November 8, 2016 Agenda

- Welcome
- Discussion of Minutes
- Grant Proposal Submission
- Playground update
- General announcements of school board elections and NL Federation of School Councils BGM
- Other business
- Closing

Discussion of Agenda

Welcome

Marjorie called the meeting to order at 7:05. In attendance were Marjorie Cooney, Mark Bonnell, Vanessa Corneect, Wanda Bussey, Rexanne Crawford, Marlene Wheeler, Robert Andrews and Valerie Rachwal. A special welcome was given to Robert for returning in a different role as a community representative.

Discussion of minutes

The minutes were discussed and the council is grateful that Marjorie has assumed the responsibility of Council chair for this current year. Marjorie also noted that the position of school council secretary is still vacant and asked if anyone was considering taking on this important role. No one volunteered and Marjorie decided to defer the issue until later.

Grant Proposal Update

Rexanne informed the group that the proposal writing is progressing and information was being obtained. She increased the iPad proposal to $50,000. She asked if the school had obtained funds from the Rotary Club/Co Op Fund last year. Mark informed her that last year’s iPads/covers and software were purchased from a grant from that fund. The suggestion was that the current proposal could be a joint proposal with Vale and the Rotary Club/Co Op Fund. Rexanne also mentioned the ACOA fund which is provided in
recognition of the Canada 150 celebrations. She was thinking it could apply to the theatre improvements that were briefly discussed in the previous meeting. The School Board will need to be involved as it has to be submitted in their name. Larry Guinchard could assist and Rexanne offered to ask Trevor Kennedy to give the school a call to discuss the program. Rexanne also mentioned that the government has an innovation fund that is specifically for technological needs, but she hasn’t seen that fund opened yet this year.

Mark also mentioned that the school’s existing playground fund is just over $9000 and would like to see more equipment purchased to improve the area. The dome’s poor installation will hopefully be rectified in the next summer. Speculation that children used it before the concrete was fully cured caused the issue. Henderson is the preferred supplier for the district so it was suggested to just use them. Mark suggested perhaps securing any other funds to assist with the playground’s improvement and then placing the order so that the recreation department could install equipment in the summer of 2017. It was questioned who owned the playground – Mark stated that it is unclear. It is a playground that is on the school grounds that is maintained by the town. The soccer pitch was discussed briefly and it was noted that work needs to be done on holes by the large poles. Questions were asked about what would like to be done and Mark stated that new swings would like to be added as the old ones were outdated and removed.

Mark reminded that the school board elections are happening. Members felt that it was the first election for the new district; it has been a while. The current members were discussed as a refresher for the council. Nominations are closed, voting is happening soon. As well, Mark showed an announcement of the NL Federation of School Councils biennial general meeting. Travel costs would have to be incurred and the question was asked whether these meetings are conducted online. This was unknown and it was noted that this is the first time we have experienced receiving an invitation.

**Other Business**

Robert noted that the school crosswalk on Green Street leads properly from a road shoulder while the other end goes into an active roadway – the entrance to the school parking lot. There was speculation that the painting was done in mid-July. Mark stated he would go look at the area after the meeting and report back at the next meeting.

A question was made as to whether QPMS was the only participant in the Santa Claus parade contest. Mark could only affirm that he passed out the entry forms that were supplied by Dominic and then he came and collected them. He is not sure if the forms were brought to other schools.

A concern from parents is that the website is outdated. In particular, the class supply lists, calendar and teacher pages, curriculum guides need updating. Mark took note of that and will work toward updating certain areas. Mark also confirmed that the student handbook is a work in progress. He mentioned that
there are many changes with regards to administration that have caused some things to be placed on the “back burner.”

Mark mentioned that a business has expressed an interest in possibly selling catered meals at the school. More information to follow. We only have Pizza Delight servicing the school with pizza slices provided on Wednesday.

A final question was a request to follow Peacock’s lead and have the request for a parent/teacher meeting included with the report card. Thus, those who are pleased with a report will choose not to have one. After a clarification of our current practice, the teachers and Mark felt it was something that could be presented in the staff meeting for consideration/approval. A discussion of student-led conferences ensued and the school is considering requesting permission to try this format for a later date.

A final mention of the Grade Five “Curriculum Matters” and its positive impact was mentioned by Marjorie.

**Determination of next meeting**

Monday, December 5 at 7:00 was the date chosen for the next meeting to avoid the school’s and Peacock’s scheduled Christmas concerts. Mark also presented the dates for first term reports and parent teacher meetings so that those dates could be avoided.

**Closing**

Marjorie thanked the group for attending and for a constructive meeting. The meeting ended at 7:45 pm.