

## **Byrne Creek Community Council meeting minutes January 15, 2018**

Call to order by the Vice Chair at approximately 7:05 pm

Attendance: Melanie Walkus (Vice Chair), Laura McIntosh (Treasurer), Hetty Alcuitas (Secretary), Shams Chowdhury (MAL), David Starr (Principal), Bal Dhillon (Community Coordinator), 6 other parents (names not available), regrets: Naz Jakir (Chair)

Motion to approve the agenda. (Laura, Hetty) Approved.

Motion to adopt the minutes (Laura, Sandy) Approved.

- 1. Student Council Report:** No report.
- 2. Chair's Report:** (Melanie on Naz's behalf) No correspondence received.
- 3. Treasurer's Report:** Laura prepared a document with funding requests and breakdown for this year, which was circulated and reviewed. There was some discussion and questions were answered. This year the requests were not brought individually per department to the council for approval. Instead they were reviewed and presented as a package with a total amount proposed per department.
- 4. Principal's Report (David Starr):**
  - Staffing for the next school year has begun.
  - Parent Info evening on Feb. 1.
  - Offering a new course next year, STEAM (see attached). 50 incoming grade 8's will work with a specific group of teachers. Courses will be in the afternoon of both semesters covering Science, Math, Applied Skills and Art credits. Will include applied skills will work at solving real-life problems. Excited about this program. Invested in equipment for shops and have high-quality teachers already in school. Building relations with companies and post-secondary institutions. Also have a mix of male and female teachers to encourage more girls in technology.
  - There will be an info session for the district on SOGI on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> at Maywood school, details TBA
  - Piloting a numeracy exam, FSA style for those in Grade 11. Marks will not be counted. There is a graduation requirement to write a numeracy exam, but no requirement to pass it.
  - Semester turn-around on Jan. 23, semester break is only 3 days this year (used to be one week) because of changes to exams.
  - Encourage parents to attend dance show this week.
- 5. Community School Coordinator: Bal Dhillon**
  - Senior boys basketball tournament this Thursday to Saturday. Elementary kids also coming to watch. Team has ranked first in province. Emphasis on community-building where over half of the team is also on honour role. Emphasizing "athletes with character." Also won St. Thomas Moore tournament.
  - Getting ready to welcome new students to the school. Had 1055 in first semester, 1090 in 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.
  - Free tutoring program lost funding but Bal was able to get new funding to offer this once per week. Will be running out of the Community Room.

- Summer offering: coding camp and after-school programs on coding and 2D video gaming.
- Working with Phil (Safe School Specialist) on a mentoring program for boys. Program is one hour per week and focusses on building leadership capacity our students and making connections with other schools in Family of Schools. Program aims to help transition from grade 8.

## **6. Gaming Grants**

- Motion to approve original gaming funds 2017-208 as presented by Laura (Melanie, Shams) Passed.
- David explained the 3 sources of school funding: i) District block budgets go to: a) supplies, equipment; b) learning resources (textbooks, on-line resources); c) professional growth; (1 day off per teacher for special education and consultation days); d) specific projects; e) equipment repair and replacement and e) Federal government funding for French.
- District provides a per student ratio. ii) Other source of revenue school-generated activities, eg. Cafeteria, vending machines, catering club, donations, iii) Council funding: Community council does no fundraising. Specific criteria what it can be used for. We prefer this as it allows the Community Council to focus on education issues. Student council also does a lot of fundraising. Laura said Dry Grads were not successful in the past. David said dances are not as popular as kids are doing different things.
- Bal mentioned fundraising through sales through Spud.ca, on-line grocery shopping. We receive a portion of sales and have raised \$400 so far.

## **7. Motion to grant \$500 to participation in media arts (Laura, Shams) Passed.**

## **8. DPAC report – Shams Chowdhury**

- Shams arrived at the meeting after attending a DPAC mental health seminar today. DPAC issues discussed at past meetings include: curriculum changes, planning seminars for parents. David explained that the DPAC Chair (Kristin Schnider) passes info directly to the Superintendent of Schools. She can pass on what issues parents are bringing forward, eg. how to deal with anxiety, drug addictions, getting ready for university, social media, etc. DPAC deals directly with the ministry and also participates in hiring of administrators.

## **9. Other:** David updated that the district website address is changing. Emails will also change.

## **10. Next meeting: March 5.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm