

## Champlain Discovery Parent Council Meeting Minutes September 23, 2014

Present: Allyson McBride, Fiona Geddes, Tracey Sloan, Michelle Belsher (Principal), Shelley Gagne (Vice-Principal), Melanie McClelland, Stacey Robinson, Lisa Dennison and Laura Demont

Regrets: Tina Williams, Stephanie Petermann

### 1. Staff Updates.

We have a full time SSC (School Support Counsellor) who is Heather Elliot and we now have a 40% SSC on top of that. Derek Tackney will be here to assist grades 5-8 while Heather focuses on JK-4

Scott Leonard and Kim Edwards are now both in grade 4

Amanda Holmes is filling in for Shawna Tripp's mat leave.

Robin Watt is in the grade 7 position and is doing rotary for the grades 7 and 8's with Dan Moore and John Simard

We also welcome New Horizons, which is a section 23 classroom and they have 2 classes downstairs. So far the staff and students have barely noticed they are here. Amy Cybulski is also a new addition to Lorraine the CDPS office.

### 2. Meet the Teacher night

It was discussed and observed that this night which took place the week prior to our meeting was much more quiet than normal. The lines were long as everyone had rushed to the classes after the gym time. Laura will post on Facebook and ask parents their thoughts and opinions as to why they did or did not come. Some discussion around changing the times or possibly the night. Highview has theirs from 4:30-5:30. Changing the time could be a possibility

### 3. Facebook Page

For those of us on Facebook please join the page. It is currently being managed by Laura. We have 60 parents so far which is a great start. We will add this info to the newsletter so more parents are aware.

### 4. Cash On line

It is easy to sign up your kids so that you can now pay for everything on line. It is new so we are working out the kinks such as knowing who paid for what. We will look at this again next meeting to see how it is going. This will reduce the stress on teachers and office staff and the amount of money coming in on a daily basis.

### 5. Student Council

Ms. Watt and Mrs. Holmes are looking after the student council. We will have a resident, vice president, etc as well as class reps. For grades 5-8. The president will attend school council meetings

6. Bus Trip Request

Fiona Geddes talked about how her class has been going to the Pinewood Retirement residence to visit with the seniors. This is a worthwhile program but they need help covering the cost of the bus for one trip. It costs 80\$ there and back. It was agreed that parent council would pay for this.

7. Little Ceasars

It arrives on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Pick up is from 3-5. Melanie, Stacey, Lisa and Tracey will help Fiona with pick up.

8. Fundraising

Laura brought up concerns regarding the fundraising. It was questioned if it is better to keep doing it the way we have been for the last 3 years or to go back to classroom fundraising. It was decided at this time that we would stay with what we have but that Laura would express the need to Teachers. Laura will also write a blurb to go home in the next newsletter about the fundraising we do. We don't raise a lot of money to cover the costs of what we would like to cover. Each child currently gets 10\$ towards their trips. We decided that we would not give the grade 8's this money as they do individual fundraising. Michelle mentioned that we paid out of pocket last year over \$1000 to cover the costs of trips for kids who couldn't pay. We decided to not do magazine sales this year but rather MacMillans before Christmas or in January. Allyson is also planning a craft sale on November 8<sup>th</sup> with the help of Parent Council. We will also do another Little Ceasars

9. Library

We currently have no more Librarian and are in need of some parent volunteers to help take care of Library.

10. Class Sizes

Some concern about the senior classes having 32 in the class. Michelle explained that there us no cap for those grades and that some of them are gone for the half the day in the smaller classes so sometimes they only have 28 or 29 students in them.

11. Outside stuff.

We have 12, 000 (approx.) in the playground fun. We will look into purchasing smaller items to enhance the playground and possibly some more sports things. The school now has a shed that they use and the older students help run the sign-out of the sports equipment and toys.

Next meeting is October 14<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.