

## **ELMDALE PARENT COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2018**

### **Meeting Minutes**

- **Welcome**

October 2018 Meeting Minutes Approved and Seconded

- **Renew Elmdale**

Chairs announced the updating Renew Elmdale consultation meeting, to be held in the school gym on December 10th, at 5:30. Invitation to school forthcoming.

- **Chair's Report & Comments**

- **Elmdale Cares – discussion re funds (Kelly):**

Elmdale has received a specific request (through Broadview) of a school in need of financial assistance. Elmdale usually has a pot of money at the end of the year that we give to a school in need (usually for a specific project) — Kelly requested to discuss method for Elmdale's determination of which school gets our funds. Should we assess school as we receive requests? Or, should we wait until the end of the year(which is what we have traditionally done).

A discussion amongst members ensued on whether Elmdale would want to establish a formal "funding" relationship with a specific school going forward. Broadview has established a similar partnership with a school (Bayshore) that enabled them to provide more meaningful assistance and develop a relationship. There were some concerns raised about the equity of this possibility - for example, would it be fair to schools who don't know to approach us for help - or whether it would be fair to other schools if we gave the majority of our funds to one elementary school. Kelly committed to getting more information and do some research on such school-to-school partnerships and to returning to council to discuss further.

#### **b) Other business**

Jess wanted to bring an item forward for council's consideration on behalf of Laura Evans, a French Immersion teacher. Laura requested that council considering paying of the cost of the pianist for the Remembrance Day assembly out of the general spending budget (\$242). **This was approved unanimously** by council.

Larry (co-chair) briefed the council on a presentation run by the OCDSB on Cannabis. It was very informative and well attended.

- **Principal and Vice-Principal's Report, Discussion and Vote**

- Isabelle updated council members on the October 31th Dance-a-thon, which was a huge success. She also announced the addition of a new part-time staff member, Natalie Zehr, who was scheduled to start the following week.

- VP report - Monique described the plans ahead for a board-wide assessment of Fundamental Math. This involves every math teacher, and three students of varying abilities in each class, to be randomly assessed throughout the year to monitor progress (e.g. where are they? have they learned new strategies? etc). Debrief on the results of these assessments forthcoming.
- Other upcoming things for the school:
  - Grow towers continuing to move ahead (Kelly Voros),
  - Karina Butler, an Indigenous Education Coach was working with the Grades 3-6s (3 lessons of 30-40 mins),
  - 25-30 Grade 6s attended "Me-to-We" day
  - Leo Barbe, speaker on gun violence prevention, coming to school, as was Ray Zehab, a motivational speaker and ultra marathoner (grades 1-6)
  - Junkyard Symphony was coming to perform for entire school on Nov 30 (funded through Arts Committee)
- Progress reports recently gone out to kids in school, and yearly winter gear collection underway
- Also, BINGO and PJ day planned for last day before Christmas Break.
- Pete Laughton and Pierre, teachers and coaches for the new Bordenball team, were requesting that Council fund all or part of the upcoming Bordenball trip. Bordenball was designed to allow the kids who didn't make the soccer team to have their own team league and was wildly popular. They were requesting funding for the three day tournament, which included money for the first two day and supply teachers, and bus.
  - Cost for entire thing would be \$1100 for 72 kids to participate.
  - After some discussion, **amount was approved** from council's general spending Budget.
- Principal Profile
  - Council needs to vote. Asked to look at profile, consider what council is looking for in a principal.
  - Some language may be redundant.
- **Committee Updates + Discussion**
- Fundraising:
  - Backpack drop underway for Elmdale shopping night -at Shoppers Drug Mart (Westboro) and Mrs. Tiggy Winkles
  - Next meetings for volunteers interested in volunteering with Bookfest and Funfair to take place soon
  - Dana - volunteered to be Volunteer Coordinator for Council
  - Grade 6s - planning a bake sale at Fisher Park
  - Dance-a-thon: took place (as mentioned above) and was a huge success. Over \$12,000 raised.

- Communications – internal and external:
  - External (Alison): Facebook Group for Council created, as well as a twitter account. Alison is also working on PR for Bookfest,
    - The suggestion was made that a picture be included when council funds something (as long as permissions have been granted for featured children).
- Education
  - Education Committee has received a grant for \$1000 for “emotional coaching” workshops for students.
- Safe Travel Planning
  - There was a meeting on this subject during the previous week. Committee members working through the survey
  - Went over walking map/route
  - Trying to encourage parents to park a bit further away from school (1-2 blocks) and walk
  - Committed to sending out information on traffic violations around school
  - Next meeting planned for January
  - Pedestrian safety presentations planned for the week of December 3 (Gr 5-6)
- Healthy Earth
  - Meeting with Grade 6 teachers
- Arts
  - David Jones – prior Arts Committee Chair, attended as a special guest to give some context behind the origin of the Arts Committee at Elmdale.
  - Numerous arts activities planned soon for each grade - details forthcoming.
  - Committee co-chairs also raised option of a special “Renew Elmdale” art project should there be an “away” year, one that could incorporate students art. Quilt? Tiles? Many options council could consider. For discussion at next meeting.
    - There may be special Renew Elmdale money set aside for this (outside the Arts budget).
- OCASC
  - Caroline attending - a couple others (names?) volunteered as alternates to also attend
  - Reported from last meeting that Ministry may be halting proGrants (=\$1500)
  - Also featured at last meeting were discussions about 1) physical education and 2) board ambiguity around Cannabis policy.
- **Next meeting: Wednesday, January 23, 2019**