GORDON SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

November 21, 2016

PRESENT: Diana Dusome, Mark Verwey, Shirley Edwards, Heather Munderich, Greg Watson, Lisa Mooney, Barbara Durley, Ted Waskawich, Sheri Sinclair, Tony D’Alessandro, Athina Paraskevopoulos

Approval of Minutes from meeting School Council meeting in September, moved by Sheri Sinclair, seconded by Athina Paraskevopoulos

Administration Report:

* Excited to announce the outdoor classroom
	+ - * + Nearly complete, looking for trees to be planted
				+ Hoping for large trees to provide shade
* Playground equipment being installed, including smaller basketball nets with multiple outputs to increase game play
* Introduced “Buddy Benches” to encourage friendships
* Niagara Recess Project working well within school
* Internet Night for Parents to be held on November 30th
	+ - * + Presenters from the DSBN
				+ No additional speaker costs
				+ Pilot project for school presentations
				+ Will present to Students in grades 4-8 on November 22nd
* Christmas Concert on December 20th at 6:30, at Welland Centennial
* Computer purchases completed
* 3 full time mobile classes
* 22 laptops in the Learning Commons, Kindergarten Classrooms and with LRT
* School Improvement Plan for 2016-2017 is a 3-pronged approach
1. Literacy
	* + - 1. Focus on small group instruction
				2. Explain thinking and process
				3. Confidence for taking risks
				4. Real life examples
2. Math
	* + - 1. Patterns, geometry, etc
				2. Puzzles, rotation, placement
				3. Dreambox and Prodigy
				4. Problem solving
				5. Small group working with all levels
				6. Growth assessments and retention, build confidence
3. Growth Mindset
	* + - 1. Half Full not Half Empty
				2. Values and praise challenges
				3. Encouragement for best work
* DSBN Strategic Plan for 2016-2021
* “I Matter” Campaign
* Everyone matters as a learner, individual, and community member
* More information on DSBN website dsbn.edu.on.ca

Chair Report:

* Ministry of Education listens to concerns regarding Mental Health and Well-being, please provide feedback at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/about/wellbeing2.html>
* Please consider donating to the Educational Foundation of Niagara for gifts for teachers

Financial Report:

* Balance is $5582.18
* School Council Insurance purchased since last meeting for $151.20
* Motion to pay off remaining technology cot of $4,200 moved by Ted seconded by Athina, motion carried
* 81% of families now using cash online

Fundraising Report:

* Festival Fundraiser through QSP wrapping up tomorrow, please get your orders in
* Poinsettia Fundraiser to begin November 22nd, 6 and 10 inch plants as well as Porch Pots
* Individuals to pick up at Vemeers
* Considering a Family Dance Night to be held in January or February

 Parent Involvement Report:

* Internet Safety Night, November 30th
* Using funds from PRO Grant, will be purchasing snacks and coffee, Athina willing to bake delicious treats
* Looking toward Math New in New Year
* Additional funding used by $500 PIC money to School Council

 Grade 8 Trip and Graduation:

* Trip to Ottawa including grade 7 class
* Considering a Christmas fundraiser of Babysitting
* Hoping for financial support from council for graduation

Motion to Adjourn, moved by Barbara, seconded by Sheri, motion carried

EQAO will begin on May 24th and run until June 2nd

* School Improvement Plan Key Areas:
1. Focus on literacy
2. Learning teams with staff- math, literacy, self-regulation
3. Seven teachers are taking the Math AQ course
* New Kindergarten Curriculum coming out next year
* Cash Online is up and going, if you haven’t signed up please do so
* Talent Show is on June 7th
* Primary Play Day is on June 16th
* Grade 8 graduation is on June 24th at Centennial High School
* Enrollment projections for the fall are mirroring this years’ enrollment stats

Chair Report/Parent Engagement Report:

* Lisa attended a Symposium hosted by the Ministry of Education in April. Handouts and materials for the Ministry of Education that are beneficial to parents were made available at the meeting.
* PRO Grant application will be submitted asking for funding of a Math and Internet Safety Evenings
* DSBN Strategic Plan has been revamped and renewed
* Congratulations to our students who participated in the DSBN Science Fair in April. Gordon had several winners at the Board event.
* Math Night was a great success as it was last year. Thank you to all of our teachers and staff for putting on such a great event.
* Fun Fair was also a great success, we hope to build on it next year

Financial/Fundraising Report:

* Fun Fair was financially successful, our most successful fundraiser of the year
* Money raised at Fun Fair will go toward the Crome Books
* Subsequent to meeting an email vote was taken to fund the freezies at Primary Play Day

Our next meeting is scheduled for September 28th, 2016. We will be holding elections and reviewing our bylaws at this meeting.

Adjournment