

**WILLINGDON ELEMENTARY**  
**HOME AND SCHOOL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**MAY 9<sup>th</sup> 2016**

**Present:** David McLeod, Andrea Burns, Barbara Weiss, Monique Dykstra, Tanya Savickey, Susie Douranos, Luisa Carpio-Mak, Chelsea Henman, Tom Bock, Mary Ellen Kenny, Anna Couch.

The Home and School meeting commenced at 7:02pm.

Approval of May 9<sup>th</sup> Agenda with additions and corrections - moved by TSavickey, seconded by CHenman.

Approval of March 8<sup>th</sup> Minutes with additions and corrections – moved by MEKenny, seconded by TSavickey.

**President's Report** (David McLeod)

DMcLeod reported that he is presently working on coordinating fundraising activities and also reported having had to miss the recent QFHSA AGM due to illness.

**Principal's Report** (Susie Douranos)

SDouranos was pleased to report that Willingdon will have an attendance of 500+ students for next year including 24 homerooms (denoting real growth within the reduced territory and an almost full operating capacity). As the school year wraps up, preparations for grade 6 graduation are underway. Another notice will be sent out reminding parents that the last day of school is a full day for all students and that report cards will be given out on that day. The administration has been working hard to iron out a billing issue related to one of the two chess programs that Willingdon has offered to its students in past years (not the one handled by the EDP). It is normally payed for by the school with their surplus of funds however, it was recently brought to Susie's attention by the chess organization, that Willingdon was mistakenly not billed a few consecutive years in a row. The decision was made to honour the missing payments using this coming year's surplus, however this does not leave any remaining surplus to cover next year's chess program. SDouranos is presently working with the organization to come up with a workable solution in an effort to continue offering the chess program to students next year. SDouranos inquired tonight whether the Home & School would be able to help cover the costs, however our restricted budget will not allow us to contribute anything at this time, regretfully. It was suggested by LCarpio-Mak that a toonie fundraiser for all the grades might help cover the amount needed.

### **Teacher's Report** (Mrs. Barbara Weiss)

Mrs. Weiss reports that the school's drama and art facilitator, Louise Stanjofski and herself are piloting a new project this coming year called the Friendship Bench (video on Youtube). A student may go to this painted bench in the school when they feel lonely or troubled and it is intended to encourage other students or resource staff to come to their aid and offer understanding and positive attention. In other events, Art Consultant Mr. Nicholas Doyon visited grade 1 students and gave drama workshops in connection with their Capsule reading book. Toolbox is continuing to operate until the end of the school year with the introduction of one tool per week. Grade 1 students will be going to Domaine Vert as a school activity on May 27<sup>th</sup>. SDouranos added: There will be a special assembly for the students, giving out awards and medals at end of year.

### **Vice President's Report** (Anna Couch)

Anna suggested creating a newsletter to recap this past year, with a preview of next year at Willingdon.

### **VP, IT and New Initiatives Report** (Tom Bock)

Tom reports that he needs the second half of the payment for Willingdon Soccer from the Home and School committee (\$300), which is already approved. Tom has been liasoning with Pierre Luc Bissaillon (chief organizer of Cabaret Night) in preparation for this event which is set to take place on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May. It is an all ages event.

### **Events and Activities Report** (Sharon Sweeney)

Baratanga- (percussion activity) is going ahead for Sept 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>; the cost is \$2873.

Funfair – The coordinators of this big event chose Centre Jeunesse Benny to provide food and animation because of their reasonable pricing. We are awaiting a final quote from them for the cost of the bouncy castles, BBQ, tables, tents, etc. which is in the ballpark of \$1800. The Adventurers scout group from NDG will come and help man the BBQ pit. Other activities at the Funfair will include the fishpond, raffle and face-painting. New this year will be a Welcome Tent for K's and K Parents. Also booked is the Dunk Tank (\$350), which may be a great fundraiser depending on who is getting dunked! Larry Williams will be doing basketball activity free of charge as well. All fingers are crossed for good weather. DMcLeod will contact the QFHSA to inquire about insurance. Ticket sales for this event are always handled by the HS executive, and will be again this year. There will be weekly call outs for volunteers by email and a paper announcement will be sent home in kids' backpacks as well. The Funfair date will also be added to the next Willingdon newsletter. In terms of fundraising, everything consumable will hopefully be made back in ticket sales; we hope to be able to turn a profit this year.

Cabaret – The suggested donation for persons attending is 10\$ and all profits go to the Family Emergency Fund.

Geography Challenge – Headed by Monique Dykstra; it went very well/was a lot of fun; however this year's test contained some difficult questions which seemed unrelated to geography. Certain answers were impossible to find. The Library needs updated Atlases for this activity, but the librarian is unable to grant this request, so Monique is asking for globes (ideally 3 to 6 @ \$100 each), to be purchased and become property of our library. Laminated maps would be useful as well. It was suggested that each grade could sponsor a globe, with a toonie fundraiser.

Math Challenge – There needs to be a callout to parents for a new coordinator; the previous one has a child that doesn't attend the school anymore. \*We will make an effort to contact this previous coordinator to ask her for all her notes about running this activity in September\*.

MDykstra motioned that we create a special portrait of Mrs. Penny for the school to commemorate her valuable work here. She has volunteered at Willingdon for 37 years, starting in 1970 as a math and spelling tutor. She now has her own classroom for tutoring students and makes cookies every year for them. MDykstra will do the portrait at her studio, but the frame will need to be purchased by the Home and School along with the plaque, which together will cost about \$150-\$200 (this would include a smaller framed portrait for Mrs. Penny to keep as well). Tanya moved this request, Tom seconded, all voted in favor, none against; the motion was passed. MDykstra volunteered to coordinate the gift.

#### **EDP Report (Tanya Savickey)**

EDP has begun its' registrations for the following school year. Tanya would like for the info package to be translated into Korean and is currently looking for a translator. Spring classes are going very well so far with good feedback from Willingdon families.

#### **Treasurer's Report (Andrea Burns)**

There is currently \$11,378.74 in our account. Cheques not cashed are Jeunesse Benny \$1020.00 (outstanding payments for last year's haunted house \$350.00, and last year's fun fair \$670.00), Louise Standjofski – Faites des Arts \$900.00, NDG Food Depot – donation \$130.00. Total: \$2050.00. Funds to be deposited are \$128.05 - Dieleman Sales; This is a refund of sorts. We had originally paid an ordering fee of \$252.00 but our online orders exceeded a certain amount so some money is being returned to us. Funds deposited for DFS orders totalled \$1010.00. Book Fair in April turned a profit of \$1015.00 for our bank account and \$1200.00 in credits for the library. Fun Fair coordinators have reached out to inquire about costs from last year's Fun Fair. Records indicate that the costs totalled \$2756.00 (this is \$350.00 less than the amount quoted to Mary Ellen and Luisa). \$993.63 was for Club Entrepôt, Costco, Au But, Dollarama Les Aliments M&M, David's Tea, Sparkles, Kidlink (no receipt), Fun Fair pizza \$617.50 (no receipt), Fun Fair musician Roderick Thomas \$300.00 (no receipt), Walmart \$144.80 (includes cost of the bike), \$670.00 to Jeunesse Benny for BBQ, propane tanks, tent, ice & coolers, cotton candy machine & supplies, tables, popcorn machine & supplies, utensils, set-up and take-down. I have no records to indicate what kind of profit was made at last year's Fun Fair. Deposit slips are not detailed. We have approximately \$2700.00 remaining in pizza costs for the year. Balance of the Faites des Arts budget remaining is \$875.00. We have approximately \$5882.00 to work with.

## **Other Business (DMcLeod)**

The New Constitution is not yet ready for the Spring AGM, therefore it will be taken over by a new committee this fall.

Fundraisers: The DFS Fundraiser generated around \$900; E-Cause (Toilet Paper/Paper Towel Sales) was not a great success up to date. Orders can still be submitted until the end of the week, but unfortunately we will make very little to no profit on this fundraiser. We will try to sell what Willingdon gear we have remaining during the Funfair at the Welcome Tent.

There is a new program being headed by Lara Belinsky (our gym teacher) called Trottibus; the aim is to have volunteers walk with kids who are too young to walk to school on their own. This initiative will be spearheaded in the Spring, with other schools in the area participating as well. This service will only be offered in the mornings.

Willingdon's music classroom: Mrs. Weiss, our teacher rep (speaking on behalf of Mr. Nick), presented a request to the Home and School tonight for funding to purchase ergonomic chairs for the music room to replace the old benches, which Mr. Nick feels will be better for the students' backs, allow them better posture for playing an instrument and more personal space. He would also like to purchase new music stands to replace the old ones, which will be made from a one piece construction which will be more solid/sturdy. All students would potentially benefit from this new equipment/seating. The cost of each chair is \$68 and each stand is 62\$; he will need 30 of each. As the Home and School doesn't have any money remaining in the HS account this year, we are unable to dispense the funds for these purchases but we will make a concerted effort to deliver in some form next year.

Spring AGM: There is a call out for new Home and School execs – So far Tom and Sharon Sweeney are continuing on. Wine and Cheese will be served at the AGM and a there will final review of all reports, financial and otherwise.

## **Correction to minutes from March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting**

In the Teacher's Report:

- The new K teacher is Marie-Noel *Rivard*
- Grade 1 teachers *from Rooms 1&2* will receive a budget to purchase Scholastic books
- The visit from the Health Specialist will be specifically teaching the grade 1's *about juice*
- *Added:* We thank all the volunteers for making the trip to the Royal West Science Fair possible
- *Added:* Grade 1&K - a variety of activities took place to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Willingdon

In the Events & Activities Report:

- Funfair has a working budget *of up to \$4000.*

There being no other business, the next Home and School Association AGM Meeting is to take place on Monday June 13<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 7pm in the staff room. This meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm on a motion by TBock, seconded by TSavickey.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Chelsea Henman,

Home and School Secretary