

Olympic Heights School Council and Parents Association Meeting
Thursday, November 16, 2023 – 6:30 p.m.
Olympic Heights School

Attendance: Principal, Trevor Barkley; Assistant Principal, Adam Eakins; Kindergarten Teaching Team: Ms. Boehm and Ms. Meier; Chair, Tori Wright; Secretary, Krista Leonty; Treasurer, Anita Roncin; Council Representatives Leslie Hall, Michelle Herbst, Shannon Gillett and Jenna Robertson; and approximately 4 additional parents / community members.

1. Welcome and Introduction (Tori Wright – Chair)

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Agenda Confirmation – Motion** to approve agenda made by Anita Roncin and seconded by Michelle Herbst. CARRIED.
- III. **Minutes Approval** - Motion to approve the November minutes made by Tori Wright. Seconded by Michelle Herbst. CARRIED.

2. School Business and Administration Report (Principal Barkley, Assistant Principal Eakins)

- I. **Kindergarten Team Presentation** (Ms. Boehm and Ms. Meier)
 - The Kindergarten team talked about their 'All About Me' project.
 - This project encourages students to think about their identity and helps build self-esteem. It directly connects to the Social Studies curriculum.
 - Students were asked to find symbols and objects from home that represent themselves. They made a poster with these objects and presented this in class.
 - A video was shown of a Kindergarten student doing his presentation.
- II. **Staffing and Support Update** (Principal Barkley)
 - Administration applied for additional funding to be used for extra support and this was approved. We received half of the cost for a 25 hour educational assistant (Holli White). Funding approved was 5 hours less than originally applied for. The position ends on January 26, 2024, however we are able to apply again for more funding depending on our circumstances. This funding is being used to directly support the grade 5 classrooms.
- III. **School Professional Learning Plan** (Principal Barkley)
 - This relates to the way time will be spent on PD Days and Friday afternoons. The focus is on building connection, relationship and how we understand and support students.
 - On Oct. 20 all staff completed an activity called Relationship Mapping. The staff talk about each child and ask the questions: do we have a connection with them? If no, what supports are needed to connect? What are the ways we can engage with students? The goal is that all students are connected with at least one adult.
 - On Nov. 9 there was a PD Day and the learning was CBE system wide on Indigenous Learning and Understanding.

- Nov. 17 (Friday afternoon) is scheduled to be an in-service with the physiotherapist related to movement and regulation. The program is called Be Active. Be Strong. Be Ready.
- The School Development Plan is Numeracy, Literacy and Wellness. This plan will be made public on November 30.
- The focus is on learning intentions: how can we help develop self-motivated and independent learners and students that take ownership of learning?
- The whole year of PD days is planned around this development.

IV. Christmas Planning (Principal Barkley)

- Hampers: Ashley Ross will be the lead. Once organized there will be communication to the school community about what is needed and the organization of volunteers.
- Division II Winter Concert: December 14. (Division I will be in the spring)
- Festive Days: Planning to do Spirit Days such as caroling, Christmas sweater day, etc. More information to follow.
- Parent question around acknowledgement of other cultural celebrations. Yes, we are mindful of engagement. The CBE has a list of cultural celebrations and sometimes the students bring this up as well.

V. Information Updates (Principal Barkley and Assistant Principal Eakins)

- Student Voice – This month the students talked about missing Spirit Days so we are going to try to do more with intention. On Nov. 30 we will have Team Pride Day which is to support your favorite team. This could be a sports team or a team you are a part of (ie: Scouts), your school, etc.
- The animal this month (December) from the Seven Sacred Teachings is the Buffalo. The Buffalo represents respect.
- Teacher Conferences: Nov. 23 and 24. This one is teacher led. There is the option of in person or virtual. Booking information will come out tomorrow (Nov. 17). Dinner discussed and Student Council funding will provide dinner, dessert and drinks for staff.
- Vandalism update – the sensors are complete so there is additional lighting. The cladding for the roof is still being looked at.
- Sound System – we have received 3 quotes and are getting further details on the quotes.
- We are getting more details about possibly getting a bulb less projector (approximate cost \$7600).
- PowerTeacher Pro Gradebook – we are in the early stages of getting this started and it is already being used by other schools. It is a way for teachers to record assessments and scores and parents can sign onto Power School (on the My CBE site) and see this information.
- Residencies – The school currently does a lot of outside learning including doing “Take Me Outside Day.” For Division 1 we are considering the possibility of bringing in TimberNook or Ever Active. We get ideas and advice from other schools around residencies as well and this one has positive feedback. Staff watched a video about the program. It involves being outside and looking at

ways we can learn from the land. This directly ties to the curriculum. More to follow.

- Parent Question – What is process on Residencies? There is a residency committee. Teachers talk about ones they have done before and ones they would like to explore. They can also be decided upon based on gaps in learning, and existing staff expertise. They are in high demand and often are expensive.
- There are opportunities for funding for residencies from School Council.
- A HUGE thank you to Shannon for organizing the Halloween school dance. This was a big success. Feedback has been very positive, there was a great energy, and there was a very high turnout from our school community.

VI. Possible Fundraising Idea (Principal Barkley)

- Mr. Barkley recently spoke with a colleague that was part of a Read-A-Thon. It was held over 3 weeks and it raised \$25,000.
- The basic idea was kids would get sponsors and track their reading. They submit their forms back in.
- Prizes were simple such as Principal for the day, teach a class lesson, pizza party.
- Leslie Hall volunteered to help coordinate an event as her school has done something like this before.

VII. Funding Request (Assistant Principal Eakins)

- Request for \$1600.00 (CAD) to add or renew literacy programs.
- Cost breakdown as follows (in USD):
 - 5 Raz Kids Classrooms \$660 UDS
 - 1 Reading A-Z \$132
 - 1 Raz Plus \$241
 - 1 Raz Plus ELL Add On \$72
- **Motion** to approve \$1750.00 (CAD) to fund the above literacy programs by Shannon Gillet. Seconded by Anita Roncin. CARRIED.

3. Council Reports

I. Chair Update (Chair, Tori Wright)

- We have a good communications team working together now. The group includes Jenna, Susan, Shaelynn and Amanda. Feedback on the newsletter was positive. Social media is being monitored and responded to. Jenna Robertson spoke of trying to increase the visual portion of the next newsletter with pictures or drawings.
- Introduction of Liana who will be the new Volunteer Coordinator.

II. Fundraising (Council Representative, Shannon Gillett)

- Apples are done and were successful.
- Question posed as to whether we want to do a raffle again. Council feels we should. We will stagger it with other fundraisers. More to follow.
- Casino dates are in and will be April 20 or 21, 2024.

III. Special Events (Council Representative, Leslie Hall)

- Movie night planned for Thursday, January 25, 2024. We may look into the possibility of having a movie for older kids in the Atrium and one in the gym for younger kids. Plan for people to bring their own snacks as this worked well last time.
- Volunteers will be needed for clean up and door monitor. We will add this to Sign Up Genius.
- Dinner for the Parent Teacher Interviews on Nov. 23 and 24 – will be provided by Student Council. Mr. Barkley and Mr. Eakins will get back to Leslie Hall about the order. Student Council opted to purchase drinks and desserts this time rather than asking for volunteer donations.

IV. Kiss and Drop (Council Representative, Michelle Herbst)

- More volunteers always needed. Ideas brainstormed over how to get more volunteers. One idea is to have a slide show, or something that can be watched online so people can get more information on how it works and what is involved.

V. Fun Lunch (Council Representative, Michelle Herbst)

- Overall orders are down from last year but will still be a good source of fundraising dollars. The reason for this could be an increase in prices as the prices had to be raised slightly.
- Overall Fun Lunch is going well.

VI. ASCA Parent Engagement (Chair, Tori Wright)

- We applied for a \$500 grant to be used for parent engagement and this was approved.
- Discussion held on ways to use this funding. We could do parent education or possibly something more “hands on.”
- The main focus is the money has to be used for engaging the parent community in the school. More to follow on this.

4. Next Meeting – The next meeting will be at OHS on Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

5. Adjourned - Motion to adjourn meeting by Michelle Herbst at 8:15 p.m. Seconded by Leslie Hall.