 30th is the projected performance date.

11) Adjournment – 8:40pm

Next meeting – Mar 31, 2015.