

WT Townshend Parent Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday October 19, 2017

Jeff Stephens, Meredythe Hertz, Lori Briscoe, Sandra Himann, Pam Law, Danielle Reynolds, Tina Landry, Ali , Erin Cleasby, Sharon

Welcome!

Lori Briscoe

- Admin Report
- Thank you to Pam and Danielle for taking on co-chair positions.
- Introductions around the table
- School Council Handbook: distributed one page summary of what the school council. Parent engagement matters, we appreciate everyone that comes out to meetings. How can we get more people to come out to meetings, what are the barriers? Looking at offering babysitting during council meetings. If you know of someone that might be suitable to do this, contact Pam or Danielle at wt.chair@gmail.com. Parent council is an advisory role, channel to address issues affecting school population, unique for each school and community. Not forum for individual issues or classes - speak to admin directly about that. Fundraising is not a mandate of school council, but is greatly appreciated.

Around the school

- Parking- Will be issuing new parking passes to ensure that all people that have passes have current reason for having them. Continue to have some issues and want to ensure student safety. Looked into if public can write tickets instead of bylaw officer, but these tickets would not be enforceable. Taking actions to try to reduce volume of parents coming into parking lot.
- Report Cards - Go home Nov 13 - these are progress reports. To address 'how is my child doing so far'. This is a progress report, not an indication of what marks will be in the future. Performance can change over time.
- We only have 90 subscribers to the website, this is low considering our population size. This will be the primary means to post information to all students/families. School Day will be used for class communications, rather than communications for the entire school population. Going to send a hard copy advertising this as a means of communication and encourage people to sign up.
- Halloween. Orange & Black day to provide options for all students to participate or not in their own way. We want families to feel they can send their students to school regardless of whether they are celebrating Halloween or not.
- We are a nut-safe school. We cannot fully control everything that comes into the school and do not allow people to bring nut products in our school. If nut products are found in our school we send notes home to explain the policy and ask that it is not sent to school again.

Across the Board

- Professional development for lead teachers and mandated to bring it back to the other teachers. PD in many areas so far and information flow back to the school is good.

Provincial

- Equity action plan. Places where everyone can succeed. Fundamental principle is that every student has the opportunity to succeed regardless of who they are and where they come from.
- Foundations for Healthy Schools: Looking at the big picture of ways to raise healthy children.
- Both documents available on line

Other items around the school

- Athletic council has started
- Trebles choir has started
- Primary classes will have a concert Dec 7th mid-day
- Juniors will do something in the spring
- Leaders in Action - looking at Food Bank
- Glee club -
- Have an arrangement with Westmount next door, where we are able to offer activities with residents and our students. Knitting club, reading shared, pumpking carving activities. Great community connection. .
- TSN - primary and junior happening after school.
- Not many other schools in the area where staff stay after school for activities, this is a great offering that our schools have.
- Colour houses are going on, enjoyed by many to build connections between classes. Also can collect points for things such as not having overdue books.
- Dance teams
- Character assemblies, teaching manners, and to encourage students to be respectful. Trying to do in a fun way.
- Board has come forth with an idea to make a video of kids in all the schools in the board singing O Canada. Mrs. Geiger hoping to submit something for this.

WRAPSC

Kristy and Robin not here so don't have an update. Going to ask for an email update in cases they are not present at meeting

PRO Grant

We did get our PRO grant approved. Focus on children's health, mental health and wellbeing. Idea from a school in Cambridge and will feed off of their experience. Looking to book it for sometime in the new year so we have time to plan. Looking for a speaker or thoughts of format. One thought is to have booths of different community groups for people to gather information on community

resources. Perhaps there are some teachers that could participate (mindfulness, etc).

Fundraising

- Looking to have a fundraising committee meeting this month.
- Chocolate sales were a bit of work, but made considerable money. If we do this, need more volunteers.
- Main parent council fund \$22,573
Greening fund \$11,004
Approx 2 years worth of fundraising - following last installation of the natural playground. We are looking to spend half of parent council fund on current projects - so approx 11,000. The other half is to go into the greening fund.
- Feedback of school wish list: First priority would be go towards field trips - buses are very expensive. If we could do per person, per class to make equitable. Fundraising has to go to extras. Second priority is hydration station. This is not provided by the school board and this is something that is desired. Would go where there is an existing fountain. This would alleviate challenges associate with filling bottles at fountains.
- We need \$60,000 for next phase of the greening project. Looking at other fundraising options. Many grants and funds require a set date for construction so we may have to wait to make applications.
- The school board is not responsible for playground maintenance, if we want to maintenance performed, we would have to pay for this from council. The current playground needs some upkeep and Greening committee will review and see what work needs to be done to improve/fix. Sandra to get concerns from staff and summarize and give to Pam/Danielle so that they can be investigated. Perhaps this should be done at the end of the school year, fenced off so that growth over the summer. But, who will water and maintain?
- Sand has previously been available from the board for free.
- Motion to move half to greening fund. Other half to go towards to the hydration station and field trips. Majority voted for this motion. Approved.
- Big fundraising event last weekend in February - February 24th. Fun Fair - we raise about \$3,000, but view as more of a community event. Need school booked for Friday and Saturday - Lori to do this. Previously school has assisted with renting tables through the board and otherwise. Committee for this will start this month as well.
- Fundraising plans: chocolate sales, 1 move-a-thon (Thursday before March Break), fun fest. Any other ideas? Gift card fundraiser: have done in the past and it was not successful. Bingemans event last year was successful, so perhaps we can do 1-2 of these again. Last year earned about \$1,000, but we could do more

based on our lessons learned from last year. Will need volunteers to make this successful. Need volunteers for move-a-thon.

- Chocolate sales in February time frame. Fundraising committee to sort out logistics.
- We will need parent volunteers to come to the school in the mornings to help collect money and distribute tickets/chocolates.
- Send out notice about the babysitting at council meetings, and include looking for volunteers to help with 9am fundraising shifts. School to assist with this.

Festival Of Neighbourhood's Finale

- Danielle & Pam will be attending in November 19th at city hall

We have submitted events (fun fest, wetlands cleanup) for a couple awards, there is a draw for \$20,000 for events. Have won Youth Award and Inclusion award in the past.

Questions:

- Any questions or concerns

Next meeting

Thursday November 16th, 2017