**Franklin Public School – Parent Council Meeting Minutes**

**September 11, 2013**

**7-8pm New Staff Lounge**

**Facilitator: Heather Lee**

**Attendees:**

Heather Lee, Anessa Selcage, Theresa Barrick, Carmela Gentile-Faure, Melanie Chisholm, Craig Allen, Eva van den Brink, Dan Enns, Jenn Wilson, Paul Milne, Pauline Tomlinson, Hilary Toller, Ebeneezer Rajeevan, Jewelle Wyatt, Trish Morgan

Linda Stearns – guest speaker

**Adoption of Minutes**

A motion was made by Heather Lee to accept the minutes from the meeting on June 11, 2013. The motion was seconded by Jenn Wilson. All members were in favour and the motion passed.

**Guest Speaker: Linda Stearns from KidsLink**

Linda gave a brief overview of the EI/EI program (Early Identification/Early Intervention). This problem solving program has been in schools for over 20 years. They have early learning and primary kits that teach children about their feelings (good and bad) and how to solve problems. At the early ages there is a lot of modelling and coaching. The kits include ‘Tools for Life’ posters that give children the tools they need to solve problems (as an example, tools include ignore the problem, talk it out, compromise, tools of chance, apologizing and share/take turns). Linda will be going into primary classes to spread the message. The children really benefit if there is consistency in the message (parents reinforce at home). Tools for Life Parent Kits are available for purchase (price still TBD). Individual parts of the kit can also be purchased (as an example, the fridge magnets for approx. $15). The program has been widely adopted by many school boards. Linda will be in Franklin Thursday afternoons until December. She is also available to host parent nights.

Paul interjected that the FDK ECE’s will also be trained and delivering the Roots of Empathy program. This program will be working simultaneously with the EI/EI program. The ability for children to express and control their emotions is key to being successful and happy in later years.

**Principal’s Comments: Paul/Dan**

Paul commented that it was great to see such a large council turn out and to see some new faces at the table.

Grade 6 camp was a success. Fun had by all and Dan survived!

Paul passed around a copy of the 2013/2014 Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement Synopsis graphic. This can also be accessed on the board website.

EQAO results have not yet been publicly released, but from the early preview he’s had, they seem positive. More to be discussed at a later date when the results are officially released.

We are a District Review School this year. Dan will be attending meetings for this.

School population numbers seem relatively stable. Doesn’t look like any class re-structuring will happen this year.

**Staffing update** from the summer:

Maria Patsalis is on leave until Christmas. Heike Koester is her replacement.

Mr. Rajtar is back for Mme. Karashialis (expected back sometime mid-year). He does the French component for the 4/5 FI class and 4 FI class. Mr. Shane Wilkinson handles the English component.

Ainsley Schrader is doing the planning time for Mrs. Burkhardt.

Wilson Ave PS has received our gift of a media cart and projector. It was delivered in the spring.

Additional iPads have been purchased and arrived the first week of school.

A group of teachers has agreed to start planning the 50th anniversary/time capsule celebration. It will likely be done in conjunction with a seasonal concert. School council volunteers are needed. Jenn Wilson, Heather Lee, Craig Allen, Eva van den Brink, Pauline Tomlinson and Melanie Chisholm all volunteered to help.

Dan reported that RMI (Remember Me Inc) is adding Monday as a pizza/milk day. RMI has also offered to run our school BBQ if we are interested in investigating further. Dan to discuss further with Jenn and Craig as they had some feedback from their previous school.

Dan also brought forward letters from ‘Peacemobile’ and KW Counselling. Possible ideas for school council ‘give back’ events. ‘Peacemobile’ is a way to honour diversity and multiculturalism. KW Counselling (in conjunction with the EI/EI program) can also offer programs (typically run for about 2 hours). They offer various programs and the cost is typically around $350. School council to discuss these ideas at a future meeting.

**Chair’s Comments: Heather**

We will be accepting nominations over the next month and voting on council positions at the next meeting. Theresa is stepping down as Treasurer (but will get the new Treasurer up and running). Janice Scherer is willing to continue as Secretary if elected. Heather Lee is willing to continue to Chair, but would like a Co-Chair to share the load with.

We need a new Community Rep as Cindy Martin has stepped down. Paul and Dan to think on possible people to fill this position (anyone from Strong Start, or Nutrition for Learning??).

**Volunteer Opportunities:**

Zehrs Tapes counters – We are still accepting Zehrs tapes and need people to count/collect these.

Bulletin Board – Kimberley will continue to do this.

Jenn Wilson asked if we can update the Franklin website with council articles since we may be going with more infrequent or on-line school newsletters. Dan advised that these can be posted in the council section on the website with some sort of banner article on the homepage.

Dan will also post a banner article on the Franklin website about the council elections.

**Fundraising:**

No QSP magazine sales this year. We are helping with the Treasure Book campaign. Beth Fisher needs our help tallying orders. Information should be going home to parents in the near future.

A question was asked whether Franklin gets any further credit if on-line QSP renewals are made. Theresa doesn’t think so, but will check. (Theresa has now confirmed that the Franklin account is closed and magazines cannot be renewed this way).

Mabel’s Labels: Ongoing, yearlong fundraiser.

Elmira Poultry: Will run again in May before the long weekend. Question asked re: adding a fall date. Comment that a lot of hockey teams are fundraising in the fall and are selling Elmira Poultry at the same time.

Poinsettia Fundraiser: Wait to see if Nutrition for Learning is doing this fundraiser before we consider this. Paul/Dan to find out if Nutrition for Learning is doing this fundraiser.

Dance-a-thon: Professor Jamz will be back. Typically held in February (before March break anyway). Paul/Dan to check February dates and get back to us.

Campbell’s Labels: Jenn Wilson advised they have lost their ‘free printing’ contact (business was sold). Cannot roll out until we can find some place to print all of the information to send home with families. Once it does get up and running, Bonnie Rees at IODE has asked schools to contact their organization as they also collect Campbell’s labels to give to schools. (bgrees@sympatico.ca)

**What are we fundraising for this year?**

The rolling budget for this year is around $4,000 (this includes money we commit each year to greening, classroom support, skate night, Silver Birch reading, BBQ and gym equipment).

The past few years we have focused on our technology initiative, but it was suggested at the June meeting that we fundraise for the library (another area of the school that is heavily used by all children in every grade). We still do not have answers on the new board led ordering process. Our Book Fair money is still being held until we have answers on how we can best purchase the books our library needs.

It was suggested that all council members think of areas that could be supported by our fundraising efforts.

Paul also noted that this can be discussed by the teachers at their next staff meeting. We’d like to get a teacher ‘wish list’ so that we know what they need to best support their learning initiatives. Trish Morgan indicated that she can come up with ideas as well. Paul also suggested that the EI/EI program may benefit from some fundraising money (if it is well received and implementation runs smoothly). This can be discussed at a later date.

Someone also suggested that we may want to look at ‘Spirit Wear’ since this is our anniversary year. A student ‘logo’ competition was also suggested.

**Family Skate Night:**

Anessa and Theresa will contact the City of Kitchener to try and book something for the Dom Cardillo rink at The Aud (Grand River Arena is also OK). The last time we skated in 2012, the time was from 5:30-6:30.

**Treasurer’s Report: Theresa**

Approximately $10,000 was raised last year through our fundraising efforts (QSP, Elmira Poultry and Dance-a-thon). We have approximately $8,481 to start this year. We have an additional $500 coming to us from the board (grant money).

Question: Jewelle asked if anyone from Franklin council was trying to contact a Paul Fields (Art Innovator). She met him at a workshop and he was trying to get back in touch with that person. No one present at the meeting had contacted him. She will get more information.

**Adjourn:** 8:25pm

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, October 23