

Le Phare ES School Council Meeting Minutes March 2024

Attendees : Kristina, Sam, Julia, Deirdre, Sheila, Jaya, Caroline, Neil, Greg, Justyna, Peggy

- Roundtable intros
- Principal remarks
 - Today was the first official day of the safe arrivals school messenger App. Call the 1-800 number or log in to the app to report a student absence. If a student is absent without notice, there will be automatic calls. There will be four calls (two numbers per guardian) in a 20 minute period until they get a response. If you indicate you're aware that your child isn't at school, the calls stop. Previously, there would be three calls done by school staff until there was a response. Absences can now be marked in advance.
 - Borden ball tryouts for students in grade 4 & 5. There's a tournament the week of April 16 at Forest Valley Elementary. Students will receive forms if they're interested in trying out. Mme Smith is coaching the team with support staff. They're combining the boys and girls to reduce the number of times the teachers are out of the building.
 - The school was able to get enough drivers for the basketball tournament.
 - Deirdre booked 8 scientists in the school's programs for remaining classes(Grade 1-3). Kindergarten students will hopefully get something in the spring.
 - Planning for education week May 6-10. Will be having a literacy week at Le Phare.
 - **Budget**
 - Not going to need to dip into deficit any more. Hopeful to put a few thousand dollars towards the deficit.
 - \$1000 from school budgets to cover teacher replacements for things like borden ball tournaments.
 - Making good use of grants for outdoor education(used in winterlude), student supplies(will be bought now for next year).
 - Many students are in the library during nutrition breaks for Ramadan. The students are working on creating a poster to teach what Ramadan means for the rest of the students to learn.
- Q&A
 - Jaya: Art supplies in student wish list
 - \$500 available in school budget for basic supplies from grants
 - \$2000 total available for school supplies in budget. Covers duotangs, pencils, etc for September (must be used in this year's budget). This won't go much beyond basic supplies.
 - Request is for funding for supplies beyond basic needs.
 - Could be easier to do the purchase through the office so that it can be tied in with other orders.
 - Council can decide on an amount to put towards art supplies, then the school can decide what to purchase with it.
 - **Council can put a motion forward for how much to approve. Jaya will consolidate the amount to put the motion forward.**

- Sheila: Specialized placement grant
 - The school was able to purchase 6 noise canceling headphones.
- Jaya: how to get the amount for items in a wishlist without links?
 - Deirdre to look into prices and add them in wishlist.
- Council Budget
 - Had **\$8000** at the start of the year. We made **>\$18,000** in revenue this school year.
 - We had **\$10,000** in expenses
 - Includes \$5000 in contribution to the school
 - Includes purchases for popcorn, swag that was sold
 - Have \$16,000 in the account (some of it already accounted for)
 - Expect to make \$3000 more this year, leaving around **\$9000** to spend.
 - We have \$250 from parents donated towards field trips
 - We will be using a grant to cover expenses for the talent show
 - Considering entry fees - could get some revenue
 - Have the June picnic coming up
 - We've used \$310 for students in need for lunches
 - Playground money
 - We keep 10% annually to go towards school playground for when/if it's needed
 - We can decide whether to continue to do that
 - There have been requests for shade in the school yard
- Activities
 - Motion for tradansa
 - Not yet approved, some votes yet to come but it's close
 - **Early to mid June** would be best, May is already busy with literacy week, jump rope for heart
 - If there's no availability in June, as late as possible in May would be the preference.
 - Picnic
 - After the costs for tradansa and student wishlist, we should still have some budget for masc performance for picnic. Thanks to Julia for taking the lead on this.
 - Bouncy castles can be permitted, but there's a protocol, many aren't allowed and it needs to be approved by the superintendent of instruction. Possible, but lots of hoops to jump through
 - Sustainability grant - Greg led
 - There's a grant for \$300-\$100,000 for sustainability, green initiatives or for biodiversity. Covers up to 50% of a project
 - Need to submit a project (garden, learning area, etc)
 - Could be anything from parents volunteering to hiring a contractor
 - What size of project would the school entertain? What would the school want?
 - Would be great having an outdoor classroom space with shade
 - Volunteer planting would also be great.
 - If the sky's the limit, it's up to what the council is willing to do.
 - Trees - if we plant more trees, they need protective barriers as they do get abused.

- Maintenance needs to be considered for any project we take on
- Gloucester High School has a class/club that does volunteering and could be used
- Sheila: there's a group of students from Gloucester that will come to school to build trellises
- Sheila: some schools have raised garden beds
 - Families can sign up for a week over the summer to maintain the garden to keep it alive during the break and take turns.
- What zones would the school like improved? Kinder yard vs main yard? What areas would we put a project?
 - Focus outside the kinder yard
 - There's a stage between kinder yard and swing set
 - At the end of the portables
 - Is a more protected area - helps to ensure it's only used for certain uses during recess
- Any desire to incorporate seasonal activities, ie sunflower growing station (things that don't need year round maintenance)
- Plant sale
 - Could set up stations in classrooms, get kids in charge of taking care of seeds
 - Could get volunteers to grow things at home, then bring them in
 - Could use a combination of growing in class and at homes
 - Getting close to the window of when we'd need to start things indoors
 - Jaya to start a google form for families to gauge interest, Greg will provide info
 - Sheila can poll classrooms to see who is interested in participating, some classes may be willing to take on more than others
 - Council has an account with plantables
 - We get a percentage of purchases made there
 - They have vegetables and flowers
 - Students wouldn't see the seed sprout with this
- Swag sale
 - Grade 5 swag - a parent that took initiative to start it
 - Teachers polled classes and there was interest
 - Families will pay for themselves
 - Broader swag order
 - Would be a different item than grade 5 swag
 - Some teachers have expressed interest in buying swag for themselves
 - Kristina has used Houle sports in Orleans - haven't reached out yet. We have a form we could reuse for student names, sizing
 - Might be hard to organize and pull off in next two months
 - Some students already purchased swag this year, and there's already an order for grade 5s - harder to hit minimum order size (Winter order had minimum order of 25)
 - Could push to September
 - St Laurent Mall has a printing place
 - No minimum order, but price drops with more orders

- DECISION: pushing to September
- Talent show
 - April 26 - need more volunteers
- Grad gift/luncheon
 - Last year there was a pizza party that wasn't funded by school council. Sheila will ask the grade 5 teachers to see what they'd like to do.
 - Last year we did a Farm Boy order for a teacher luncheon. It was well received. Sheila will help us to learn more about teacher's preference.
- Picnic vendors
 - Need to account for rain
 - Caroline has already reached out to a few vendors. 2 of 3 have already said they're booked for 14th. Kona ice and Le Donut Shop are booked. No response from Merry Dairy yet
 - Kristina reached out to a few food trucks - no response yet.
 - If bouncy councils are allowed, we need to look into approval - they were popular in years past.
 - If we do a masc performance and bouncy councils, we'll have to coordinate them so the bouncy castle doesn't interfere.
 - Getting vendors reduces the load on volunteers, especially for meals.
- Teacher wish list
 - There's a request for an author to read in school. Kristina knows someone that could do this.
 - Kristina to share info and reach out
 - In years past, there was an opportunity for parents or grandparents to come in to read in school.
 - Some teachers do this on a regular basis.
 - Sheila will look into activities for literacy week. Will look into this.
 - There's an emphasis for the community to come into the school for education week.
 - Document Camera
 - Sheila: could do one per pod - reduce paper costs
- Purdy's chocolate
 - Justyna can help volunteer.
 - Mother's day is in May - we have two months to set it up before then.
- In-person meeting
 - Jaya to ask about interest for in-person council meeting