

CES School Council
Wednesday, Sept 27, 2017

Attendance: Krista Benoit, Norma Lang, Chrissy Berard, Liz Grace, Jeff Wasylucha, Tracy Wasylucha, Lynann Rodgers, Lisa Metcalfe, Krista White, Bob Rodgers, Chris Frederick, Liz Marshall, Amy Spotswood, Jen Holmes

Call to order: 6:38pm

Chair: Tracy Wasylucha

Secretary: Janice Graham

Review and approval of previous minutes.

Motion to accept by: Krista Benoit

Seconded by: Lisa Metcalfe

Vote: All in favour.

Review and approval of agenda.

Motion to accept by: Krista White

Seconded by: Liz Grace

Vote: All in favour.

Reports:

- Chair:
 - Welcome and introductions
 - School (Parent) Council Role within the school. School council (created under the School Act) represents the parents of the school community and provides an opportunity to provide input in various school initiatives. Sharing of information and input into school events and activities is an important role of council members.
 - Fundraising- Whoo's Crew is a parent fundraising society and operates as an independent organization, under the authority of the societies act. The School Council is governed under the School Act and is in direct consultation with the school. The School Council *can* do fundraising, but does not typically take on fundraising other than the annual Mathathon. Whoo's Crew takes on the majority of fundraising.
 - Possibly consider having an occasional, additional special meeting during a school day for parent council meeting: Last year there was one during the day, lasting about an hour. Would we like to have another this year? Parents enjoyed it last year and would be interested in doing it again. The format of last year's meeting included a brief information session, a meeting of our Chestermere Therapy dog, Annie, as well as a tour of the school. Date to be tabled until a further meeting.
 - Meeting Dates for the year are: Nov. 1, Dec. 6th, Feb. 7th, March 7th, April 11th, May 2nd, and June 6th (AGM)

- Treasurer: Amy Spotswood absent
 - Current balance \$368.36 (data from June AGM)

- Childcare: we do pay for childcare for our meetings, this comes from our funds and is \$30 per month. Emma Niven is our hired babysitter.
 - Other items that come from our funds: Movie nights (popcorn, drinks) and Teacher Appreciation Week
- Volunteer Coordinators:
 - Volunteer forms from the registration packet have been received by Krista White. She has emailed parents that had indicated that they would be willing to help with hot lunch as our first hot lunch is this Friday.
 - Halloween Movie night?
 - Halloween this year is a Tuesday
 - The Friday prior to Halloween is the Town Pumpkin hunt
 - Christmas movie night instead? Last year we started at 6:30pm on a Wednesday
 - The week before break is Christmas Concerts (Dec 20 and 21) so that week will not work. The week prior would be best.
 - Proposed date is Thursday, December 14 at 6:30 pm
- Principal:
 1. Staffing update: Lorena Petit has transferred to the new Windsong school in Airdrie. Replacing her is Tobey Daniels, who was here previously as a teacher. She brings with her 2 PALS therapy dogs as well as a program called Friendology, which works with students to help them navigate friendship issues and gives them tools and strategies.
 - a. Daphne Pittner, long time staff member, retired at the end of June.
 - b. Amanda Krauchek has returned to CES and is teaching Grade 2 this year. She previously taught Grade 5 during a maternity leave.
 - c. We had to cut some support staff in June due to budget. We have been able to hire back Nancy Geier as a part time assistant and she is able to provide support with behavioural as well as academic needs.
 - d. As part of the contract with the teacher's association and the NDP government, each school was given 'one time' funds for a Classroom Improvement Fund. We were able to use these funds to hire a part time teacher to alleviate the Grade 5 class sizes. We hired Jaime Reimer to teach with Jacqui Kiernan in a third Grade 5 class.
 - e. Gwen Quaife was increased from half time to full time in Grade 2.
 - f. We also have Gabby, our Chestermere Therapy Dog. Gabby was in last Friday during Grade 5 vaccinations. Typically, we have anxious children in the hallway prior to their vaccinations. This time, students were able to interact with Gabby prior to going in to the nurses, and the nurses indicated that overall the students were calmer and more relaxed. Gabby also provides other opportunities to help students with anxiety throughout her visits here.
 2. Demographics:
 - . Kindergarten - 45
 - a. Grade 1 - 38
 - b. Grade 2 - 62
 - c. Grade 3 - 48

- d. Grade 4 - 53
- e. Grade 5 - 65 **Total 311**

- This is the highest enrollment in many years.

3. SARR (School Annual Results Report) is due October 23, this will be shared at the next meeting and the Council president will be asked to sign off. We use parent, student and staff surveys to provide data for this report as we do not have data from Provincial Achievement exams in this school. This year's results are great! Details will be shared at the next meeting.

4. The SEP (School Education Plan) is due in May to plan for the upcoming year and Parent Council will have a say in some of the priorities. This year's priorities are:

a. Literacy

i. Action Research - focus on writing

b. Mental Wellness

i. MindUp, Friendology, CDA

5. Learning Commons Redesign

. We are hoping to receive blueprints soon and are hopeful that the renovation can begin in the summer of 2018.

6. Little Free Library- The Grade ones raised money at a book sale to purchase a little free library to be installed at the front of the school. It is installed at the front of the school. The Grade ones built it as a class last year. Please donate or take books. This is available to all community members.

7. Parent Portal will be open as of October 1. We encourage parents to use this new tool for keeping up date date on their students progress. Information letters and log in info is coming home with students this week. Computers will be available at Parent Teacher conferences to help those needing guidance to sign up.

8. Three Way Conferences - Oct. 18th and 19th. Moving from previous Parent Teacher Interviews to a format that includes the student and provides opportunity for goal setting.

9. Whoo's News: Formerly 'Principal's Newsletter', Bob's weekly communication to parents has been revamped!

- Assistant Principal:

1. Family Literacy Night - Focus: Home Reading

a. Learning to Read is our Focus, Loving to Read is our Goal

b. Last night was our first annual Family Literacy Night and we linked it to our Home Reading Program. There were 6 information stations for parents to cycle through providing information on various topics such as Home Reading levels, reading on the run, using KOHA

c. Pizza and childcare were provided. Each student also took home a new book and bookmark.

d. It was a successful evening and we will plan to host another in the future.

2. Terry Fox run and Barbeque lunch (donated by Carmen's Big Way) We raised \$777.65

. WGM leadership students set up drink stations and BBQed hamburgers for us

3. Inline skating - October 2nd to 12th - Thanks to the Crossfield/Rockyview County Rec. Board for a \$2000 grant!

. Each class will get 3 opportunities to participate in the inline skating

4. Fire Safety Week - October 16th

. 2 Drills will take place that week - one will be an evacuation to our alternate location (community centre)

a. The second drill will provide the fire department with their training exercise to sweep the school

5. Grade 5 Sports Club - Thanks to Shari Krukowski for volunteering her time. Tuesdays and Thursdays at lunch she is running a program with different focus each month to teach specific skills, sportsmanship and lifelong fitness.

6. Breakfast program is up and running

. Parent volunteers come in every morning to help

a. Dina Bradish's husband has access to fresh food and a variety of groceries to fill our Snack Attack Fridge

b. We received a grant to fund our breakfast program as well as receiving bread from Cobbs every few weeks.

7. Open Gym - Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:15-8:30

. This is run by Ms. Krauchek and provides students with an opportunity to have free play time prior to school

8. Twitter Account - @CossfieldCES

- Trustee: Congratulations to Norma for being acclaimed as the Ward 1 Trustee.
 - Our ward was unchanged in last year's division of wards.
 - Norma is anticipating at least 5 new Trustees after the October election.
 - One of the Trustees passed away this summer, which was difficult for all. Other trustees have been covering her ward duties until the election.
 - An emergency board meeting was held in August due to Bill 1, which addressed the elimination of school fees and bussing fees. Most people were able to benefit from this bill, however, some families are paying more than they were previously. The board has reached out to the Ministry and have had a meeting to discuss items such as transportation and maximum student age in public school.
 - As we pass the election, it is likely that there will be some legislative changes made to the School Act, specifically regarding transportation. There will be community consultations regarding possible changes.
 - The Annual School Council conference is in April. It is a beneficial conference to attend for members of council.
 - The Superintendent will be touring schools along with the board of trustees. They will visit CES on March 8.
 - Joint School Council meetings this year will be November 16 as well as a date in April. Dinner is served as well as information on various topics. The board is looking at inviting the Minister to attend a Joint Council meeting.

Old Business: (Items from last meeting):

- Sewer pipe and lights in the gym were done this summer

New Business:

- Snack schedule

Question Period: (This is a time for questions to the council chair, trustee, or school admin. Advance notice of questions, especially on controversial topics, will help us to provide complete answers. A time limit may be imposed if needed.)

Adjournment:

Moved by: Chrissy Berard

Seconded by: Liz Grace

Vote: All in favour.

Adjourn at: 7:53pm

Next meeting: November 1