



# SES Council

STONECREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
*Working together to prepare our children for their futures*

## MINUTES

Tuesday November 14, 2017

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Stonecrest Library

Notes taken by Jennifer Mulligan, Secretary

### Attendees

#### Parent Volunteers

Laila Labelle, Trish Larwill, Kirsten Cox, Jennifer Mulligan, Diane Labonte, Sarah Gaffney, Melissa Saumure, Shannon Cuddihey, Libby McCalden, Sarah Simkin, Renee Hamilton

#### School Staff

Cindy Alce, Diane Farrell, Marcy Storms

### Welcome – Trish Larwill

- The notes from the last meeting were prepared, but Trish wanted to do a high level summary of the meeting to post as a blog on our website for parents to see. This will be posted shortly.

### Teacher Report – Marcy Storms (Grade 4, 5 and 6 EFTI teacher)

#### Kindergarten

- The kindergarten classes will be hosting Christmas parties before the holidays. Parents and guardians will be invited to come in and celebrate with us.
- The Stonecrest kindergarten classes have been selected to partake in the ELNOT (Early Literacy and Numeracy Observation Tool) which is intended to provide information on a kindergarten student's progress towards developing early literacy and numeracy skills. Students have been randomly chosen to participate and participation is voluntary--families may opt out.

#### Primary

- Grade 1 EFI students, will be travelling to the Bill Mason Center on Wednesday, December 6th. The Ottawa Field Naturalists Club (OFNC) has provided a generous donation to the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board Outdoor Education Centres to get OCDSB students outside to the

Centres for an opportunity to learn hands-on about their local environment. The cost of the field trip will be fully covered by the OFNC - many thanks to them for this opportunity!

- Primary Holiday Carrousel: Week of December 18-22
- All grade 1-3 students will have the opportunity to visit different classrooms to partake in some holiday fun! Students will be divided into same-grade groups, giving the children the opportunity to collaborate and interact with peers that may not be in their class. Grade one students will be working on literacy and visual arts
- Grade two students will explore Traditions and Celebrations
- Grade three students will explore pioneer life by making authentic pioneer toys and holiday ornaments.
- Subway Fundraiser: Our first round of Subway lunch days is underway. Order forms are due this Thursday, November 16th with proceeds going to initiatives within the Primary division. In the past, the students have proposed where the money raised should go, but this year Ms. Storm will suggest where it should go. Lunches will be served on the following dates:
  - Kindergarten November 29th
  - Primary December 6th
  - Junior December 13th
  - Intermediate December 20th

### Junior

- Junior team submitted a school resource wish list. Junior team has agreed that there is a strong need for French and technology resources.
- Junior division will be holding three Cake Raffles through the school year. One in November, February and March. All proceeds will go to much needed in school Junior resources.
- Snowsuit Fund is running this week and Santa's Seconds will be held on December 13.
- Craig Gibson is also starting to prepare for the production of Mulan Junior.
- Junior Bordenball Teams are underway with tournaments to be held in December.

### Intermediate

- Scientist in Schools on November 22 and 23 for all
- We Day Nov 15 for the 1st time members of Me2We - Mme. Beatty

- Rideauwood presenting Dec 1 - Health connection - focus on addictions - Org by Kelly
- West Carleton Orientation Dec 8 - guidance
- MADD Presentation Dec 21 - health connection. Focus on sober driving - Organized by Cindy. Although the Stonecrest children may seem too young for this, some of them are getting into vehicles with older children or adults who have been drinking.

### Principal Report

- School Cash Online Powerpoint - The OCDSB is moving away from cash payments as much as possible. There will be an online system that parents will be encouraged to use, which is scheduled to be up and running December 1, 2017. This will be a quicker, safer and more secure way of taking in money from parents since sending money to school with children presents several risks. Stonecrest ES will continue to accept cash through the fall of 2018, when the online system is expected to marry into the current system of taking in money. The new online system allows parents to make payments, indicates what is mandatory and what is optional, sends friendly reminders for things like field trips, allows parents to check balances and print receipts. There are several ways that parents can pay including credit card, eWallet and eCheque.

Registration is easy. Here are the steps:

- 1) Create username and password
- 2) Confirm the e-mail link
- 3) Add student(s) – This part will ask for the children’s student number, which can be found on their report cards/progress reports. There is a link for those parents who have multiple children.

If 85-90% of parents register for this online payment system, it will mean a huge difference in the workload.

There are some details to be ironed out such as how this will work with hot lunches.

Money that has been raised by the student council will continue to be handled as it usually does. The online system is just for school payments.

Cindy will double check with the Board if parents will need to do a one-time registration or if they will need to register each year.

- School Learning Plans

### Academic:

- IF we as English math teachers teach Number Talks 3 times per week, and if we as Early French Immersion teachers teach Number Talks 1 time per week, THEN we will see an

increase in student's ability to orally express and organize their math thinking using effective vocabulary.

- Staff will be reporting back on 1 Marker student. Success Criteria include: does student have an answer? Can student explain their answer? Did student use appropriate math vocabulary in context?
- Number Talks Presentation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YKegyzRj8-k>

<https://www.youcubed.org/resources/jo-teaching-visual-dot-card-number-talk/>

#### Wellness:

- IF we teach deep breathing techniques, THEN we will see an increase in student's abilities to recognize and communicate stressors within and outside the classroom.

Resources:

[Wellness \(https://www.ontario.ca/document/kindergarten-program-2016/thinking-about-self-regulation-and-well-being\)](https://www.ontario.ca/document/kindergarten-program-2016/thinking-about-self-regulation-and-well-being)

<https://i.imgur.com/DqK7H0S.gif>

Deep breathing on Go Noodle

Infinity breathing

- Staff will be reporting back on 1 Marker student. Students can share with staff using a variety of ways including: stickies, orally, Above/Below the line (kinder and primary), journals, zones of regulation

#### Safe Schools:

- If staff define bullying with students, teach conflict resolution (WITS, "I feel...", Respectful communication) and students are encouraged to report bullying, THEN students will report an increase in students reporting they feel safe at school.

[https://www.dupageroe.org/wp-content/uploads/Bullying\\_Incident\\_Report\\_Form.pdf](https://www.dupageroe.org/wp-content/uploads/Bullying_Incident_Report_Form.pdf)

- The school is trying to come up with inclusive safe and caring programs. Some of the Stonecrest SE grade 8 students have provided input to Cindy. Overall, Stonecrest SE students show low rates of feeling safe (55% feel safe). Surveys are sent out to the children annually and it is this measure that provides the school with the data that shows whether students indeed feel safe or not. The low percentage of students who feel safe begs the question about whether bullying is taking place. The school encourages students to report bullying and some children do report bullying. The school organizes ongoing staff training on bullying.

- There is an online resource available called “Supporting Minds” that provides effective strategies for mental health and tells adults what they should do when children are feeling depressed.

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/reports/SupportingMinds.pdf>

- Character education is critical and embedded in all the school subject areas.
- Intermediate students have indicated that they feel the survey is too long, and admittedly some do not read it and just click through it so this would result in improper statistics of feeling safe.
- There do not appear to be any safety issues on the bus.
- Restorative practice is part of all debriefings with children. WITS is the primary conflict resolution program:
  - **Walk away**
  - **Ignore**
  - **Talk it out**
  - **Seek help**
- The school’s hope is that in teaching wellness to the children, it will get them to better communicate issues.
- We should teach children self-advocacy.
- When parents lead discussions with their children about how the children’s day went, they should start by asking if there was anything that happened that made them feel good.
- ME2WE "Kind-A-Grams-Over \$500.00 was raised will be going to organizations that are making a difference locally. Our Intermediate Student Me2We Committees are passionately supporting the following initiatives:

Children- CHEO

Homeless- SHEPHERDS OF GOOD HOPE

Local Effort and support- RED CROSS

Elderly-SENIOR SUPPORT AT "THE GROVE" ARNPRIOR

Youth supporting LGBTQ community-EQUITY/NON-DISCRIMINATION/CCGSD

Tick awareness in our community- LYME DISEASE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

- Sound System-discussion – The Student Council has \$30,000 left over from last year’s fundraising activities to allocate to school resources. The Student Council consensus was that we should pay the remainder of what is need to complete the sound system in the gym. Cindy is going to double check the final price including installation with Dynamix.

## Disbursements

- Trish asked the Student Council to take stickers and place them on four sheets of paper to show where they think the money that we have available to us should be spent. The categories and votes were as follows:
  - Learning Curriculum – 35
  - Arts and Cultural Program – 17
  - Parent Engagement – 9
  - Health and Safety – 16
- Cindy mentioned that Stonecrest ES currently has a 1:9 ratio for chrome books and tech tubs. The OCDSB is aiming to have all public schools at a 1:4 ratio by the end of a five year program that has been put into place. We are in year 3 of this program.
- Cindy mentioned that although many teachers identified that they want new textbooks, she would rather our money went elsewhere as the Cindy, Diane and the teachers have not yet had a chance to discuss.
- Cindy asked staff to be very precise this year when making asks for new supplies/resources.
- There is a provincial school fundraising guideline that makes it clear what we can buy to enhance student learning:  
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/fundraisingGuideline.pdf>
- New supplies/resources may only be purchased from approved places. This means that sometimes we need to pay more and/or the quality suffers.
- School council has allocated **\$26,000.00** to staff wish lists. Teachers have 30 days to order through Jennifer in the Stonecrest ES office. If the order is not in the monies will be returned to school council.

The \$26,000 is from monies raised in the previous school year. All funds raised this current year will be allocated throughout the year.

\$2,000- for the Sound System-for stage area and main gym. Council has previously allocated \$12,400 and this additional allocation will cover the quote. Dynamix will be in on Tuesday to review the quote and installation. Facilities work is estimated to take 5 months.

\$5000- to kinder and primary technology needs

\$5000- to junior-10 ish Chromebooks-10 X \$334 plus the corresponding tech tubs for \$174 each= approx. \$4000.

\$5000- to intermediate--10 ish Chromebooks-10 X \$334 plus the corresponding tech tubs for \$174 each= approx. \$4000.

\$2,000 for Special Ed-Please only order 5 clocks

\$600 for outdoor learning resources

\$1400 for gym equipment

\*(total of \$2000 for outdoor/gym equipment)

\$2000-to EFI and Core French resources-\*Division leads please meet and prioritize what resources

\$3000-junior portables-2 projectors

### Fundraising Activities

- Poinsettia sale – Renée mentioned that poinsettias will be sold at \$20 apiece and that \$8 from each poinsettia goes to the school. The poinsettia sale will be posted on the Facebook page and notices have gone home with students.
- QSP – We raised approximately \$3,500 from this fundraiser this year. The cookie dough will be sent home/picked up by parents on November 29, 2017.

### Health and Safety Initiatives

- Grab'n'Go snack Program – Sarah Simkin said the program is going very well. We are now offering crackers, cheese, apples and dried cereal under this program to students who are hungry. There are no questions asked. The school does ask that students choose an apple first though. Since we launched this program in October, 135 students have partook.
- Sarah Simkin mentioned that she has started preparing some emergency lunches, which consist of a bagel and cream cheese, crackers, cheese, granola bars, etc. These lunch foods have been donated by PC Children's Charity, who also donated a fridge to the school. So far 8 emergency lunches have been handed out in 15 days. Sarah said she will need a couple of months to see how this rolls out, but she may need help later depending on how often it is used. We should ramp up publicity around the emergency lunch program and encourage parents to donate money or grocery store gift certificates. Unfortunately, food cannot be donated because the food needs to meet the Ministry Guidelines. Sarah has pre-prepared a dozen lunches, which are in the mini fridge.
- The leftover pizza is in the Grab'n'Go fridge and has been labelled cheese and Pepperoni.
- Sarah Simkin asked if 2 or 3 senior students could check the fridge every day to make sure that there is still food in there. Cindy said she would arrange for this as she has some students in mind.

- First Aid Course Summary – There were 14 parent participants and 2 staff who partook in the First Aid Course.

#### Outstanding/Council Business

- There is a parent council conference/student council training being offered on Saturday November 18, 2017. There are different workshops that parents can participate in. There is a \$30 membership fee.
- Liliane, Laila and Trish have completed the Annual General Report for 2016-2017 and it has been submitted.
- The hot lunch program seems to be going well. There was some discussion about whether or not there would be any interest in ordering gluten free pizza, however the minimum order size is medium and it is \$15 more than a regular medium pizza. Melissa suggested that we ask parents in a survey.
- Sarah Simkin said the Lost and Found is a work in progress. The shelf/bin system has been paid for, and we are just waiting for it to come in so we can organize the items a little better.
- Kirsten mentioned that the Carp Diefenbaker has a funds for literacy program that she will look into further. This is open to schools in West Carleton. Stonecrest SE would need to come up with a proposal for this literacy program. We will talk more about this in December.
- Sarah Gaffney mentioned that the OCDSB speaker series will be held on November 30<sup>th</sup> from 7 until 9, and Paul Davies will be speaking at it.

#### Closing Remarks

- The next student council meeting will be held on Tuesday December 11, 2017.