



Ochre Park School Council Meeting Minutes

November 22, 2021 6:30 pm
via Microsoft Teams

1. Called to order at 6:31 pm

2. Old Business

- a. Amanda made a motion to approve the minutes from October 25, 2021 and agenda for November 22, 2021. Rikki seconded. **CARRIED.**
- b. Amanda made a motion to postpone school wish list and sponsorship requests until January meeting. Rikki seconded. **CARRIED.**
- c. School photos: discussed Smart photography package vs Lifetouch. Many unhappy parents with Lifetouch this year. Smart package was emailed to council and reviewed. Amanda made a motion to not renew Lifetouch contract and sign on with Smart Photography for the next school year. Laurie will handle the contracts. Lacey seconded. **CARRIED.**
- d. Parent Council fundraising flyer to be sent home in December. Will repost flyer in December newsletter to remind parents of ongoing fundraisers, the bottle drive and Mabel's labels.

3. New Business

- a. Discussed 2022/2023 draft calendar. November break happens again but students return to school in August rather than after Labour Day. Sept 30, Truth and Reconciliation Day, should it be a non-school day? Any feedback needs to be provided to Amanda by December 6, 2021.
- b. School Counselling and Wellness Plan: Jennifer summarized her plan to "ensure all are safe and cared for" and introduced the Kimochis, Lovey Dove and Turtle Dove. \$1.5 mil in funding granted to Sturgeon School Division for counselling and mental health programs. This is a one year term. Parents need to rally their MLA in order to get the funding again next year.
- c. 10 Days of Giving, starts around December 1. Mrs. Wytrykush will be sending info home this week with students. School needs large boxes to collect donations.
- d. Town of Redwater Festivities: discussed and agreed to enter a tree in the Festival of Trees contest at Pembina. Hinke provided the school with wood cookies for the students to decorate. An email will be sent to teachers to have them ready for Dec 2 deadline. Agreed to not participate

- in the outdoor light display as was hard to see last year and teachers are already very busy. Amanda will call the town to enter the School's tree.
- e. School Christmas activities: Amanda will see if there are any restrictions about sending cards to the Seniors at Diamond Springs. Mr. Anhorn will email staff to let them know that we may be doing this again this year if they wish to participate. Virtual Christmas concert again this year. Mr. Booker is putting together a movie called "Spirit of Christmas" and it will be shared with parents via a Youtube link. Even though we can technically have a concert in the gym at 1/3 capacity, in order to accommodate everyone that wishes to attend, we would need to have at least 4 or 5 performances which is not possible for the students. For a school activity, a pizza or cookie party in each class from K-4 was brought up as the students really enjoyed it last year. Amanda made a motion to have another pizza party this year. Rikki seconded. *CARRIED*. Amanda made a motion that she will reach out to IGA to sponsor juice boxes for free or at a discount for the party. Lacey seconded. *CARRIED*.

Reports:

Parent Society- sound system installed and sounds great. Two fundraisers are ongoing, Mabel's labels and bottle drive. The Bear Tracks fundraiser ran smooth. \$2728.75 was raised for the school. Hinke to provide financial statement. Rikki reported that this is a casino year and the school will be entered in a draw and will be notified in the new year of casino dates. Most likely July, August or September.

Room Reps- no info to report.

Trustee- new board is working on providing transparency and are working towards addressing rural busing and high insurance rates, vaccine procedures etc.

Teacher- no info to report

Principal- Mr. Anhorn shared some background information, 21 years as a Principal and 6 years as Vice Principal prior to that in rural areas in SK and Alberta. He shared his beliefs about education as well. The financial update and updated school wish list will be provided in January. Staffing update: Carrie Rosser left as of Nov 19 and Amanda Hrycun to start Nov 29 in the PreK and K rooms. 2020/21 Accountability survey shows a drop in two areas. Citizenship went from 93.5 to 83.8 and Parental involvement decreased from 79.4 to 72.9. A big part of the parental involvement decline are the covid restrictions. Trustee Janine advised that parent volunteers are being allowed in schools again. Discussed and will explore ways to get more parents involved in the school again.

Adjournment: 7:55 pm