

Stratford Central Parent Council
Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Minutes

In Attendance: Scott Mitchell; Bruce Whitaker; Dan & Jennifer Kitsch; Sandra Huffman; Kevin Mills; Ross MacSorley; Sue Dias; Graham Leitch; Jen Tucker; Sarah Elliot

Regrets: Alyson Kent; Sheila Feore; Myles Avigdor

1. Welcome and Introductions:
2. Student Council Report:
No Report
3. School Report:
 - Grade 9 Geography class at Camp Kintail
 - Flipped classes (trial) - lessons posted online so students watch night before and come to class for answering questions and help
 - Student Awards - should she keep doing it? data base is very time consuming - awards assembly to hand out letters - size of letter dependent on number of points earned - parents are unaware - perhaps ask student council what they think
 - Skateboard Park – group wants kids to participate on planning committee

Elementary –

- 7&8 Gauss Math contest written tomorrow
- DELF test being taken – French language certification as bilingual
- Elementary teachers federation is in phase 1 of work to to rule - not affecting students too much at this point

Advanced placement tests were written

OSSTF banquet - kids were recognized

Two teachers are retiring this year - Should parent council do something for retiring teachers? A letter or card or small gift - keep it under \$25 – Will give a \$25 gift card from Coles or Chapters - all in favour

4. PRO Grant / Math Presentation Update: - response to government due in August
 - math success night + a deliverable for June
 - concerns in 7&8 around math as well as 9's
 - send home with kids in welcome package at the beginning of the year - on Facebook

page - parent teacher night - monthly newsletter on website - first newsletter in September - Scott will contact Mr. Armstrong about our desire to have deliverable ready to go out in September - send information on hard copy with welcome package - have parents sign form whether they are interested in having a math night and send it back - tearaway at the bottom of the information form - preamble - why we are doing this - needs to get to school - Ross for 7&8; Kevin for 9-12

5. General Discussion:

5.1 How do we spend the parent council surplus \$\$?

- Have already spent \$1000 towards school mascot
- Should set a spending limit so that we don't spend it all - keep a minimum of \$2000 balance in bank account - Parent councils get \$500 from Board/Ministry each year

Suggestions from previous meetings:

- Stage in lunchroom - already a platform and risers can be brought in – Remove from list
- Donation towards change day - for covering cost of presenter /facilitators /program /rent - now comes from student fees - it is already self-supporting - we shouldn't interfere on a one time basis – Remove from list
- 7/8's need team uniforms – possibility of coming out of school budget – could we purchase one set? - Ross will get a quote
- Parent council bursary for grade 8/12 grads - was passed on to grad committee – Remove from list
- Fitness room floor - existing one unsafe and unsanitary - quote is \$2532 - How could we get the need for a new floor on the Board's radar? - have to get permission from facilities at the Board – if we left it up to the Board to replace they would just replace carpet, we would prefer an Action Floor - will get 3 quotes and pass them on to facilities and see if they give us the go ahead
- IDS (Inter-Disciplinary Studies) Cameras (2) - will facilitate creating higher level outcomes - \$500 each (\$1000) - not a wide enough scope - only one class affected – Remove from list
- Charging carts for iPads - costing needed
- Mulching for school gardens – about \$40/yard - would probably need 2 yards - \$100 to be given for John to do mulching etc. as needed

5.2 Proposal – Meeting agenda's and purpose – see appendix A

- Schedule speakers throughout the year –
- Parent website? with link from school website - Facebook group more of forum - website might be more user friendly as not everyone is on or uses Facebook - Bruce will look into costs and options for next meeting - we want more dialogue with parents - 2 or 3 main ideas as the thrust for the website - set a direction/structure -

prioritize our focus - 'Empowering Parents'

- Appendix - will try this direction for next year and see how it goes from there

5.3 Parent Council Executive for next year

- Will send out notification in September for parent council executive - should we be more formal or more valuable to attend - what would parents like to see at these meetings

6. Next Meeting: When & Where - English Parlour - June 16 – 7pm – will meet on the patio weather permitting

Appendix A

AGENDA

Item 1. School Update (10-15 minutes)

Item 2. Presentations to the Parents (30 minutes with 15 minutes for Q&A).

September: Outline and vision for school year by Principal and how parents can support teachers/school

October: Secrets to helping your child reach his/her potential (outside presenter)

November: Understanding technology and social media pitfalls (outside presenter)

December: Review of SCPS courses and supporting students with career choices (career counsellor - Mark Cassone)

January: Positively responding to attitudes and behaviours (psychologist, counsellor)

February: Identifying depression/anxiety and addressing it (Canadian Mental Health Association)

March: Self-esteem and self confidence (psychologist, counsellor)

April: Drugs and other addictions (Shelterlink)

May: How to support your son or daughter find a suitable summer job (summer jobs)

June: Year in Review by Principal

Other potential topics: ?

Item 3. How can we make SCS a better school (10 minutes)?