

Minutes
19 February 2019
Forest Valley Elementary School Council Meeting

Time: 18:45 to 19:20

Attendees: Laura Mason (Chair), Derek Black, Stephanie Borrens, Linda Colbourne, Karen Evans, Erica Harnett, Brandon Maynard, Andrea Morissette, Rob McQuaid, Edit Szarha

Regrets: Jodi Aldrich, Jan Barton, Jason Clarke, Katie Morissette, Shilei Liu, Katherine Parent

Welcome (Laura Mason):

- School clothing: Laura is working to obtain the final quote. It is likely that t-shirts, zip up hoodies will be offered.
- Website: Laura will be meeting with Katherine to set up website and merge (where possible) documents from the previous council website.

Principal's update (Stephanie Borrens):

Staffing:

- Ms Paisley has returned and is teaching grade 2.
- Ms Flood is back.
- Mr Skuse is on medical leave. His classes are being covered by Mr. Warden, who was recently hired.

Education week:

Concerts have been scheduled. These include Twin Flames, Body Beats and Junkyard Symphony. The costs of these concerts were covered, in part, by council money (under: Arts and Culture) and money received from the school board.

Furniture in primary atrium:

New furniture has been installed in primary atrium directly under the sky light. Kids and teachers are enjoying the space thus far. A rug is desired to define the space. Stephanie will be looking into purchasing this rug. The plan is to install a similar set up in the junior atrium next year, and then the kinder atrium. It was noted that all furniture / décor must be bought through the tender arranged through the school board. This ensures that these pieces meet certain specifications including the materials used in their fabrication (to ensure durability and long lifespan).

It was also noted that another rug will also be purchased for the multipurpose room.

Technology:

Ipads and Chrome Books have been purchased and will be circulated to classrooms before March break. The aim is for there to be one Chrome Book /Ipad for every four children (1:4).

Questions were raised on how often these would be replaced and the impact of these devices on the need for a computer lab. It was not clear when the devices would be replaced or what the expected life cycle would be. With respect to the computer lab, it was felt that the need for a computer lab would likely diminish as additional devices are added to each classroom. Currently, the devices compliment the computers available in the lab; for some classes it is necessary for the devices to be used during computer lab time to ensure that all students can access the internet and / or participate in the activity.

Tables:

There are a number of tables in the Forest Valley storage rooms that are used regularly for both school activities as well as community rental events. During the set-up for the recent Valentine's dance, it was noted that these tables were in rough shape and could pose a risk to those using them. Namely, it was noted that there was some cracking and breakage. Furthermore, the tables are very heavy.

While it is understood that a set of similar tables could be purchased through Costco, it was unclear whose "responsibility" it was to replace these tables as they are used for events unrelated to school functions.

It is believed that there are currently between 45 and 50 tables that would need replacing. Stephanie indicated that if these were purchased through the school board, it would need to go through the tender and could be costly. There may be an option for a gift from council, but council would need to consider whether the acceptability of having these tables for use outside of school hours. The tables could be replaced by council a few at a time (ex: groups of 10) in order to spread out the cost. Stephanie will look into this issue a bit further and will provide an update.

Cribbage:

Council funds have been used to purchase cribbage boards. The Cribbage Club has not officially launched yet, but a meeting is planned to identify students interested in teaching new members who are unfamiliar with the game. So far, there are 8 cribbage boards and Ms. Colbourne has been playing with the grade 5 students.

Pita Pit:

Stephanie has provided Laura with some information that she received on Pita Pit lunches. Pita Pit was used previously and proved to be a very successful, well-run program. It was liked by the teachers, administration and parents alike. Orders were generally very accurate and Pita Pit often provided extra sandwiches to the school. It is a relatively healthy lunch option. The only issue is the need for a parent volunteer to help distribute the sandwiches. Stephanie suggested that she may be able to request the lunch monitor to help with this program.

It is believed that the current program is being run through a new owner / representative and is entirely online (web-based). Thus, it would be very "hands-off". There are 5 sandwich options.

Each sandwich will arrive with the child's name on wrapper. The program is run in a similar fashion to the Lunch Lady.

Teachers update (Linda Colbourne):

- FVES council was thanked for the funds given to the librarian to purchase new books on 'kindness' and to replace some "favourites" that needed replacing.
- Ms Taylor's kinder class recently had a return visit to a local retirement home.
- *Ukulele Club*: This club is up and running. Students are learning the proper finger placement and simple strums. There are approximately 20 students who have joined this club. The school has some ukuleles to share and some student bring their own instrument from home.
- All primary and junior teachers are working with a math coach. The grade 5 teachers are working with teachers from Emily Carr. This has been a neat initiative where there has been reciprocal learning.
- Upcoming events:
 - o Feb 27, 2019: Wear pink in support of anti-bullying initiatives. Various classes are making anti-bullying poster
 - o Mar 1, 2019: Crazy hair day
- *Wolf Packs*: These continue to be a success. Teachers are monitoring how the students are feeling before and after each session. Thus far, students always have an improved mood at the end of the session.
- There will be an assembly after March Break. This forum will likely be used to discuss kindness and review the WITS.

Budget (Derek Black)

Derek provided a brief update with no significant items to report. He indicated that:

- receipts are being processed with cheques being dispersed to the teachers (\$75 / per teacher).
- there are a large number of cheques that still need to be cashed.
- the final tally of funds raised during the Valentine's Day dance was not yet available; though, Derek believed it would be a similar amount raised in 2018.

Round table items:

Valentine's Day dance: This took place on February 14 and was enjoyed by many students and their families. It was noted that some supplies were leftover including cups, apple juice and hot chocolate mix.

Yearbook pictures: Mrs Borrens and Mrs Colbourne were asked to remind teachers to continue submitting pictures for the year book. Teachers may even consider sharing their Google Drive accounts for this purpose. Pictures have been coming in consistently throughout the year. Many pictures are being taken during the meetings of the Wolf Packs.

Basketball tournaments: The boys and girls tournaments were rescheduled to March 20, 2019. These will be at different schools (Avalon PS and Summerside PS).

Skating: Skating is expected to start February 20, 2019; however, the quality of the ice may be poor.

Council funds to be donated to another school: It was agreed earlier in the year that council would allocate money (approx \$200) to another school in need. Stephanie will inquire further and provide an update on which school might benefit.

Snowsuit drive: It was suggested that FVES council may run a snowsuit drive at the end of the winter. The items would be stored and then passed on next year.

Movie night: The next council-sponsored event is a movie night. This is schedule for April, 2019 (around the next PD day).

Adjournment: 19:20

Next meeting: April 9, 2019