

## **School Council Meeting**

### **March 13, 2023**

In attendance: Reg Stoyles, Mark Newell, Amanda Tzenov, Jessica Dymond, Ann Blackmore, Catherine Abbott, Lisa Lehr, Jennifer Vokey Tobin, Shannon Goldsworthy

Regrets: Justin Taylor, Melanie Cole

- Call to order at 6:20 - Reg Stoyles
- Adoption of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes from Jan 23, 2023
- Business Arising

#### **Fundraising:**

Our first 50/50 ticket fundraiser of the year was quite successful. Council brainstormed some ideas for our second fundraiser.

Some ideas include:

- Ideas from the fall: -cookbook for mother's day, spring fair at MacMorran's
- Spring Fair: renting tables for vendors to come and sell their crafts and goods
- Christmas market for next year.
- Move-a-thon: low work and high gain
- Gift Cards - grocery store - a percentage of the proceeds from the sale of gift cards goes to the school - Jennifer will contact Dominion to see if they still participate in this type of program.

Side note to fundraising:

- Ski lift passes for Marble Mountain from last year's auction are still available. These were donated after the auction last year and they expire at the end of April. A message was posted in the newsletter offering a draw from any names that were put forth. No takers so far.

Why do we need to fundraise? There is always a need to improve and add to our school. Some areas that are particularly in need: outdoor learning materials, technology, library learning commons for maker space etc.

### **Professional Learning Days**

The PL day on February 20 was a huge success. The staff gained so much insight and affirmation from the visit of Dr. Jody Carrington. Many of the staff said that it was the best PL they'd ever received.

Upcoming PL dates: 4 of our 5 PL days have been used but the District has added an additional PL day to review the Responsive Teaching and Learning policy. The date of this will be determined by the District.

Rennie's River's fifth PL day will take place on March 17 and will be on the topic of Universal Design for Learning. It will be conducted by District Program Specialists Jason Counsel and Stacy Hopkins.

### **Grade Five Boys Basketball Provincials**

Basketball Tournament - we hosted at the last minute - charged \$2 at the door and ran the canteen

- The final total of funds raised is not available for this meeting. Thanks to Ms. Tulk and the parents and teacher volunteers who helped to make the weekend such a success.

### **Update from January Meeting**

Staff appreciation week was a huge success. Thank you from all of the staff of Rennie's River. The staff had a wonderful week and the parent volunteers who did duty during the week enjoyed their time.

Staff appreciation funds - \$300 unspent, this is being discussed with the staff, and we are waiting to see what they decide.

### **Purchases from Fall Fundraising**

Outdoor learning: learning materials have been arriving. The closet has been built in the student entrance. We'll tour it at the next meeting.

- Games stenciled on the playground in the spring once the snow is gone
- Catherine will look into the cost of a playground mat rather than the pea gravel that's there. At a glance this looks incredibly expensive.

### **Parent Question:**

Ann Blackmore brought forth a question from a parent: How is outside time balanced between classes? Why do some teachers go outside all the time and others rarely go out?

It is based on many things including the teacher, the need for SAs with the group, etc. We encourage parents to advocate for their children. Ask questions.

## **Student Leadership Opportunities**

This year there are multiple opportunities for our upper elementary students to get involved in leadership. The grade fives run the recycling committee, the grade sixes work as the school lunch helpers and there is a grade five - six leadership team, who get involved in projects whenever they arise. The school is now looking at bringing back the prefecting program at recess time. This would bring pairs of older students to help out and play games with the students in the younger grades.

## **School Development Survey:**

School Survey - only 11% of family responses so far. We will send along a further reminder to see if we can gain more responses. This information is used to guide school decisions and planning.

Suggestion for next year: Create an event at MacMorran. Have activities for the children, computers, and interpreters. People would be more inclined to come and fill out the survey.

## **Engaging More Parents**

From now on we will be sending a note in the newsletter with the link to the Council minutes, the date of the upcoming meeting and the contact information for contacting the Council members with any concerns.

**Value and vision statement of the school:** Learning together with love and laughter.

What we are hoping to do is to make this more visible for the students to see how this all ties together.

- Next Meeting April 24@ 6:15
- Adjournment: 7:20