

Tecumseth South Central Public School
School Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 11th, 2022

Members Present:

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| 1.) Melissa Mckeon | 4.) Sherri Cicirello | 7.) Katherine Hopkins |
| 2.) Robin Hryniewski | 5.) Krista Elford | 8.) Alana Ciolfi |
| 3.) Melissa MacKenzie | 6.) Megan Bender | |

Members Absent: Rebecka Mayne, Anna Lisa Wienecke, Tina Rakovsky, Kathryn Spencley

Staff Members Present: Tana Ward (Principal)
Marianne Kennedy (Teacher Representative)

Opening

Meeting called to order by Chair, Melissa MacKenzie at 6:02 PM.

Land Acknowledgement

Approval of Minutes

Minutes approved for September 2022 (with a note to edit the Teacher's Report to indicate that it was not shared in person during the meeting)

Teacher Report: Mrs. Kennedy

- 1.) Character focus for the month of October has changed to fostering the spirit of cooperation in our students. In class students and staff are considering ways that cooperation helps a person be a great learner. Cooperation and the learning skill of collaboration and group work go hand in hand. In kindergarten, children are learning to take turns and share; in our older classes, we are working on sharing ideas and workload in group learning situations and what makes a group successful or not successful.
- 2.) For the past month, students in grades 4-8 have been participating in Cross-Country Team practises during lunch, hosted by Mrs. Santo and Ms. Howland. The students train 2-3 times a week with the intent of traveling to the upcoming Cross-Country Meet, which is going to be held tomorrow at the Tottenham Conservation Area. The students who chose to participate have been extremely dedicated in their efforts. A big thank you to Mrs. Santo and Ms. Howland for offering students this opportunity.
- 3.) In September, the school board provided all elementary staff with an online professional development training session entitled The Four Seasons of Reconciliation. This training enabled us to provide meaningful, authentic learning experiences for our students during

the National Week of Truth and Reconciliation, and to continue to embed their learning into our daily programming for your students. Grades 1/2 and 7/8 joined at the end of the week of learning to do a short group inquiry about some of the groups of First Peoples that inhabit this land, investigating both traditional and current celebrations and learning about foods eaten and languages spoken by different Nations. Classes spent a lot of time learning about the Truth of the residential school system and then considered what the meaning of the word Reconciliation is and how each of us as individuals have a role to play. Mrs. Kennedy urged members to read some of the student responses on our Raven in the front hall. Each feather is a personal commitment to reconciliation from a member of our student body.

- 4.) Art submissions for the Card Project were sent out last Tuesday. Mrs. Kennedy expressed gratitude on behalf of the staff to School Council for supporting this initiative, to the staff for searching for success oriented art pieces that our students would enjoy, and to our students for doing their best with the art. A special thank you to Mrs. Rosie for helping organize the art for shopping and to Rebecka Mayne for shipping it out.

Admin Report

- 1.) Last week's school Open House went smoothly and was an overall success with a strong turnout. The school is looking forward to inviting community members into our building often this year, including during assemblies (perhaps bi-monthly) once they resume. The Book Fair coincided with the Open House, and total sales came in at over \$3400, giving us a total Scholastic credit of over \$1500.
- 2.) Staff are currently preparing and updating Individual Education Plans, which will go home next week. Progress reports are also just around the corner and are due at the end of the month. Some additional deadlines include making field trip plans by the end of October and staff are in the midst of contacting vendors and making those arrangements.
- 3.) Lunch box orders begin this week and we are continuing with Subway. We have also added New Orleans pizza back in. For this first week, 44 subs were ordered and 58 slices of pizza. This will put the fundraising profit at about \$100 for the week.
- 4.) The School Action Plan is taking shape and will include a Safe and Welcoming schools goal, as well as a Literacy goal and a Mathematics goal. There will be a strong focus on early literacy in connection to the Right to Read document. Ms. Margie and Ms. Ward will be attending Math professional development next week and will be reviewing student data then to help identify our school goals. To this end, staff will also be creating their own professional learning goals that connect to our students needs.
- 5.) Cross country team heading to the Tottenham Conservation area tomorrow, with 30 athletes competing. Bussing has been secured for this, hopefully with the support of

fundraising dollars to cover costs. Additional teams will begin practices shortly and student leadership opportunities are also going to be presenting themselves.

- 6.) The approved volunteer list has grown to around 25 volunteers. Orientation sessions are being held this Thursday at 10am and 4pm.

Connections Event

The Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) is inviting all school council members to Connections, a school council orientation week. It will take place Thursday, October 27th 5-8pm at the SCDSB Education Centre. Melissa MacKenzie and Megan Bender will be going if anyone wishes to accompany them.

Considerations for November Meeting

- 1.) School Council Annual Admin Profile - due Nov 30th
- 2.) Parent Engagement Funds \$500
- 3.) Parents Reaching Out Grant

Updated Financials

The financials shared at the last meeting were from early June 2021. The most recent financials show that there is \$425 in Eat Well, \$1882 in Library, \$326 in Field Trips, \$487 in Grade 8 trip, \$1989 in School Yard and \$342 in General Needs.

Fundraising Plans

The fundraising plan will be put together and submitted at the end of this week. The formal plan will be shared with Council. Here is what we discussed being included:

- Terry Fox (\$1700);
- Book Fair (\$1527 Scholastic Cash);
- Lunch Programs (anticipate \$100/week, \$2500 total);
- Card Project (anticipate \$600-800);
- Parents' Night Out (anticipate \$600);
- Spring Fling (anticipate \$5000);
- Open Donations;
- Drysdales (\$700-800);
- Little Ceasar's (anticipate \$700);
- Make it Sow;
- Zander Sod;
- McGregor's Meat and Seafood; and
- Kaleidoscope Night

Fundraising Allocations/Priorities

The following items were discussed as priorities for fundraising:

- Commencement/Grade 8 trip (\$500-600);

- Field Trips (\$10/students = \$1800-\$2000);
- Co-curricular Activities (\$800);
- School Yard:
 - Playground repairs (\$8000)
 - Removal of small climber/swings/2nd ball diamond, addition of volleyball court/net and repair of jumping pit (\$5200)
 - Gaga ball pit (\$3800)
 - Track and ball diamond repair (cost TBD) ** It was discussed that perhaps we prioritize this in the 2023/24 school year;

New/Open Business

A few parents/grandparents attended this meeting to share concerns about the removal of costumes for school Halloween celebrations. They expressed concerns that their students did not feel included.

Ms. Ward articulated that it is an equity issue, both in terms of socio-economics as well as diversity and inclusivity. She assured Council that Halloween celebrations will still take place, but that they will be without costumes. Students are invited to participate in an orange/black spirit day.

Superintendent Maltby shared his support for the school decision. He shared results from last year's school climate survey which display that not all students do feel included and/or represented in the events and celebrations within the school.

Next Meeting: Monday, November 7th at 6:00PM

Adjournment: 7:30 PM