



Home and School Association & Student Council Meeting – 11 September 2017

In Attendance: Noted in formal minutes

Welcome, Sign In and Introductions

Meeting called to order at 6.35pm.

What We Do

The function of Home and School within Ellwood and the difference between School Council was described for newcomers. The current date for meetings is set at second Monday of the month. If there is a PD day we will come together as a group and decide an alternative date.

It was explained that we need to have School Council elections before October 4th. This will happen around the BBQ time.

Membership and Insurance

It was explained that membership is optional, but that it provides extended liability insurance and offers voting rights. All are welcome to attend the meetings, but only paid members can vote on how to spend the funds raised.

Executive Appointments

Currently have two co-chairs, a treasurer and a secretary. If there is anyone who may be interested in taking over any of these positions feel free to speak up.

Principal's Message

It was explained that we will likely go under major reorganisation on September 26th due to low enrollment. (We are 27 students under projection. Expected 411 but have 384.) Kindergarten and primary numbers are good, but junior classes are light. We may lose 2 teachers.

Discussion were held with the Board asking to understand the situation as the new housing development may add up to 28 students.

Bolton has an aging population with no younger families coming in.

There was an inquiry as to whether there was a barrier to Ellwood having an FI program if that may upgrade numbers and wondered how we would get the board to look at it. It was explained that the avenue would be via Superintendent and Trustee.

New windows and floors installed over summer and brand new floor in the gym.

Terry Fox Run – 29th September
Open House – 28th September
Staff meetings First Wednesday of the month
Picture Day – October 5th
PD Day – October 6th
Polka Dot / Buttons – This Thursday.
Re Org Day – September 26th

Budget to run Ellwood (Based on the projected number to run entire school for the year \$44258)

At the end of last year, the principal and VP went through every account and took the money to the staff and gave approx. \$3000 per grade level. – more robots, iPads, Chromebooks, etc.

Financial Update

The treasurer was unable to make it today but sent an update stating we currently have \$9000 in account and \$4500 in trust account (~\$13,000). Discussion between Co Chair and Treasurer in regards to using some of the money in the account to buy Pizza Pizza gift cards via Fundscrip as they currently offer 12% rebate on the card.

Explanation of historical Teacher Requests and how it is different this year as it was agreed last year to put majority of funding toward a playground for Kindergarten. It was explained that was the reason that there was so much money in the account currently.

2017/2018 Fundraising Goal /Project

At the end of the 2016/2017 school year Home and School decided to fundraise toward a large project for this school year. The work order has been submitted for a playground for the Ks-Grade 1, but we are still waiting on meeting with the company chosen.

Ongoing Fundraisers/Food Days

Discussion on the current fundraisers: Mabel's Labels – ongoing – remember to select Ellwood.

Regular occurring food days are Wednesday and Friday, but cannot start before re-org. This year, Fridays will be pizza but Wednesdays will alternate Subs/Pasta. As we did last year, the food days will be in terms and you will need to pay the entire term.

QSP – QSP has been declining every year as people are not buying paper magazines much anymore. We could send them out and see as it costs nothing to us. Consensus is to scrap it.

Fundscrip – It was explained that we use this regardless because of the amount of money we get back on our food days. Two years ago it did really well in a rushed campaign. For \$5000 in orders we pay ½ shipping cost and \$10000 in orders is free. Discussion regarding how many pushes would be best.

MacMillans – We do this every year and it is fun on collection day if you are picking the orders. The current chair of this fundraiser is in their last year and is looking for people to take over for next year. Offers by two members to help PB in order to take over for next year.

Chocolate Sales (Laura Secord) – Looking at doing it around Valentine's Day, but we need prizes. In that past we have done certificates to Great Wolf Lodge, Canada's Wonderland Passes, and a Hoover board.

Community Events

Breakfast with Santa – We can start to ask for donations now. It will be Saturday December 2nd.

Family Free Skate – Looking at first weekend after Christmas

Movie Night – Free event (sell hotdogs, popcorn, etc) usually held in April / May

H&S Communications & Newsletters

It was described that the H&S newsletter is a way to reach out to parents who may not know what exactly Home and School does and to perhaps get interest in joining.

It was questioned if we should go quarterly instead. Current member has offered to keep producing the newsletter if it goes quarterly.

It was suggested that there be branding to all H&S communications to make it easier for parents to know what Home and School is/does.

New Fundraising Ideas

Member discussed holding a candle making fundraiser along with another member who makes bath bombs. Member who suggested would chair the event. Co Chair to look into whether there is any conflict in the OFHSA handbook.

It was explained that all ideas are welcome, but the person must be prepared to chair the event.

Member put forth an idea wondering if anyone was interested in doing a school wide Lemonade Stand in the community. Discussion on whether it would be better to have it at school.

Member also floated the idea that we give parents the option to donate to Home and School rather than buy things that parents do not want in order to support. Idea was well received and Co Chair presented a form from the OFHSA. Member suggested our first

communications be a bit of a donation drive.

Open Discussion

Question whether Criminal Records Checks are needed for volunteering, which they are as there is interaction with students.

Once we know dates, Co Chair will be asking for volunteers to help.

Co Chair asked that if any other parents have questions, to tell them to email and they will get a response ASAP from H&S.

Next Meeting: Monday, 16 October 2017 at 6.30pm in library.