

Paris Central Parent Council Meeting- 6:30pm-8:00pm

Attendees: Ms. Reuben, Mrs. Nicholas, Nikki, Chrissy, Katie, Ashley, Jessica, Christian, Melissa,

1. Welcome introductions – gathered among the Council are returning faces, new faces and new to Paris Central families. Each member had an opportunity to introduce themselves and share about their children.
2. Confirm minute taker- Melissa Cuthbert offered to take minutes.
3. Review and approve current agenda for this evening’s Council- Approved by members.
4. Review and approve previous meeting minutes from May 30th, 2023-Approved by members.
5. Business from previous meetings
 - Selection of Council- Chair & Co-Chair Members: Niki and Chrissy
Responsibilities: Preparing Parent Council Meeting Agendas, communication with families, meetings, and planning with Board members, and working closely with Mrs. Reuben.
 - Secretary & Co-Secretary Members: Melissa and Christian
Responsibilities: Designated persons for meeting minutes, prepare meeting minutes for review and submission/approval.
6. Principal Report/School Improvement Plan-
 - The school’s focus will be on Grade 6 math, feedback was that the scoring was rather low from the EQAO testing. EQAO is the Education Quality and Accountability Office, where children are tested on literacy and mathematical concepts. To help improve the mathematical skills of students, there will be a math coach coming to the 1x week to support the school to focus on different applications. Discussion around the accuracy of the testing since this was conducted online, with multiple choice feature and students did not have to show their work. It was asked how it was decided which grade/school was chosen for the additional support, Ms. Reuben explained that the board reviewed the needs of the schools based on the scores and Ministry initiatives. It was also discussed that even though the focus will be on Grade 6 math, everything else will remain the same within the curriculum for the 2023/2024 school year.
 - It was also discussed that the EQAO shows a slight drop in score around Grades 3-4 in literacy; Ms. Reuben pointed out that this is typically where the transition from “learning to read” to “reading to learn” takes place. The Council discussed possible factors such as family involvement, student absences, distractions, and the potential need to connect with families. It was asked of the EQAO will be online again this year, “Yes”. Ms. Reuben would like for some focus to be on deeper questions, thinking questions, as opposed to the quick click of button from multiple choice. It was asked if the testing was restricted to time, which could be another contributing factor. It was asked “how do we know the test results are accurate?” Ms. Reuben explained that the results are compared with other assessments including Report Cards. The results show a snippet of questions that were most challenging for students to answer as a whole and then analyze the data.
 - Ms. Reuben shared that students are adjusting well; our new previous Cobblestone friends are sharing that they are happy and like Paris Central. Ms. Reuben encourages communication between students and families if there are any concerns.
- 7.

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Teachers Report/Student Council –

- Teachers are very thrilled to have their classes sorted out and settled.
- Abby Curry is the President of the Student Council this year. The Council discussed if the Student Council should attend some of the parent Council meetings as a way of showing mentoring and leadership, and to help with fundraising?
- Action Item- Ms. Reuben to follow up about extended invite.
- Agendas will be coming for the Primary students; they have been ordered.
- Faculty member Mr. Chris Mallon will be leaving, he has accepted a position with the Waterloo School Board. Congratulations to Mr. Mallon and all the best, your absence will be felt.

8. School Funds Report-

- Playground Project account balance \$ 8,835.86. This account is to enhance the outside playground for the students, to date 15 trees have been planted, pavement has been removed and grass planted to provide more green space, a long/triple jump has been added to the playground, the sand area (monitored daily by Custodian), and the Outdoor Classroom. This project was moving full steam ahead, however with the implications of Covid-19, has lost its steam and many of the people who were in the committee decided to close the group, and wrote a letter to Parent Council “giving” funds to continue planning and creating eco-friendly enhancements.
- Many identified that the kindergarten space needs to be repaved badly, and that perhaps once that work is completed the funds could be used to “green the area”. Discussion around a Sensory Wall, and that it could be a project that the students are involved in creating.
- Q: Could these funds be used for the ball diamond area? A: Absolutely, please come forward with your suggestions and ideas.
- Q: What do the children play with when outside in the ball diamond area? A: They have toys, the previous lock/bin was broken into, and toys were taken. Now the classrooms keep their toys in the class. The board will supply the school with a cement bin; however, the cost is \$ 10,000.
- Miss Davila mentioned that the Outdoor Classroom backs onto a very busy street in Paris, that is often high traffic and loud, she is suggesting plywood, or some sort of sound barrier be put up to help block the noise/volume and additional distractions to the younger kids.
- Ms. Reuben explained the process of implementing ideas, firstly you create a plan, receive a quote, identify, and list the materials required, then submit. It then goes to the Board for review/approval, however, be mindful that the Board has their own specific expectations and companies they use.
- The School Fund account balance is \$ 3,502.02. This account is for class supplies and to help with subsidizing class trips. Ms. Reuben explained that the balance for this account comes from the fundraising that the school/students raise. It was discussed that Parent Council could look at doing some fundraising this year.

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- Q: Does the Library/classrooms accept donations? A: Yes, there is a tech that comes and goes through the donations and evaluations the condition before implementing them into the system.
 - The Big Crunch Fundraiser- Apples will be provided to each student, the goal is to get the school together at the same time and have all kids take a bite of their apples at the same time! The apples will be donated from Brant Food for Thought and a donation of \$1.00- \$2.00 will be requested.
 - Date-it was suggested that November 1st the entire school meet outside for this event.
 - Action Item-Ms. Reuben to confirm date.
 - Money for photocopying flyers for The Big Crunch is available.
 - Q: How will the donations be managed? A: Each classroom will have a designated envelope to hold the donations.
9. Security of the School-
- Should locking the fences and securing entrances be considered after hours to prevent theft and vandalism? Further discussion in the future.
10. Snack Program-
- Will commence after Thanksgiving, currently the volunteers have been working on prepping the kitchen. This program is 100% parent volunteer ran and is projected to take place on Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays @ 11:00am and consist of fruit/vegetables with grains/dairy/protein. Help is required for preparation, handing out the snacks and then the clean-up. Please be mindful that if interested in helping with any of the school activities that a valid police check is required. Contact Marilyn for a copy of the paper required for a free check.
 - Q: Can parents help outside of school hours if that is their only availability? A: This should not be a problem, however the after-school program does use some of the spaces, like the kitchen.
 - Action Item: Ms. Reuben to confirm if this is an option.
11. Halloween-
- Due to allergies, it is requested that students do not bring food to share with their classmates, the school has purchased safe treats for everyone.
 - Reminder to not wear masks on Halloween if part of the costume and to also not bring in knives/daggers or swords as props.
 - There will be a parade again this year in the gym where parents and caregivers can come and see the children.
12. School Cash Online-
- The Board prefers this as a way of payment for school related costs and fundraisers, it eliminates the amount of loose money coming into the school.
 - Please be mindful of timing when requesting to have an item added to the Cash Online, the more notice the better.
13. Open Discussion:

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Can Parent Council choose to meet outside of the already designated meeting dates, for example, the next meeting is not until November 21st, 2023, could Council meet in October to discuss future fundraising, and if so, can they meet at the school? Action Item- Ms. Reuben to confirm the school is an option. Also suggested was the Paris Public Library and Churches.

- Q: Will there be any type of parent engagement nights or opportunities for social interactions? A: Parent Council can try to organize an event(s) for Christmas time, family movie nights, maybe a pumpkin carving contest, be creative and share your ideas! The Parent Council agreed that it would be nice to focus on inclusiveness and a more connected school family environment.
- Action Item: Parent Council to decide if there will be a meeting in October.
- Q: Has the School Board discussed a masking policy? A: Ms. Reuben has not heard anything about a mask mandate. There are masks available to the students and staff who choose to wear one. Covid tests are also available at the school should one be required.

Meeting adjourned.