

# Kate S. Durdan Public School

## School Council Minutes

November 22, 2011

*Attending:* Dana, Lori, Annie, Genny, Maryam, Brenda, Jennifer, Crystal

*Regrets (a call has been made to the school informing absence for meeting):* Donna, Catherine, Marni and Angie

*Absent (a call has not been made to the school to inform the school of an absence):*

Minutes:

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

### **2. Presentation of Turning Technologies Student Response Systems**

Todd presented a half hour information session demonstrating the use of technology 'clickers' for use with our SMART boards. Genny had indicated that elementary teachers use a variety of instructional strategies and that the consensus from teachers is that they do not find clickers as useful since their method of teaching involves more inquiry and open ended questioning than closed answers responses. Todd mentioned that previous models were not easy to use. 30 clickers were left behind for the school to use. It was suggested that teachers will be informed that they are there for their use.

### **3. Minutes from September's Meeting**

The Council has approved that first names of council members can be posted on the website as well as Council minutes. There was an overall consensus that the parents should know who the members are and what the council is discussing.

### **4. Business Arising from the previous minutes**

*Item 3* → Junior and Intermediate Math Night Recap: The night was divided into three parts. A problem solving question, discussion of valuable sites parents can use to learn how to engage their children and then some 'unplugged' game ideas were introduced as a way to help keep kids interested in math. The night was not deemed

a success as only 6 families participated. A parent mentioned that there was a lot going on so early in the beginning of the year. Questions were raised as to why the primary math night a few years ago was very successful, and what the causes of the current lack of participation might be.

*Item 4* → Community Cards Recap: The community cards have raised \$4173.00 thus far. With \$2831.00 being issued to the classrooms. As of the meeting there were 260 community cards left to sell. A parent suggested selling them at the Pasta night and/or that they could be used as gifts. There was discussion of advertising them in the News Letter or asking our corporate partners to lend a hand in selling them. Giving them away and/or council assuming the debt was also briefly discussed. Genny had the idea of allowing the grade eight's to sell the community cards to help pay for their end of year trip. They would purchase the cards for 3 dollars and the other 7 would go into a personal 'bank' towards the cost of their own trip. Genny will discuss this with the teacher.

*Item 5* → Student Photo Recap: A parent suggested a new company, Lifetouch, might be a better fit to take school pictures. The Chair has confirmed them for our January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting to come in and speak. This company does most of the pre-selection online, which would allow parents to customize (with background and pose) their child(rens) photos.

*Item 7* → Playground safety/Audit Recap: There was \$446.00 in small repair costs, which left \$553.00 left over (from the \$1 000.00 that was saved for repair expenses last year) . We shared this cost with Loretto. The gravel was put back in by the janitor, which saved money. The school is now just waiting for MBM Company to issue their Certificate of Compliance saying the playground is safe. Playground are checked for CSA compliance every two years. Our next playground check would be June 2013.

*Item 9* → Family Pasta Night: The final numbers for the Pasta night were discussed. Council decided that the donations should be mentioned in the Newsletter. There was some discussion about the door prizes, a rough count was done, and there will be enough to give each family a prize.

## **5. Results of Litterless and Boomerang Lunch parent survey**

-37 of 213 families responded (17.4% response rate)

-27 families agree to both options

-1 family disagrees to both options

-9 families agree to Boomerang only

- Overall -

- 16.9% of families in favour of Boomerang (97% of surveys returned)
- 12.7% of families in favour of Litterless (75.7% of surveys returned)

The survey that was sent home for parents was unsuccessful as far as being able to draw an accurate feeling about Litterless and Boomerang lunches. A parent mentioned that the program could actually cost some money as far as the purchasing of containers. The council agreed that the Boomerang and Litterless lunch program should be mentioned again in the January newsletter, with a concentration of how it is important to Kate S. Durdan School as a school to be eco-friendly.

## **6. Report from Principal**

1. *Genny talked about the Ambassador Program.* The program is a huge success. The children of Kate S. Durdan School are really enjoying it. A new child that registers at our school is matched up with an Ambassador, They complete a PASSPORT and then they fill out a survey about themselves and it is then posted on the wall. They are displayed for all of the students to look at. New students also receive a water bottle. The Ambassadors will receive a medallion at the end of the year.

2. *November Statement* → The Chocolate bar prize- e-reader.

3. *EFN* → A multicultural event has been planned for Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>. Gonrah Desgohwah will be performing at the school. There was \$500.00 given to plan the event. The total cost was \$720.00 so the students were asked to bring one dollar for the event to offset the cost.

4. *Pro-Grant Money* → This year we received \$925.00 from the Ministry of Education to purchase additional resources for our Parent Lending Library.

### *5. Wish List*

Primary: Is looking for money to support bussing on school trips. Grade 3 would like a subscription to a literature magazine, 'Spider' 6-9 issue at \$60.00 total. An iPod docking station- 3-4 units costing \$600.00 total. This must be done through the board for insurance purposes. A question has been raised as to whether or not we can receive the list from the board of items that have to be approved and what brands they like to use, so that council can keep their eyes open for these products and possibly purchase outside of the board. Genny indicated that the DSBN has an entire Purchasing Department that does this for us and that is their mandate. Asking this information would not be appropriate. Lego, board games and math manipulative for the Primary classes have been requested as well. An LCD cart at \$250.00 has been requested and would allow the school better use of the technology within the school. Outdoor play equipment for Kindergarten classes. The Phys-ed department is looking for soft bowling balls. They are approximately \$16.00 a piece.

The juniors are looking for 60 recorders at approx \$3.00 a piece, as well as a science kit.

The Intermediate classes are looking for 2 mp3 players at approx \$10.00 each. A book subscription at \$125.00. A Video camera at approx \$300.00 and maze balls at \$30.00. These can be found at Chapter's.

Genny is looking for support in purchasing bulbs for the smart boards. Previousl they were \$600.00 a piece.

Questions were raised as to how the money for cards was being used in the classrooms.

#### *6. Constitutiona and Code of Behaviour*

The Code of Behaviour and Constitution is reviewed annually.

#### *7. School Improvement Plan*

Teachers are learning to teach math differently. Junior students at Kate S.Durdan School performed poorly on Mathematics on EQAO and that is why we focused on improving Mathematics instructional practice this year. A parent mentioned that the homework amount has changed. A parent suggested sending home a classroom review with general topics, or monthly newsletters. This topic will be discussed further at the next meeting.

#### **7. Looking Ahead**

Homework amount along with parent/teacher communication.

Fundraising schedule.

Adding more council meetings.

A Student mentoring program.

Principle Profile.

NEXT MEETING IS JANUARY 24<sup>TH</sup> 2012 AT 6:30PM

MINUTES BY: Crystal Phelan