

Roger Neilson School Council Meeting
Thursday October 12th, 2023- Hybrid In-person/Virtual
Minutes

Present: Kevin Coulter (Principal)
Mandy Bush (Co-Chair)
Brooklyn Sinclair (Co-Chair)
Tina Hobart (Secretary)
Julia Wiegard (Treasurer)
Myla Bromell
Jennifer Robertson (Teacher Representative)
Tori Schaap (Compass Early Learning and Care)
Tara Lutz (School Administrative Assistant, CUPE representative) - via WebEx

Minutes:

Mandy Bush opened the meeting the acknowledgment that we respectfully gather on the treaty and traditional territory of the Mississauga Anishinaabeg.

Principal's Report:

Kevin Coulter presented the principal's report. Mr. Coulter thanked everyone one for their help at the School Open House on September 27th. The Open House went well as parents seemed to enjoy it. He had lots of positive feedback from parents.

There is a PA Day coming up on Nov 3rd. These days are for teacher and staff professional development. There may seem like more P.A. Days this year, but it's the same as other years. There are 187 school days throughout the year with 7 P.A. Days. In past there were 2 P.A. Days before Labour Day, however this year there was only 1. The other change this year is that the School Board has mandated that a schedule of activities happening for teachers on the P.A. Day must be posted on the door of the school (they want more transparency for parents). For this upcoming P.A. Day, half the day will be spend learning the new language curriculum then a workshop on human trafficking awareness.

EQAO testing results from last year will be out soon. These tests are given to students in Grade 3 and Grade 6 (also in Grade 9 – math only) and are taken online. They are a measure to see where kids are after primary and junior grades. They are reported as a percent of students that meet the Provincial standard (which is set at a B. For example, a 50% means that 50% of students are at a B or higher. Unfortunately, there are a lot of factors that can affect the results such as the inclusion of the LLS classes in the school average.

Mathletes will be at the school on October 25th. It will be a full day of math stations for the junior grades (3-6), with the Grade 6 students acting as coaches. Will be a fun day for these classes.

Mr. Coulter will continue to have Recognition Assemblies this year.

The school continues to look for donations for the Nutrition program. Approximately \$80 was raised at the Open House. A student teacher at RNPS earlier this year reached out the Thrive Health Peterborough (a group of Chiropractors and Massage therapists) and was able to raise about \$400 for the Nutrition Program. We continue to also get food donations from Kawartha Food Share.

Teacher's Report:

Jennifer Robertson presented the teacher's report. Flag Rugby is happening currently, and Pass Ball has started up for the primary grades. Cross-Country has also started this month. Janis Jackson and Nansi Harris are hoping to start choir soon (for all grades) with the goal to present musical later in the year.

The library is also going to host a "Harry Potter" day. Students will make wands, JK/SK kids were asked "if they could cast any spell, what would it be?", LLS classes played "Pin the Wings on the Owl". Some selected students will receive an "owl" inviting them to come to the library for activities related to Harry Potter. The library is hoping to have a different theme each month with related activities and arts and crafts. The idea is to have a variety of extracurricular activities for students that may not be athletic or into sports.

Treasurer's Report:

The School Council account has a balance of \$6678.24 There is still a \$148.96 not yet deposited from the Lunchbox program. Teachers have received their \$150 for school trips etc.

We have already made \$2525 from the Chocolate campaign.

Kevin Coulter asked if the School Council would contribute to the cost of Mathletes. Julia motioned to provide \$500 towards the cost, this motion was seconded by Tina. Motion was passed.

Agenda Items:

Constitution → Mandy has revised copy (from 2023) She will email everyone a copy to look over for comments.

Forest of Reading Program → Ms. Robertson is hoping to have RNPS participate in "Forest of Reading". This organization puts together a selection of books for students. We would ask for books for Grade 4-5, which we would then keep for the library. Kids that read the book can then vote on their favourites. It's much like a Book Club for the students. The books provided are part of the Silver Birch books. The package contains 10 books and costs \$139.02. Jennifer asked if the School council would be interested in helping out. Tina motioned to have School Council cover the full cost of these books. Myla seconded and the motion was carried.

Chocolate Campaign – World's Finest Chocolates → 74 boxes when out to parent; 34 are still outstanding. The campaign will go until October 19th. We can return unopened boxes to World's Finest; any opened cases we will sell these bars at the Dance and/or the Movie night. If all the cases come back, we will make for the school about \$3700 (half of the \$7400 from the sold).

Other Business → Jennifer Robertson has been in contact with a local kid's author, Nikki Alday. She would like to do a "Meet the Author" event. She will give the school copies of her books and read them to the kids. The cost would be about \$40. Ms. Robertson has also talked with a local photographer that could come to the school and do a workshop for students where they would make Christmas ornaments. We could sell these at the Christmas Shopping Spree (to cover the cost of having him come).

Regional School Council is coming up on October 17th online. Brooklyn has agreed to attend. She can also attend the other meetings (in December, February and April)

Mr. Coulter needs to submit a Fundraising Plan to the school board by October 31st. Any School Generated funds must be included along with what the money will be spent on (the idea is that the money raised by the kids should be spend on those kids). We discussed the plans for future events/fundraisers:

Junior Dance – Thursday November 2nd from 6-8pm. Cost of admission is \$2 per person. Parents will need to sign in their kids (with a contact number), then sign them out when they pick them up. We can have an area in the library for any parent that would like to stay. Tina will create playlist for the dance. We will sell drinks, chocolate bars, chips, and glow sticks.

Holiday Movie Night – for primary grades – Dec 7th – Parents will need to stay. We sell snacks and drinks.

Holiday Shopping Spree – Dec 13th (in gym)

Krispy Kreme Donuts – in May

Little Caesar's Pizza Kits – February/March

Kernel's Popcorn – Myla suggested this fundraiser. May work better for Grade 6 year end trip fundraiser.

Kevin asked if the money from the Lunchbox program could be used for the Nutrition Program (cost of food for the program has increased and the budget going as far). Mandy motioned that we designate this money to the Nutrition Program. Torri seconded. Motion was passed.

Next meeting will be held on Thursday November 9th at 5:30pm in person and via WebEx.

Meeting adjourned.