

Minutes from Parent Council Meeting
Tuesday, December 13th, 2011

1. Welcome, Call to Order and Introductions

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes from Past Meetings

Jennifer moved that we accept agenda. Neal seconded. Agenda was accepted.

3. External Environment Update – John Loop

John Loop announced that Mike Waddington will take the lead on the external environmental cmte. The next meeting will be held on Jan. 10th. At this meeting they will set out their priorities for the next year. For example, planning for benches, barriers and a garden in front of the school. The school received a certificate for our involvement in the fall Clean Sweep program. John announced that he has secured funding for 1 – 2 murals for the fences in the yard. He just needs a teacher to help by taking the lead on the project.

Nicole informed council that an excavation company offered to donate \$500 of work towards the yard. As well, we hope to receive a donation from the Jeff Hume memorial fund for a tree. Nicole will follow up with the School Board regarding community use of the yard for specific programs.

4. YOUCAN presentation – Barbara Mitchell

Barbara Mitchell is a YOUCAN representative with over 14 years experience in conflict resolution and currently focuses on youth peer to peer mediation and peer helping. School administration believes that YOUCAN's programs would be of interest to the school. YOUCAN has just completed projects which included Grades 7, 10 and 11. The mission is to have an impact on the attitudes of students and control choices when they are faced with conflict through active listening and non-judgment. YOUCAN is offering to provide a 2 day back-to-back program for our Grade 7. Costs including manuals would be \$3,168.00. It was mentioned that some grants are available to cover these costs. There is also a program for the Juniors which can be expanded upon at a later date.

5. Chair's Report– Jen Small, Lisa Rambout

Snow Hawks ski club is up and running again this year. It was clarified by Jen Small who made a point that though the school helps out this program by offering to sort the students' equipment for the day, the parent council does not officially endorse this program.

Jen also mentioned that she received information regarding photo IDs to be given to the students (by a private company) but has decided to pass on this.

6. Principal and Teacher's Report

Nicole talked again about numeracy and how the math networks for all the grades are expanding daily.

It was mentioned that the Blizzard Bizarre funds will go directly to the Me To We program. Robotics program has started with a very large group of students excited to partake.

With the help of a parent volunteer a book club has been initiated. 50 - 60 kids are doing literacy circles during lunch.

The school now has 1 Elmo for every two teachers and 1 projector for every 3 teachers.

A Chromium Laptop Program will be tested in one classroom.

The school is almost but not quite wireless.

Nicole has asked for a committee to be created regarding internet policy and what are the expectations of the students once the school is wireless.

Food Drive was a great success

Volleyball Team doing very well ... Big thank you to the parents for helping out and volunteering their time with all the sports

Dr. Eva Olson, Holocaust Survivor, gave a powerful message about Bullying and being a bystander to bullies to Grades 6 - 8.

6. Financial Update – Sylvie and Kerri

Sylvie and Kerrie gave a brief overview of PC's financial situation. It was projected that given the predicted expenditures and revenues, by the end of the year there should be \$14,000 left to give the school to pay back the money for the grass yard.

Jen moved that Council approve \$634 for two robotics kits for the robotics team. \$1500 for the Safe and Caring Schools cmte to organize work shops, \$2000 towards to grass yard project from the past summer. Seconded by Sylvie. Motion passed.

7. Allergy Committee Update – Scott McKensie

Two years ago the board enacted changes to handle the care of students with life threatening medical conditions that fall under Form 616 only.

These changes include :

Parents giving permission on forms associated with Pizza Lunches, Milk and any other foods given out (including in the classrooms) that it is okay their children are allowed to be given food.

Signed permission forms for teachers who have food brought into the classroom (IE: birthdays, holiday parties , etc.

Scott also talked about the need to have lunch monitors , eliminating bake sales and a no food given out to children policy inside the classrooms.

Nicole added that we have 35 children that fall into the form 616 category.

8. Accommodations Review Committee Update – Neil Hill

Neil Hill --

Mutchmore will gain JK / SK from First Avenue. 11 new classrooms will be built at Mutchmor

Hopewell will no longer receive new graduates from First Avenue. These students will now go to Glashan. Mutchmore will receive a new 4/5/6 MFI program

Though this ruling will allow Hopewell to keep all three streams in place the loss of the 7 & 8 population will lead to a loss of teachers at Hopewell (perhaps as many as 5)

It was noted that this deserves a serious look at what this will mean to the 7 & 8 grades and the quality of their program and what might need to be done to provide enrichment for the intermediates in the future

9. Safe and Caring Schools Update - Vanessa Copland

A follow up for each category of students. Two streams of events every two to three months.

10. There are no new business. Georgina was not present to discuss her concerns regarding the cost of grade 8 graduation.

12. Adjournment

Jen Small moved to adjourn the meeting , Lisa Rambout Seconded it.