

Sherwood Parent Council
22 March 2018 Meeting Minutes
4pm MVDHS Library

Attendance: Mr Harkness, Yvette, Sherry, Denise, Megan, Margaret, and Natalie

Principal's Report

1 - Grade 4-8 ski trip was successful and enjoyed by all; Ms Lindsay organized the trip; Parent Council contributed towards bussing.

2 - Mr Harkness and Ms Kelly from Palmer Rapids Public School have been collaborating on math and Student Achievement: improving instruction and student understanding. The triple grades present the most challenges, specifically 4/5/6. Proposal was made for Ms Lindsay to be hired for a full day and to split the class, so 4/5 are together with Ms Lindsay; and grade 6 Math is continued to be taught by Madame. This has been going on since March Break and is working well.

3 - Looking at staffing for next year, Mr Harkness hopes to have the same 4/5 and 6 split for math.

4 - March 28 will be the first Grad Committee meeting for grade 8, 3pm, all grade 8 parents are invited. Come with ideas for a theme!

5- Chess tournament was cancelled at St Andrew's; however, Ms Lindsay and Mr Scheistel are planning a Sherwood-wide tournament for March 29.

Group Discussion

Budget/Spending

We have a large balance in the Parent Council account due to accumulation of funds from past years fundraising efforts by the office (eg school fundraising) and parent council. There is a separate lottery account, i.e. for funds from Bingo. We have over \$14,000 to spend.

In future, Mr Harkness would like to limit asking the community repeatedly. We should consolidate efforts and have spending goals. All fundraising should also be handled through parent council. In the past, the office handled fundraising for chocolate bars, magazine, and pizzas, etc.

We discussed spending our funds on:

- \$1,000 donation has been made to the school library
- toys for the playground, e.g., Tonka Trucks
- a kids' or child ad parent paint night/afternoon
- donating some money to a cause like Phoenix Centre back pack program, winter clothes for local students, lunches/snacks for students in need, CRC shoe program, indoor shoes for students in need

- outdoor equipment: snow shoes, skis, skates, archery,
- end of school party, RJ's, Little Ray's, ice cream party
- end of year trips - which are still being planned
- benches or picnic tables for yard — we have enough and they don't encourage students to be active
- skateboard/balance board - \$700
- Sherwood t-shirts for each student
- tech devices for the French room, one tub of devices \$2,600

The outdoor kitchens built last year are well used. We have basketball nets in the yard, and two play structures. The board did pay \$18,000 for the new, large structure we received in the fall. The soccer nets were destroyed but Mr Harkness has a proposal to replace them with fixed posts; the board has indicated they will contribute to the cost.

Although we are not doing any more fundraising this year, Little Caesars pizza kits will be sold. Funds go towards individual student's fee for their end of year trip. In future, we could consider asking students if they want to donate their "excess" funds to students in need for their trip fees.

In future, we could consider a fundraising event that would allow Sherwood students to do good for a children's cause. How can we give back to the community? Is there a charitable organization we could work with?

Extra Curricular Activities

One issue is that Sherwood has a small teaching staff and they can only organize and proceed with so many extra curricular activities. For example, we received a grant to building gardening beds, but there was no staff who wanted to take on the project. We have archery equipment, but no staff to teach archery to the students; Mr. Harkness will speak to high school teacher about teaching archery to Sherwood students.. We have over 18 pairs of snow shoes that are not being used (no one seemed to know about them). Vanessa McClement obtained a donation of broom ball equipment but the 7/8 teacher was not able to start a program; Mr. Harkness didn't know about this. Staff need to initiate use of the school's extra resources.

School-Parent Communication

We also discussed the continuing issue of school - parent communication. Parents want to know what is happening at school — even if it is student activities that take place at recess, such as the chess club, art club, etc. It was suggested that

- Announcements be sent to post on Facebook
- Student post signs in the hallway to "advertise" to students
- Information be included in the monthly newsletter
- Mr Harkness will remind teachers to communicate items to Krista

Parents also expressed that do not feel like is its own school; we feel lost in the high school "shuffle." We do not feel incorporated into the larger MVDHS community. There were questions about Sherwood using the high school and community resources, eg, the track, outdoor skating rink, indoor rink, etc. Kindergarten was supposed to go skating for four Fridays. They used the

indoor rink once, and didn't follow the proper procedure to continue the program at the outdoor rink.

Discussion included why are families leaving Sherwood? What is the school doing to keep families? Did parents discuss why they left with the school board or trustee? School board needs to hear why families are leaving.

Parents generally feel like the school board doesn't care about our concerns. Parents would like a Sherwood- specific secretary — a central person to contact; but this is not an option.

We need to find a solution to make our current situation work!

One solution is that Sherwood and MVDHS propose becoming a community school, like Mackenzie in Deep River. Does the community want this? At the time of merger, it was decided the community was not in favor of a community school. Parents and staff liked Sherwood to remain separate from the high school. However, it also means we are not using the high school's resources, eg, the music room, science labs, art room, etc.

Miscellaneous

Online payment for hot lunches and milk: there is no more option to donate towards a student in need.

Mr Harkness has applied to the Student Support Fund for a few students and three students received winter wear as a result.

Students are asking about the talent show which didn't happen last year. It could be planned for the end of year. As well, students missed the sock hop at Christmas; a sock hop for the last day will be planned. Sherry and Stan will provide the music.

Mr Harkness will look into whatever happened with the BBQ we were to purchase last June.

Next meeting May 3rd or 10th at 4pm.