



Front of Yonge Elementary School
Parent Council Meeting
November 3, 2020

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Jennifer Moore, Sarah Donovan, Michele Richards

CALL TO ORDER/ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

The agenda was approved with no changes.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS' MINUTES

Minutes from the meeting held on March 3, 2020 were approved with no changes.

(moved Sarah Donovan/seconded Michele Richards)

CARRIED

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Principal's Report (see Appendix 1)

Financial Report

The following items were discussed at the meeting, and agreed upon by the remaining members of council through electronic communication:

Be it resolved that funds be provided as needed for the purchase of toys and equipment for the classroom outdoor bins. These funds are to be re-allocated from money originally earmarked for busing support at the March 3, 2020 meeting.

(moved Sarah Donovan/seconded Michele Richards) **CARRIED**

Be it resolved that \$500.00 be provided to support the purchase of the RAZ kids online reading program. These funds are to be re-allocated from money originally earmarked to support at visit from Quincey Mack at the March 3, 2020 meeting.

(moved Sarah Donovan/seconded Michele Richards) **CARRIED**

Be it resolved that \$100.00 be donated to the Mallorytown Legion to support their Poppy Fund.

(moved Sarah Donovan/seconded Michele Richards) CARRIED

Trustee's Report

No report at this time.

Safe School Committee

The Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan updated to reflect Covid-19-related changes that have occurred. There will be a meeting with the Safe Schools team in late November.

A Spirit Day has been scheduled for every Friday to help enhance the atmosphere and maintain a positive climate for the students.

School Yard Enhancement

See discussions in Financial Report and Items for Discussion.

Fundraising

No fundraising projects are ongoing or planned at this time.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

During very cold days, students will still go outside for short mask breaks when indoor recess is in place. They will also be able to rotate to the gym for time outside of the classroom.

The weekenders program is still running.

The snowsuit drive (through a Kingston group) is running again and will provide the school with several needed suits. Some additional suits will still be required, and connections with Big Brothers/Big Sisters in Brockville will be explored to try and find them.

The Girls Inc. program may run in a virtual format this year, but details aren't yet clear.

Public health has permitted the use of cubbies. During a recent site visit, public health representatives were impressed with how our school is regulating flow and space for students and staff.

There is some concern that mask hygiene is not being followed properly for some children. Appropriate hygiene for masks, including washing guidelines, will be sent out via email.

Notice will also be given to families that book orders can still be made through the Scholastic website. The shipping is quick, and also has benefits for classrooms when orders are made.

The Christmas Store event will be greatly missed this year. Is there a way to do it differently in the classrooms? Perhaps classes can make special crafts for family as gifts?

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be in early January 2021 unless action by Parent Council is required sooner.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Appendix 1: Principal's Report

- We have updated our Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan for the 2020-21 School Year. We worked to create a more virtual model of how we would be safely putting program and activities in place. We also took any special events that we would normally have taken part in or organized out due to the restrictions of not having assemblies or having guest speakers into the school. Michele and I will be holding a virtual safe schools meeting with the teachers involved and students at the end of November. You can view this on the school website.
- Progress Reports will be going home on November 11th. They may appear a bit different due to the amount of progress that has been made under the new COVID environment and the delay of school entry. The procedures and protocols that the kids take part in to keep them safe take time upon entry and exit of the classroom and scheduled bathroom breaks take away from class time as well. Teachers have less opportunity for group work where they would see several students at a time where now they work more individually with them. Also, the rate at which work can be viewed slows down the evaluation and assessment process.
- We will not be able to participate in the Legion Remembrance Road Ceremony of the Remembrance Day Ceremony. We are also not allowed to sell poppies and collect money for them. The Legion dropped off the poppies and I will wait until November 11th and distribute them to our students for the ceremony we will have in the classrooms here at the school. I would like to give them a donation from the school for the poppies. Would parent council support this? I am also making a wreath to be given to the Legion to add to their ceremony on behalf of the school.
- We have welcomed a student teacher from Nippising University here to do her placement. Brittany is in the grade 6 room and began with us on October 13th to November 13th. The kids have enjoyed the activities that she has them working on. It has been a great experience for all.
- Pilot Project with Ramona (celebrity fitness trainer from California). She is working for free with our grade 6 students on health, fitness and mindfulness. This all comes virtually to the classroom and the gym.
- Adrienne Gear Webinar Series: Powerful Writing Structures. We are using this as professional development for our staff here at FOY to assist them in strategies to use during instructional writing lessons. The staff are very engaged in this learning and I am seeing many lessons from Adrienne Gear being used throughout our classrooms and am seeing a big improvement already in student writing.
- Recess Toys: We have enjoyed the activities that were in the classroom recess bins. We would like to change those activities up for the winter months. I am wondering if council would be willing to purchase 2 pairs of snowshoes for each bin and a sled for

each bin. I will purchase some other things to include such as snow sculpting tools etc.

- RAZ kids online reading program. We purchased licenses for each classroom. This is not just supporting our in-person learners but our at-home learners as well. Since we are unable to send homework or anything for the students to practice at home this has been a great solution. The cost was \$778.74. We are wondering if you would be able to contribute to the cost of this as it benefits all our students.
- Linda Wells and Johanne Kydd, along with Margaret Fancy were amazing to our families that were in need during COVID shut down. They used money they had earned from making and selling crafts to purchase much needed food for some of our families. They have reached out and would like to continue to support this during the 2nd wave. They said they would have less money this time due to sales not being as great since they can't attend craft sales that would normally be occurring during this time. They are hosting a day on November 9th where you can go to their garage and view the crafts. The staff are going over after school to purchase some things. If you are interested, please let me know and I can send you the email.
- To support the Legion, Laurie Sponagle is selling her art and donating 35% of the proceeds to the Legion. The staff have purchased some items to support this cause. If you would like more information on this please let me know. Orders for this need to be in by November 9th and you go directly to Laurie ordering and pick up.
- School clothing can be ordered any time throughout the year. You can go to tisportswear.com