**Castlefrank Elementary School**

**Council Meeting**

**January 2015 Minutes**

**Attendance**: Christine Kirkland-Klerks, Ralph Quapp, Fan Zhang, Megan Venner, Josh Kemp, Teri MacDonald, Valerie Cook, Jen Christopher, Deirdre Mander, Stephanie Nasmith, Kama Hutchence, Ron Henry, Katy Pintar, Carol Mothersill, Sheila Ball, Kim D’Angelo

**Meeting called to order** at 7:02pm

**Approval of minutes** from last meeting by Jennifer Christopher, Deidre Mander
**Approval of agenda** by Kim D’Angelo, Teri MacDonald

**Chairs report** (Carol Mothersill)
*Bell time review and active transport*
Christine Boothby was present at the most recent Friday meet-up. Although OFSTA recently posted the walk zone maps, the maps pertaining to CES have since been pulled. The paths at the back of the school have been reconsidered, now deemed unsafe, as they aren't maintained in the winter. This is also the case for the path between Shearer and Kakulu. New maps will be posted in the coming weeks. OSTA has heard our concerns!

*Meet up*
We held a great meet up Friday with close to 20 parents in attendance. The new principal form Katimavik visisted which was a nice addition. Draft minutes for this meeting can be found on the blog.
As a group we discussed what we appreciate about CES, our concerns, and areas for improvements. The kinder class sizes were discussed in detail, as were the buddy bench that is being worked on and the existing playground toy boxes. There was a question regarding the gifted program which Christine is looking for further information on. It has been decided that the next meeting will be opened up to KES as well to work at broadening and strengthening the community with future events.

*Math night*
Castlefrank’s first Math Night will be held on Wendesday February 4th. This event is meant to bring students and parents together with stations run by nine of our teachers. Funding was provided by the Parents Reaching Out Grant.
Each family will receive a swag bag (the bags have kindly been donated by food basics) that will be stocked with information and activities based on the stations visited throughout the night.

4:30pm – Dinner will be held in the foyer. Families have ordered pizza and fruits/vegetables and beverages will be provided.
5:15pm – Everyone will meet in gym for a brief discussion and welcome befor breaking down into groups and heading out to stations.
Sessions include aps/games, counting and games, math facts, numeracy, patterning...

Carol is still looking for volunteers to help the evening run smoothly (befor and after, all parents will be able to attend math night itself).

Note: the PRO grant is something we can apply for every year to host something similar.

*CES/KES Festival*
This years festival has been scheduled for June 10th at Castlefrank. At this point the committee is still working to secure the supplier for the inflatables and Grill Master has been booked for the event.

**Calendar of Events**
*Meet the principal* will be held at KES tomorrow evening (January 28th at 7pm in the library). Everyone is welcome to attend.
*Drum Fit* will be taking place this week with a presentation on Thursday. This event was funded by School Council.
Feb 4th is both *Report Card Day and Math Night*.
Our second *bake sale* of the year, in celebration of Valentines’ Day will be held on February 11th.
Feb 13th is a *PA day*.
*Next School Council meeting,* February 24th.

Spirit days??

*Action item: Carol to touch base with the grade three leadership program in regards to hosting more spirit days.*

**Principal Report** (Ron Henry)
Things are ticking along. The teachers and Ron have been actively working on *report cards* which will be going home next week.

*Gifted program inquiry*...
Some families have been enquiring about a recent change within the gifted programming offered by the school board. The change that has occurred will see these children move through a tiered system as all other children (ie those moving to a language disabilities class).

The option used to be given to parents to have their child attend a congregated gifted class. However, now if a student is identified as gifted they go through the same tier system as all other students.

Tier one is classroom intervention.

Tier two is other support within the school.

Tier three a congregated class.
The goal is always to reintegrate children into a class.

*Staffing process*: This year we have been faced with the challenge of our kindergarten classes being overly large. In addition, the English classes are larger than Ron would have liked them. This is a historical mishap, one that we will hopefully not encounter in the coming year.
The planning department will crunch the numbers following kindergarten registration and Ron can begin organization in March.
He expects our numbers next year will be closer to the board average, being 26 students per kindergarten class.

Unfortunately this year at the cut off date, end of September, we had only 26 children enrolled in each kinder class. After this cut off there was an influx of students but staffing these classes were already set in stone as far as the board is concerned.
Ron anticipates our English numbers to remain very low for the 2015-2016 school year.

Details on staffing will come in April.

After inspection it was decided that our *play structures* are new enough that given the ‘average life span’ determined by the board and ministry we have about 10-15 years of ‘life’ remaining.

**Teacher report** (Valerie Cook)
From Natasha Smith...

*Math Club* will begin for grade two’s and three’s the second week of February and she will once again be encouraging students to take part in the kangaroo math contest.

\*A brief discussion is had about the fact that all of our clubs/programs have to take place at recess. It is suggested that perhaps the odd program occurring after school hours might be an option for those children who feel missing recess is not an option.

*Action item:* *Ron to mention the thought of occasional befor/after school programming to staff.*
The grade one’s (Mme. Toye’s) class will be celebrating *100 Day* next week. Each child will be asked to bring in 100 of any one item.

A few of our teachers have been organizing *gym games* at recess.

Phil 's *Frozen/Unthawed Musical* will be held March 30th with two showings again this year in support of the Food Bank. Choir is taking part in this year’s event by singing three songs. As well, any grade 2 & 3’s have been invited to partake.

**OCASC report** (Jennifer Christopher)

\*Thanks to Jen for providing her notes from the meeting.

Chalk it up

LDHSS - OES e-waist Fundraiser Susan.klimchuk@rogers.com

149 Longfield drive

E-waste Fundraiser - Electronics only took place last weekend

They earn money by the ton of donated e-waste

Last year they raised $900 with two tons worth of e waist

The School has also raised money by having a textile recycle. Items such as clothing, purses, towels, sheets etc., any textiles. They used a company called Bag 2 School

The school council found that it was best to alternate e – waist with textile recycling for best results. Found it very easy and a quick way to bring in money. Also check what other schools are doing before going ahead.

Sir Winston Churchill - Tech - caragrayboas@gmail.com

Question, what technology have other councils purchased for their schools

Huntley responded that they found this combination the most effective

I pads for jk – 2

Chrome for 3 – 5

Laptops for 6 – 8

Also to ensure that each class has the tools. Delivering technology by cart takes too long to hand out and set up. By the time it was all handed out over ½ of the class was gone. By having each class having age appropriate technology they found that the children both used it appropriately and that the teachers were able to incorporate it in to every day learning.

Alison – Speaker series

All sessions are to take place at Sir Robert Borden HS @ 7 pm

Jan 29th, - Dr B Loyd – What is physical Literacy

How physical literacy effects the mind, how treating the body well including proper posture etc.

Feb 19th – CHEO panel – eating disorders

Anonymous questions that can be asked.

There will be a presentation as to what an eating disorder looks like and a discussion on how it to help if a family member is struggling

Main Speaker

Healthy Schools in 2020 with Laurie Dojeiji, Champlain CVD prevention network

www.healthyschools2020.ca

How to create a health school, the studies are in, Good nutrition has a direct increase in school performance.

She discussed how physical activity builds stronger kids and that the most recent studies are now showing a direct link between increased physical activity and an increase in healthy more alert ready to learn children

Health and student success is now linked to being the same thing

Some of the effects that they saw in the pilot project was a significant improvement with all children regarding aggressive behavior as well as a change in the choices children made regarding healthy food choices

Some of the changes that were made at the schools was to remove all of the non-healthy foods from events such as pizza, candy and hotdogs, by replacing them with healthy choices such as popcorn, fruit sticks and veg and dips.

The reasoning for removing the poor food choices for healthy ones was simple. Children do as they see and say what they are told. When the schools removed all of the poor food choices and introduced healthy choices during special school events (such as dances) they saw a direct result in what came to school for food and what the children preferred to snack on as the year progressed.

The teachers and parents took opportunities to create programs that did not involve selling of chocolate bars and other high calorie food choices for fund raising but instead did other activities that increased both health and physical fitness. They found that this type of activity created a stronger scenes of community and helped extend the healthy choice messages.

It was suggested that there are a number of programs that will come into the school for free such as Star Gymnastics, for the children to have a fun activity encouraging physical activity.

Growing up organics is a grade 3 curriculum that they recommend.

**Treasurers Report** (Josh Kemp)
No change it the budget that was last submitted.
We continue to raise more money than we are spending and are open to suggestions on areas of spending.

At the last meeting we gave *Drum Fit* up to $3000. The total bill actually came in lower, as it didn't end up being feasible to purchase the instruments we had once considered. $655 goes unspent.

As the teachers have also made a decision to go ahead with *Tradansa*, a voluntary donation of $5 was asked for from parents, with staff hoping that the citrus fundraiser will raise the difference.

*Motion to cover up to $1655 for Tradansa following the citrus fundraiser*.
*Sheila Ball, Teri MacDonald. All in favor.*
If for some reason the fundraiser proves unsuccessful, Tradansa will happen regardless.

$1000 has been allotted for the KES/CES Festival. As the budget for the festival is increasing, Katimavik is putting forward $1250. In addition $250 is carried forward from last year’s Grill Master profit. CES is being asked for match KES.

*Motion by Carol to increase the budget by $250. Jennifer Christopher, Kim D’Angelo. All in favor.*

**Communication Corner** (Deirdre Mander/Sarah Machan)
*Action item: Deidra to post something inviting people to contact council if willing and/or interested in championing a cause or initiative, or faced with concerns (teacher, principal...).*

**OTHER BUSINESS**
*Kindergarten letter* (Kama Hutchinson)
Kama Hutchinson will be putting together a letter to personally send to the board and Christine Boothby. As well, Katie Pinter has volunteered to draft a letter on behalf of council to submit, focusing on flexibility and contingency plans for the growing class sizes.
Jennifer mentions that was bought up at OCASC that perhaps drafting a form letter that families can simply print, sign and send may be effective.

*Buddy bench* (Jennifer Christopher)
Jennifer is looking for a champion to organize a buddy bench. It would be placed outside, attached permanently, offering children a place to go sit if they feel left out for whatever reason. This identifies to other students that this child is in need of a friend to play with at that moment and encourages new friends and play. There is one school that has done this in the area with huge success. It is non invasive and encourages empathy in young children.
She is looking for someone to help brainstorm, gather costs, and hold her hand.

**Adjournment** at 8:53pm.