



Palgrave School Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 4, 2012

1. Welcome and Introductions

There were 13 people in attendance.

- Karen McDonald – Co-Chair
- Jane Fogerty – Co-Chair
- Christina Burns-Bruce – Secretary
- Laurie Johnson – Principal
- Jennifer George – Vice-Principal
- Norine Blanch – Teacher Rep.
- Meredith Taylor
- Carolyn Morris
- Shannon Brillinger
- Amanda Zarifopoulos
- Kyle Dicks
- Angela and Pino Agostino

2. Review and Approval of Agenda

- Approved

3. Review and Approval of Minutes

- Approved

4. Report from Co-Chairs

- Stan Cameron, Public School Trustee will be attending the School Council Meeting on November 1.
- Parent Involvement evening is being scheduled. It was recommended that the topic be website safety. Const. Brenda Evans took on the role of community services and media relations officer for the Caledon division of the Ontario Provincial Police this past August. The former contact Constable Jonathan Beckett has moved on to become the police coordinator for Crime Stoppers for Simcoe, Dufferin and Muskoka counties.
- Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) will be delivered by the new Community Liaison Officer. It is a police officer-led series of classroom lessons

that teaches children how to resist peer pressure and live productive drug and violence-free lives.

5. Business Arising

Elections

- There were no new election nominations put forward for the School Council Positions.
- Kyle Dicks will officially begin his first year of a two year term as a parent rep.
- Karen and Jane will remain as co-chairs for another two-year term.
- The 2012-2013 School Council Includes:
 - Karen McDonald – Co-Chair
 - Jane Fogerty – Co-Chair
 - Christina Burns-Bruce – Secretary
 - Carolyn Morris – Parent Rep.
 - Meredith Taylor – Parent Rep.
 - Kyle Dicks – Parent Rep.
 - There are still vacancies available for Parent Reps.

Communication

- A school newsletter was sent home with students in September.
- The goal is to continue to develop monthly school newsletters to be sent out at the beginning of each month. It was suggested that a monthly calendar be added to the monthly newsletters.
- Improvements to the school website were also suggested.
<http://schools.peelschools.org/1467/Pages/default.aspx>. The site was previously maintained by the former vice-principal. A new strategy is being created to ensure regular updates and full utilization of the site. School Council Minutes will be added to the site. The school newsletter will also be made available.
- The School Council is also preparing a Newsletter to be distributed to the Students. Home and School commented that they are also in the process of preparing a newsletter. It was suggested that a joint newsletter be prepared.
- The School Council newsletter should be sent out prior to the next Council Meeting. It would be a good way of advertising the attendance of the School Trustee – Stan Cameron at the Nov. 1 meeting.
- Additional ideas for inclusion in the school council newsletter can be forward to Jane or Karen.
- It was suggested that the Newsletter be circulated to the Council members for review prior to distribution to the students.

School Green Initiatives

- Ontario EcoSchools is an environmental education and certification program for grades K-12 that helps school communities develop both ecological literacy and environmental practices to become environmentally responsible citizens and reduce the ecological footprint of schools.
- Schools may apply to be certified as an EcoSchool through an annual certification process which assesses and recognizes accomplishments awarding points in each of the six key areas. Schools can certify with bronze, silver or gold EcoSchool status depending on the number of points achieved and how successfully the school has met the requirements of the program.
- Last year Palgrave was awarded the Gold status
- This year Palgrave is trying to achieve the Gold status once again. Each year must be built on new initiatives and can't be based on the ones used in previous years. The school is seeking innovative ideas for this year. It was suggested that the School explore what other schools are doing.
<http://ontarioecoschools.org/index.html>.
- A new School Green Fund has been set up by the Town of Caledon. The Town of Caledon has offered all Caledon schools the opportunity to apply for the inaugural School Green Fund Grant.
- This grant is intended to assist elementary and secondary schools with the completion of a variety of climate change initiatives.
- Schools can apply for up to \$3000 in funding. All applications must be submitted by November 1st, 2012. For more information
<http://www.town.caledon.on.ca/environment/>.
- Kyle Dicks will be providing wood chips for the front gardens. The wood chips are a donation that was made available free-of charge. They will be delivered during off-school hours. They will be deposited temporarily in a parking spot near the front garden. The wood chips will assist with reducing the weeds and improving the look of the gardens.

Patterson Sidewalk Update

- Meredith Taylor spoke with her contact at the Town. The road tubes that were used in the spring actually provide more accurate information than the speed signs. Based on this information they were able to put in a request for the OPP to monitor the area. Subsequently, the OPP will provide a report on their findings. We will continue to have speed signs periodically on a rotation schedule. Police have been patrolling the hour during the beginning of the school day.
- Currently, two areas we would like to explore in our next conversation is a permanent speed sign (as Alton has) and No Parking signs on the North Side of Patterson.

- It was also put forth to look into the possibility of larger speed limit signs.

Matheletes Parent Information Evening

- School Council has received \$940 for the “Matheletes” night. The evening will entail parents and students working together with math manipulative to showcase the borrowing library that Palgrave will have thanks to this grant.
 - Teachers are reviewing the materials and will work at identifying the materials that should be ordered and included in the Library.
 - The Sub-Committee includes Meredith Taylor and Amanda Z.
 - The date for the Matheletes night has not been scheduled

Parent Resource Library – Update on Missing Materials

- Last year the grant money provided us with the opportunity to create a Parent Library (Teachers too!). T
- The books and system has been reorganized and updated over the summer. There are still about 10-15 books missing. Some of the missing books have been returned and people have been contacted about other books. We will continue to track the books and provide an updated list.

Wifi in Schools

- It is being instituted throughout Peel Board
- It is a new initiative that will allow improved access to the internet for on-line learning tools and resources.
- The Board has carried out research and support the findings of various health
- This initiative will be fully integrated into the current curriculum
- Some parents are still expressing concern with respect to the initiative.

6. Other Business

Walk and Talk Recess

- Students are sometimes required to participate in a walk and talk recess. This occurs when the grass is too wet for activities. This initiative is to protect the grass as well as the children’s clothing.
- A decision is made by the office depending on the weather conditions. They try to limit this request.

Candy as a Classroom Incentive

- A concern was raised with respect to using candy as an incentive in the classrooms. Teachers will be reminded that Candy should not be used as an incentive in the classroom.

EQAO Report

- Ms. Johnson provided an overview of the EQAO results released in September.
- The report is available on-line at: <http://www.eqao.com/results/>.
- Palgrave has demonstrated an improvement in some areas. Other areas are being explored and reviewed by the Teachers.
- The school uses these results to evaluate a course of action in the areas identified as needing improvement.
- Ms. Johnson discussed the results from the students that participated in both the Grade 3 and Grade 6 tests.
- Individual student results are currently being reviewed and compared to the report card marks. This process allows a fair comparison to ensure comparable marks. Individual results will be sent home shortly with the students.
- A more detailed discussion will occur at the next Council Meeting with respect to the school's plan on focusing on the areas of concern and approach for ensuring students are being supported in the areas that require an additional focus.

7. Principal's Report

- Ms. Johnson provided a thank-you to the Gardening Club for their extraordinary efforts with the gardens. She also thanked the Home and School and the volunteers for their efforts for the open house BBQ.
- Palgrave School had a successful attendance at the Fall Fair –participating in events facing the other schools.
- Some parents discussed concerns about the full-day kindergarten program. Specifically snack time and concerns that their children were not eating in the class. Parents were concerned with the lack of direction / enforcement on a scheduled snack-time for the kindergarten students. Some felt that the teachers should ensure that the children have something to eat during the day. It was suggested that the kindergarten teachers provide more direction on the schedule for the day and curriculum covered and what activities the children participate in throughout the day.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 1, 2012

These minutes have been prepared by Christina Bruce. Please provide any comments, additions or errors to Christina.bruce@dpra.com. Thank-you.