

Orono Public School Council Minutes

May 6, 2024

In Attendance:

Setina MacLean - Principal
Robin Forbes - Teacher (virtually)
Iva Lavigne - Chair
Ashley Bell - Regional Chair
Heather Olynyk- Treasurer
Nichole Doughty
Shawna Peddar Brown

Principal's Report

- EQAO testing will be the week of May 27-31st. Grade 6 first then Grade 3's, will be completed within the learning block. Grade 3's will use paper and computer, with Grade 6's using computers. Both grades are currently doing practice tests.
- Spring Concert and book fair was a huge success with a large turnout. \$75 per class was raised with other funds left to purchase larger items for the learning commons.
- Pedal for Hope is this Wednesday.
- Play Day is scheduled for June 14th
- Playground inspection is this week, invoice to come

Teacher's Report

- Happy to have the class funds from fundraising
- Next year maybe if classes pooled funds they could use them towards stem toys or coding to be used by multiple classes

Treasurer's Report

- Jimmy Chapman's fund is left in deficit of \$226. Please move \$187.23 from School Council fund and \$38.77 from Experiences fund to clear that.
- We have \$550.84 in Experiences fund, \$862 from Little Cesar's - these funds can be rolled over to cover experiences in September or October of next year, as well as covering the playground inspection.
- Lacrosse is covered from Charitable Trust account with remaining funds of \$146.16 to be used to purchase an assortment of balls and chalk for recess activities.
- Fun Fair funds are at \$1649.64 and we are on track to pay the remainder of our activities providers with these funds.
- We currently have \$2628.48 in the hot lunch fund with a projected total of \$3393.48 including the last month's earnings. These funds in previous years have been allotted to the next year's Grade 6 graduation celebration (\$300) as well as divided up amongst each classroom with each teacher getting \$300. Only three teachers have used these funds yet this year with \$2,400 remaining yet in school council accounts. Seeing as these funds have been raised to be used and enjoyed by students in the current year, perhaps these funds could be rolled back into council funds to be dispersed again next year. Or, in light of how difficult it was to raise funds to cover the Festive Lunch (a pancake lunch provided by parent council so every child can enjoy

an equitable, warm meal together in the gym in December) perhaps next year the funds could be divided with only \$100 to each classroom keeping the remaining \$2000 to be used to fully supply this festive lunch. This year we had pancakes for \$5 a child with many pancakes left for staff from each sitting, as well as juice boxes donated by parents. Next year with the proper funds, perhaps we could offer more fruit or a dessert and not depend on parent donations for the juice boxes. These class funds were issued in the hopes that class supplies (art supplies, books) could be purchased for the year in which they were issued, or for having Scientist in the Classroom but as their programming has changed, this doesn't seem like a viable option anymore. Instead of not using these funds, it is proposed that the best use would be for the equitable Festive Lunch.

Regional Council Update

- Indigenous Educators did a presentation for all in attendance regarding a portal they have set up for teachers and staff which is also accessible for parents on the board website.
- A reminder that every student needs to opt into bussing this year, using the parent email that has been provided to the board for communication.
- Pines and Clarke have created a transition committee to address the ongoing changes between all four schools (Clarke, Pines, Newcastle Public and Orono Public) and will continue to update parents as more information becomes available

Brimacomb

- The very local ski hill has an excellent program with reduced rates for schools including equipment rentals that many other schools take advantage of. A bus takes the students and teacher volunteers to the hill near the end of the day and parents come to pick kids up, reducing bussing costs and increasing times spent on the slopes. Excellent opportunities for students to try skiing or snow boarding who otherwise would not have the opportunity. Ms Forbes has offered to help with this and will enquire if other staff is interested. Would also require possible parent volunteers, skiing experience not necessary.

Communication

- There are many different methods of communication from the school: School Messenger, Edsby, emails and papers sent home. A streamlined method of communication doesn't seem to be possible at this time, and many parents have raised concerns regarding not receiving emails or updates. Teachers are to communicate via Edsby although there are a number of families that have never signed up for Edsby and so will not receive any communications from teachers. No solution to this has been provided at this time.

Fundraising

- Spirit Wear is still available for purchase through the website
- Chocolate bars will be coming in next week, we made approximately \$400
- Local McGregor Auction is a possibility for a fundraiser next year
- Iva will enquire with the veggie shack regarding a fundraiser with them in the fall
- Possibly setting up a donation setting on the School Cash Online with an option to donate in any amount. There might be two ways of doing this, if a taxable receipt is

required the money would go to the board making it much more difficult to access at the school level.

Fun Fair

- Fire department is set to come BBQ, Larry Potter is set to come with inflatables as well as a face painter
- There will be baby chicks provided by Green Eggs and Ham farm
- Games will be set up and run by high school volunteers
- There will be sno cone machine, cotton candy and popcorn, still looking for parent volunteers to help run these along with taking money for tickets

Yearbook

- 80 have been ordered, 70 have been pre-sold

Indigenous Garden

- Brittany is the new consultant and has been out and taken pictures, the Facilities Department need to approve the locations of the proposed garden.
- The garden Kit has been delivered.
- Indigenous elders will need to come to help set up, hoping for a June date.

Front Garden

- Up to Parent Council to fix that up

Santa Clause Parade buttons

- Parade committee would love the students to design the buttons again this year. Iva will distribute the form to the teachers to be completed by June

Hot Lunches for next year

- Will continue using Healthy Hunger with a rotation of BarBurrito, Boston Pizza and Subway on Tuesdays, Pizza Pizza on Thursdays and Booster Juice the first Monday of the month. Will be looking for more parent volunteers to help with these days as we are losing some parents to student graduation.

Parent Council

- We are certainly looking for more interested parents to come and help us out. It isn't just meetings (although there are only four every year!) we need volunteers to help with hot lunches, Festive Lunch, unloading and dispersing fundraisers.
- Ask Jen to email new Kindergarten families to invite them to the Fun Fair as well as Parent Council. We missed the opportunity to do that during the Kindergarten Orientation night.