

Courtice North Parent Council Meeting Minutes September 24, 2024

Present: Valerie Le Drew, Kerry Martin, Dana McDonald, Jennifer Cox, Jenny Feltham, Alycia Stephens, Jen Voordenhout, Lillie Cooke, Logan Ward, Ashley Muir, Kyla Redden, Sarah-Jane Lawlor, Lea Cooke & Chloe Ward.

Meeting commenced at 6:10 pm.

Welcome by Valerie Le Drew

- Valerie Le Drew welcomed everyone and set the agenda of electing council members & states rules for council which we need to abide by such as uploading the meeting minutes for all community members to see. Meetings are expected to be approx. 1 hour in length.
- Introductions made by all present.
- School Council provides a forum through which parents and other members of school communities can contribute to improving student achievement and school performance through many activities such as fundraising for school related programs. They are champions of equal opportunities.
- We have until Oct 31 to set our fundraising goals, objectives and share with the school board.

School Council Nominations & Discussion

- Chair: Lea Cooke explained the role of the chair, helping with fundraising, organizing fundraising, set up hot lunches – Healthy Hunger etc., organizing the website, Fudge and Flowers fundraising, there are sub committees and a lot of communication with the admin. If requests come between meetings, Lea Cooke reaches out to the council members to get votes.
- Secretary: takes the meeting minutes, submits them to the school office secretary. The minutes indicate motions for money to be distributed to programs and student related resources. This is also an audit requirement.
- The Regional Representative is an additional parent member position to provide contact between our school council and the regional school council in our area.
- Teacher Representative: brings forward requests/ideas from the staff e.g., for funds to support programming and bussing for trips.
- Student Representation at School Council meetings. This item to be discussed further.
- Chloe Ward nominated Lea Cooke for chair, Jenny seconded the motion.
- Alycia Stevens nominated herself for co-chair, Jen Voordenhout seconded the motion. Chloe Ward offered to be co-chair shadowing Lea Cooke with Alycia Stevens, Sarah Jane Lawlor seconded the motion.
- Treasurer – Ashley Muir nominated Kyla Redden, Chloe Ward seconded the motion.
- Secretary - Ashley Muir nominated Chloe Ward and Jenny Feltham seconded the motion.
- Regional Rep - Sarah Jane Lawlor nominated Lasha Laskowsky-Reed, Chloe Ward seconded the motion. Jen Voordenhout nominated Jennifer Cox as the second regional rep, Chloe Ward seconded the motion.

- How do we get more parents involved? What avenues can be taken to inform parents that being involved with school council will be a rewarding experience for all those who value the opportunity to make a difference in their children's education. Can this be achieved through a pamphlet letting parents know how much council does for every student, and the importance of fundraising?
- We are sitting at a very healthy budget that is not typical for a school. All funds raised by School Council must be spent in the year, on the students who fundraised them. It can only be carried over if we are raising funds for a larger project – eg., play structure. This is not the case for CNPS. All funds previously raised will be spent this year on the current students.
- We still have the \$1,000 from the pro-grant which we can use but must be spent by January 1st 2025. If we do something that is more social, it will bring in families and help them to better understand the role of council.
- Movie nights are a good way to bring families into the school. Could high-school students who need volunteer hours help with this?
- \$25,000 currently in funds, \$5,000 must be kept aside for maintenance of the playground. This start up is not typical and must be spent on the students that fundraised it.

Library presentation

- School will be reinventing the library to more of a Maker Space, called the "Learning Commons". Ideas generated by the students include: Lego wall, green screen, white boards, 3D printer, a space for collaboration, creativity and innovations that meet the ages of all the students. This will not happen this year. It is a multi year plan.
- The first concern funding for seating, Lea suggests we could ask the high school construction class about building furniture.
- We will be looking for donations: lego, pvc piping, fish tank, fabrics, recyclables.
- A fundraising idea we could employ to raise funds for the Maker's Space is a school cookbook. Families send in their family recipes to sell and the proceeds go to the Maker's Space.
- Council requested a phased approach to fundraising requests – what do you need? Council is happy to help support initiatives, but are requesting information on specifics, ie. The cost of specific furniture. Administration will identify needs for the year and we work towards those goals.

General School Information

- SK- Grade 2 have started a new reading screening program. This is starting this year. All teachers involved are being trained. All children will be assessed, and information will sent home to parents.
- Boys team won the soccer tournament, the convenor said our children stood out for their sportsmanship.
- Flag rugby is starting soon.
- Cross country was rescheduled from tomorrow to next week due to weather conditions.
- IEPs will be coming home on Oct 16.
- Terry fox run was a success with \$5,525.70 being raised.

- The Officer Program at the beginning of the year highlighted the lack of seatbelt safety as well as parking lot safety issues. In response, we have added cameras to the parking lot nearing the entrance and exit. As well as other places on the property. This included the Jr. hallway. The Principal requested Council funds to help offset this expenditure. Ashley Muir motioned \$2,500 with the commitment to revisit this request in November. Chloe Ward seconded. Motion passed.
- We need more parent volunteers for the Kiss and Ride area.
- We have 520 students at the school.
- Lea Cooke asked if we can provide speedbumps for the parking lot, Valerie Le Drew will look into it.

Dates for upcoming meeting

- October 8th -casual fundraising meeting at the Bitmore, 6pm.
- October 15th council
- December 2 informal casual fundraising night
- November 19
- January 21st
- February 18
- March 18th
- April 15th
- May 20th
- June 10th

Ashley motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm.