
Minutes for November 18, 2008 Parent Council Meeting

Present:

Carolyn Cox
Tonia Steel
Cindy Scobee
Cindy Scheyer
Neave Megenhardt
Natalie Steiner
Sara Butters
Lisa Ayrault
Julie Dean
Shelly McSweyn
Drummond Reed
Barbara Hagmayer
Ruth Hendry (Protocol)

Neave welcomes everybody.

Parent Council Officers

Cindy and Neave are willing to be presidents for this school year. They would like the Parent Council to be more structured and have more help.

What could the structure look like - examples could be found in other schools like this one:

Parent Council President(s) (Neave and Cindy)
1st Vice President (vacant)
2nd Vice President (vacant)
Secretary (vacant)
Treasurer (vacant)

plus other roles like merchandise, Scrip, Winter Faire etc.

The thought behind this is to keep it simple but not having to recreating it every year. PC welcomes the suggestions and wants to move forward along those lines.

How does PC fill the vacant positions?

Class Reps - spread the word...

Parent Council Allocation of Funds

Neave: November is scrip-month. The school has budgeted \$ 17,500 - any amount raised beyond this goes into the PC fund

Lisa: Geraldine is organizing a Bank-account for Parent Council

Class Reps

Cindy: how best to pass information to community (announcements of upcoming events, volunteer opportunities etc., vacant positions at PC)?

PC open discussion

- Glass Bulletin Board in the Parking Lot
- Community Board on wall outside the school entrance
- re-designing the Lobby Space (Marketing Team is working on it)
- a Bulletin Board on the Parking Lot with Reference to sign-up for community work opportunities
- Shelter with Information outside
- 2x monthly email blurbs about what is happening with PC sender address to the whole community
- keep hands-on / personal / visual communication going
- WebSite for PC: Nancy worked on a possible wiki-site and is open for suggestions. Drummond has experience in this field and will help. 3 to 4 people could set up something solid for January meeting. Nancy, Drummond and Neave will start and have something to discuss on Dec 9th.
- there is no link to Board members yet:
 - Invite Board members to PC meetings
 - could PC have a member on the Board
 - open Board meeting?
 - Lisa: minutes from Board meetings are available in the office

Volunteer Update / Winter Faire / SWS Auction

Carolyn: It has always been hard to get volunteers. How about community commitment like 15 hrs OR pay \$.

PC discussion:

- could be a policy
- change behavior
- expect more
- how about class reps fishing for volunteers
- have lists going around in class and everybody signs up
- how about "First come First Serve" volunteering approach?

Sara: there is a gap in information between main campus and high school:

- High school parents complain about no knowing what is going on
- Lisa is trying to set up parent groups at high school
- Maybe intern community service at high school
- Who has class reps-lists?

Carolyn:

Winter Faire has sold more than 14 craft tables and lot's of activities for children are planned. Need more people to take shifts and make it happen.

SWS Auction - last meeting had 6 people. Need procurement people. Tapping into Parent body.

Class Reps will take sign-up-sheets for volunteering for Winter Faire and Auction to the Parent Evenings (held this and next week).

Class Reps will take scrip cards / sign-up sheets to the Parent Evenings

Carolyn will visit Parent Evenings and talk about Winter Faire and Auction to get parents excited.

Crafting Team

Shelly: The craft group has been doing needle cases and needle felting, Acorns, which was a great success.

- will plan to do projects that are done in the classrooms
- trying to schedule evening meetings
- considering displaying the work from the craft group in Kindergarten to get parents involved

Library Update

Sara: Geraldine is excited about the idea of a Library and would give \$ 200 in funding. There can be no asking for money for the library but donations in form of books would be fine. It is up to Mr. Love whether the library happens or not.

- Sara to find a place for the library with Mr. Love
- Mr. Love does not want it at this point
- it would be a parent run library

Farmers Market

Sara: New enthusiasm.

- Board members invited
- Website done
- Postcard available
- Bi-laws and Board

Will plan to have it up and running in March.

- 2 to 3 Market Managers (1 paid?)

Task: Business run independent from school. Opportunity to get involved for business studies for high schoolers. Bring more gardening back in the school. Maybe fund a gardening teacher.

WalDads

Cindy: Dad led group for 4 to 6 grades (boys and girls) focus on outdoor activities. First hike December 14th.

Lice

Cindy Scobee:

- what is the head lice policy?
- what happens if the school finds nits?
- preventive approach or reactive approach?
- how could parents be educated about it?
- what are the guidelines?

Lisa: policy has changed last year. School is NOT a no nit zone anymore. As long as there are no bugs, kids can attend school.

Ruth: Who knew about this new policy? Was not aware / made aware of this policy while helping with the screening.

On the agenda again for the next meeting.

Thank you.