January 10, 2017 Minutes

Agenda

- Welcome
- Review of minutes from previous meeting
- Discussion/determine School Council roles
- Grant/Proposal submission
- Playground
- Binders for School Council members
- Other Business
- Determination of next meeting
- Closing

Discussion of Agenda

Welcome: Marjorie brought the meeting to order are 7:00. The members present were Mark Bonnell, Vanessa Cornett, Wanda Bussey, Marjorie Cooney, Marlene Wheeler, Rexanne Crawford, and Valerie Rachwal.

Review of Minutes: The crosswalk ending into the middle of the parking lot entrance was discussed. Mark informed the staff that Wade Wilcox was informed and he has contacted Wyman Jacque. It can’t be fixed now (and isn’t an issue with the road covered in snow) but will hopefully be corrected when the road is clear. The next issue was the request to have the parent interview request forms go home with the reports. Marjorie asked the teachers whether they felt it was successful, they both concurred. The amount of “no shows” was reduced. The prospect of Jemm’s Catering supplying school lunches was also questioned. Mark reported that a letter would be going home surveying the parents on their interest for the meals which, initially, will be provided on Tuesday and Thursday. Tuesday’s meal will be Macaroni and Cheese, with some fruit, a juice box and perhaps a cookie. Thursday’s meal will be chicken quesadillas with the same accessories. There is also a potential for veggie and fruit cups. The main meal will be $6.

Discussion/determine School Council roles: A request was made for someone to volunteer as a secretary, no one stepped forward but a suggestion was made to perhaps rotate the duty every meeting. Mark agreed to complete this meeting’s minutes and someone else would take over at the following meeting. Mark then mentioned that the minutes should now be found on the school’s website and that the school’s webmaster is in the process of cleaning out old pages and making the website more current.

Grant/Proposal submissions: Shortly after Christmas, Rexann had proposals drafted for Valé and the Rotary/Co-op fund. With a small correction in wording that has now been completed, the Valé proposal will be submitted online by Rexanne. The Rotary/Co-op fund will need a cover letter placed on school letterhead. Mark and Marjorie would complete that after the meeting.

Playground: Large and small grants are available for playground initiatives. Submission dates are due in February. It was noted that the Canada150 grant was closed. Speculation as to whether the grants could be used for improving the stage lighting and sound in the gym then arose. Mark mentioned all the areas
that would need to be addressed and that, while it is a worthwhile venture, he feels that monies for the playground will get more “bang for the buck” as it will be used more throughout the year and by more people. Further discussion on the playgrounds revealed the issues with land ownership and who is responsible for the playground. It was recommended to get a copy of the land deeds to see who owns what and then to present this to Larry Guinchard at the District Office to ensure we have addressed all areas of ownership. If owned by the church, we may need to ask permission from the church to place more equipment on the land.

_School Council Member Binders:_ Marjorie would like to create resource binders for the entire school council that will include the handbook, guiding principles, contact information, agendas and minutes. Mark suggested there was money to purchase the binders and then Wanda stated she has many that she can supply.

**Other Business – Christmas concerts:** Marjorie received many comments on the Christmas concerts. Some positive, mostly negative. Long lines, some parents standing were the main issues. Suggestions to go to the Lawrence O’Brien Centre were also made. Valerie stated that her first time coming to the concert gave her the same feelings; however, when seeing the students proud that their parents are in the building, she realized the importance of having the concert at the school. For some parents, it is the only time they visit the building and see their child’s classroom. Valerie also commented on the behaviour of the concert goers – talking during performances and leaving before the show was over. Perhaps a full group performance to close the concert might help in keeping everyone there. Another issue is that you can’t see the band performers on the stage and the cleanup of the school and gym. Mark mentioned that you can get band risers that would help in making the band viewable from the floor. Another recommendation was to mention the artwork around the gym and invite parents to look at them afterwards. Mark also stated that the doors could be opened earlier and that may remedy the long lines. It was noted that we are getting more people in the gym, but there is a need to replace the existing chairs with better, more comfortable chairs. The discussion returned to the poor audience behaviour (people talking, children running around, people leaving early) and Mark stated that he has been dealing with these situations for years when he was a music teacher. Public education and reminders were the two suggestions along with a grand finale to entice parents to stay.

- **Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week:** Mark stated that the dates for Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week are February 12 – 18. He noted a letter for NL School councils with suggestions for activities but stated that a staff breakfast was more feasible when it was held during a school closeout. The primary reason for this is that the students will not need to be supervised while the staff is having their breakfast. The two closeouts for this term will be on January 20th (the district mandated LGBTQ training) and March 10th (bringing/ensuring positivity in the classroom). Val suggested a treat in the staffroom for every weekday – it was noted that the staff is very appreciative of those delicious treats. The banner will be put up in the front porch and the members could organize who would be responsible for the treats. Mark reminded them that they would have to be cognizant of allergies, particularly peanuts.

_Determination of Next Meeting:_ The next meeting’s date will be Tuesday, February 7.

_Closing:_ The meeting was closed at 8:00 pm.