



SES Council

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

MINUTES

Tuesday January 9, 2018

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Stonecrest Library

Notes taken by Jennifer Mulligan, Secretary

Attendees

Parent Volunteers

Trish Larwill, Kirsten Cox, Jennifer Mulligan, Patricia McKeage, Gwendalyn Weeks, Shannon Cuddihey, Libby McCalden, Sarah Simkin, Renee Hamilton

School Staff

Cindy Alce, Diane Farrell, Dorothy Zuber, Lisa Dolan

Principal Report – Cindy Alce

- School Learning Plan

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.

<https://i.imgur.com/DqK7HOS.gif>

Deep breathing on Go Noodle

Infinity breathing

-At the December staff meeting, Brenna Wyman, a parent, presented a 45 minute presentation on mindfulness. Staff were lead through a number of deep breathing exercises.

-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

Cake Raffle: The Junior Division raised \$939.95 which will be used for Division resources. They will decide which when we have done all three fundraisers.

- 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

- Results of Book Fair- over \$3000 in new print resources
- Kindergarten Screen: ELORS is a classroom screen on 7 developmental areas conducted by the classroom teacher. Students that demonstrated lagging skills in 4 or more of the areas were re-assessed using a DIA 4 screening for kindergarten students. The results of this screen will be
- Blue bin recycling has re-started. Thank you to Madame Heidt for taking the lead.
- Ski Dates for grade 5-8 students: Due to busing availability, we have had to change our Grades 5-8 Ski Trips to February 14, 28 and March 7. Permission forms will be sent home shortly.
 - Knitting Club has begun. Dr. Nonie Smart is leading this extra-curricular activity.
- Intermediate Rideauwood presentations are focusing on:
 - Grade 7 – Screen Time and Myth Busters: Drugs and Alcohol
 - Grade 8 – Substance Abuse 101 and Stress Management
- Sound system update: Dynamix and a representative from Design and Tech were on site to familiarize themselves with the quotation and space. Dynamix can put the system in during the

March break as not to disrupt students' access to the gym. The estimated cost of preparing for the installation is up to \$4,000.00. **I am seeking up to \$4,000.00 for the electrical work.**

- I will be off for approximately 10 days starting January 23rd for shoulder surgery. Wally Stagg, a retired principal, will be covering my absence.
- Planned Enhancements to our parent phone call/email platform.-This spring, the OCDSB will be upgrading our School Connects (Synrevoice) software to COMMUNICATE. Both School Connects and Communicate are owned by West Corporation and West has incorporated the functionality of the School Connects Software into Communicate. Communicate works very much like Synrevoice in terms of phone calls and emails, but also has much richer functionality including inter connectivity with our school website.
- Update on the grade 7 camping trip: This will not be offered as we have no staff who want to organize/lead. Students have been notified and there is a grade 7 field trip in the works.

Teachers Report – Marcy Storms

Kindergarten Report

- We are welcoming parents into our classrooms for holiday songs and celebrations next week.
- We are having a 'Snowman Extravaganza' craft and activity rotation this Friday from noon until 2 pm.

Primary Report

-Grade 1 EFI students, travelled 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! Student s 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: Students are enjoying the first round of Subway lunches! Proceeds from the Subway lunches help fund Primary initiatives such as providing materials for the Holiday Carrousel

Junior

Junior division is thrilled to receive the French Reading program with the funds from School Council. These resources will be used by grades 1-8 by French language teachers.

We raised over \$900 from the Cake Raffle on November 23. We are holding these funds to accumulate enough to hopefully buy much needed Junior Science and Social Studies resources. We would like to extend a huge thank you to School Council and all the parents who so generously donated cakes and time We have organized two more raffles February 12th for the grade 5's and March 26th for the grade 6's.

We are also excited to say we will be doing a Junior wide field trip to the Museum of History, date to be announced.

. Grades 5-8 Ski Trips have been scheduled for February 14, 28 and March 7.

Intermediate

- MADD presentation for Intermediates on Dec 22 (free and sponsored by LCBO)

- Inuit Games (for whole school) booked for January - Mary Beatty

- Jer's Vision (Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity) booked for Intermediate for January - Mary Beatty

{The Motivational Address is an assembly-style presentation that educates students about the effects of bullying through a presentation by Jeremy Dias, (City of Ottawa Citizen of the Year; Ontario Youth Medal winner ; and Teen Choice Award nominee). Jeremy talks about his experiences facing racism and homophobia in a rural Ontario school, and how he overcame discrimination by setting legal case precedents, eventually starting a not-for-profit organization. This award-winning presentation is a great way to begin the dialogue about diversity in your school and community, and to promote respect, stop bullying, and create positive community culture.}

- 2 HS visits have happened (Sir Guy and WCSS). Info will be provided to parents interested in attending open houses (WCSS Open house is Jan 11)

Front Door Policy

- Gwendalyn Weeks came to today's meeting to raise concerns about the front entrance door to the school not being locked all the time. She is concerned that the unlocked door poses a safety risk to the students. She indicated that although SES is located in the country, this does not make SES students exempt from any potential safety risks. She said that although it may be a close-knit community, there are new people living in the area whom we don't know.

- Jenn mentioned that West Carleton is a tight community and that the locked door seems like it would be less of a safety issue here than in urban schools. It is very expensive to put in a locked front door and puts an added duty/onus on office staff to allow people in. Sometimes you need to put trust in law enforcement that they know where potential risks exist in the community and they are monitoring any potential risks that may exist.
- Trish said it is important that parents get a fully informed picture to hear the pros and the cons of having a locked front door so that they can decide. Trish indicated that this is the type of issue that should be opened up for a larger debate. She invited Gwendalyn to help us build up the pros for the parents to be able to best understand the benefits of a locked front door.
- Trish asked Cindy if she could look into the Catholic board policy (as they apparently already have a locked front door policy in place) and find out their situation and how they came to a decision to lock the front door.
- Diane mentioned that even with a locked front door, students will always be able to get out.

Finances and Processes –Trish for Liliane

- Trish said that the Student Council is still in the black. The money that was left over from last year will be allocated after the special education supplies and chairs are purchased.
- The QSP and poinsettia fundraisers raised the remaining amount needed for the electrical associated with the technical purchase for the gym.

Lost and Found

- Cindy mentioned that the lost and found set-up is still in the cue. We should receive it shortly.
- Sarah mentioned that she is still looking for two volunteers to take pictures of lost items so they can be posted to the website. Sarah mentioned that she was also thinking of putting the lost and found items on a Stonecrest Facebook Group. She mentioned that these are volunteer tasks that would be good hours for high school kids.

Disbursements

- Cindy mentioned that the money that was allocated at our November 2017 meeting was spent. Although not everything has arrived yet, everything has been ordered. The French resources have all come in. We are still waiting for the chromebooks.

Ottawa District School Board Orientation Session in Fall 2017

- Trish attended the Orientation Session. She learned that the Board is looking to have one electronic device for every four children, and that SES is near the bottom of the schools. This is good for us financially because the Board said they would supplement schools that were not able to make the electronic purchases to meet this target.

- Trish said that everything from the Orientation Session has been posted online now. She said there were people speaking about various things including case studies, challenges and problems.

Fundraising Activities

- Renee said we sold over 60 poinsettias, which wasn't as many as we wanted to sell, but everyone loved them.
- Trish asked Cindy and Diane how many students and how many families SES has. Cindy said there are 676 students and 449 families. Cindy said there have been many families who have moved away from the area lately.

Kindergarten Registration

- Kindergarten Registration night is scheduled for Wednesday January 17, 2018. Kirsten will attend on behalf of the Student Council and talk about the hot lunch program, lunch lady and fundraisers.
- May 23, 2018 is the kindergarten student orientation night where the children come with their parents .

Diefenbunker – Kirsten

- Kirsten said our proposal is due by March 1st if we would like to submit one. Our proposal is to include a request for funding that indicates what we are looking for and what we are willing to contribute. Kirsten said the Diefenbunker is also looking for adult volunteers and that our proposal should say how SES plans to contribute to the Diefenbunker. Kirsten said her father-in-law sits on the Committee so Kirsten is happy to collaborate with the SES teachers who are also doing something on this.
- The prize is \$2000 towards literacy for the highest amount of participants involved per school. There will be additional funds allocated and the percentage will be determined prior to event. The percentage per school will be determined by the quality of the proposal provided by the school.
- On Saturday May 5, 2018, there will be cycling, running and walking events for all ages.

Grab 'n Go Snack Program – Sarah

- Sarah said that she has used the \$150 that Council agreed to allocate to this program in December 2017 to help pay for this program.
- The program offers apples, oranges, cheese or dry cereal to everyone (no stigma attached).
- Sarah said that over 1500 snacks have been given out so far in this program. This includes over 1000 apples, 300 crackers and 420 servings of cheese. Unfortunately, these are not accurate numbers because not all the children put a checkmark. This program is underfunded.
- Sarah said there is no steady state yet, so we can't say how much help we need. Student volunteers are helping right now, but Sarah is also looking for adult volunteers as well now.

- Sarah would like to send an e-mail to parents so that we can try to fill the gap needed to balance needs with wants. She proposes we send an e-mail that informs parents how they can help:
 - Ask your child if they are hungry at school and pack more in their lunch;
 - Volunteer;
 - Contribute by making a donation
- The Grab 'n Go program is accessible at any time of the day.
- If it is not time to eat lunch, children can still go and get something out of their lunch if they are hungry.
- When children are hungry, they don't learn as well. It is a distraction that gets in the way of their learning.
- Sarah suggested that perhaps the student volunteers could communicate to the juniors that the programs should only be used if needed.
- Sarah is committed to this universal program. She mentioned that food donations are not allowed as everything that is offered to the students must first be approved by the Board. This is because of contamination, certain foods having too much sugar, etc. She hopes we can push for donations.

Hot Lunch Updates

- Melissa is not here so we will defer this update until our next Council meeting.

Calendar of Events

- Trish said that over the next 6 months of school, there are a few events that need to happen.
 - Movie night - March 2, 2018
 - Dance – April 21, 2018
 - Summer Send-off – June 2018 (Amy Stoate and Trish usually put this together)
 - Games night – This was done in January or February last year so we can arrange to do this again this year if Council wants.
 - Play/Musical – May 2018
- Cindy will confirm the dates of these events.
- Trish said we need leaders for the dance and the movie night. Kirsten and Shannon said they would help with the dance. Renee and Patty said they would help with movie night.
- Trish said that usually we look at the new releases that are out, compile a list and then let the students vote. Then the movie that is watched on movie night becomes one of the door prizes. Student Council solicits the community for other prizes.

Next Meetings

- February 13, 2018
- There will be no Council meeting in March 2018 because of March Break.
- April 10, 2018
- May 8, 2018
- June 12, 2018

Other

- May 7 – 11, 2018 is Education Week
- Shannon asked what we were doing with the tetherballs? Are we donating them or selling them? Trish said we will follow-up on this.
- We Day is coming up so the students are collecting hygiene products for the women's shelter.