

Stephen Leacock Public School Council Meeting**November 21, 2017****7:00 pm****Room 135**

Attendees: Annabel Lee, Tricia Gheorghe, Teisha Gaylard, Ed Bowling, Andra Smith, Melissa Adams, Kristen Lafrance, Margareta Momciu, Geneviève Gauthier-King, Rebecca Carver, April Gostlin

Call to Order: 7:00 pm

Approval of October 17, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Motion carried.

Approval of November 21, 2017 Agenda

Motion carried

Chairs' Report

Annabel Lee

- Scholastic Book Fair is taking place this week and most volunteers slots have been filled.
- Scientists in Schools event is taking place on the evening of Jan. 25, 2018, but they have requested an alternate date in case of inclement weather – Council chose Feb. 8, 2018; volunteers will be required for the event, possibly recruit former students
- School Board Zone 2 meeting with Trustee Christine Boothby taking place on Dec. 7, 2017 which Annabel & Tricia will attend

Tricia Gheorghe

- Movie Night on Nov. 17 was successful; thanks to Julie Pitre for organizing and everyone who helped out; 240 people attended, 200 of which were pre-sales on Eventbrite; a sufficient number of volunteers signed up at the last minute

Financial Report – Annabel Lee

- \$16 415 in Council account available to spend
- proceeds from Movie Night have not yet been deposited

Principal's Report – Geneviève Gauthier-King

- following the two days of school closure due excessive rain & plumbing problems, the school has worked with both the City of Ottawa and the School Board Facilities Department to ensure that the problems have been fixed; school staff will closely monitor its structure & building systems on days of extreme weather
- some parents inquired about refunds for both EDP & pizza for those closure days, but it is explained in the EDP Parent Handbook that 5 emergency closure days are embedded in the cost and it is stated on the pizza form that there will be no refunds
- the school will undergo other improvements in the coming year, such as ceiling tiles & lighting
- the problem with the mulch floating out of the kindergarten yard will be corrected
- the new monkey bars in the junior yard are scheduled to be installed on Nov. 22

- letters will be going out soon to families whose children do not have up-to-date immunization records on file with Ottawa Public Health (Ontario law requires children attending school to be vaccinated against certain diseases or have a valid exemption)
- starting Dec. 1, 2017, the school will be using a new system called School Cash Online which will allow parents to pay for school-related costs (field trips, etc.) using an online portal; this eliminates some of the safety concerns and administrative burden of children bringing cash or cheques to school; at present, the SLPS Council cannot use the system for its activities, but this feature might become enabled in future

Vice-Principal's Report – Rebecca Carver

- Games Club & Silver Birch Reading Program thanked Council for funds that allowed them to acquire materials
- many activities have taken place:
 - Yaki performed for kindergarteners
 - Me to We Club went to WE Day on Nov. 15; some students at school were able to watch live web-stream of event
 - primary Math Club going well
 - gr. 1 pumpkin challenge with gr. 5 & 6 buddies
 - gr. 2 & 3 literacy project underway
- ... or will be taking place:
 - Luv2Groove dance workshop coming in Feb.
 - University of Ottawa group coming to do robotics workshop with kindergarteners
 - borden ball
 - yoga & mindfulness club
 - primary singing club
 - group mindfulness activity with multiple classes in gym
 - gr. 1 fire safety presentation
 - holiday assemblies Dec. 20

Teacher's Report – April Gostlin (Gr. 6 teacher)

- showed sample of new team jersey
- talked about what she loves about teaching, such as getting to know the students as people & facilitating their engagement with the curriculum in ways that are most meaningful to them
- coaches some extracurricular sports & organizes the ski trip; these types of activities create a different sense of community for the students, compared to just a classroom setting
- one message she imparts when coaching sports is that just showing up to practices is important

Upcoming Council activities

- term 2 pizza forms will go out in January
- Jan. 25 Scientists in Schools Family Evening
- possible fundraising nights at Lone Star restaurant & Chapters; Melissa Adams will contact these businesses in January

Next Meeting

- Council voted to cancel December meeting; next meeting Jan 16, 2018

Motion carried.

Other Business

- Council inquired about how to voice its grievances about the poor water drainage in the new outdoor learning/play space (installed during Summer/Fall 2017) and the kindergarten yard (installed in Summer 2016) as well as the delay in installation of the new monkey bars in the junior yard, especially given that Council-fundraised money formed a considerable portion of the funds for these projects
- Council asked to see the contracts and/or bid tender packages that set out the precise work orders and expectations
- Principal Gauthier-King will pass on the Council's concerns & request to the School Board Facilities Department which was involved in selecting the contractor for these projects

Meeting adjourned: 8:20 pm