

Island Natural Science School
School Council Meeting Minutes
November 30th, 2016

Agenda

- Call to Order
 - 6:17pm
- Acceptance of minutes from last meeting
 - Motion to Approve: Laura-Maria
 - Seconded: Jason
- Chair Report
 - Review of council activities since November 2nd meeting we have focused on the poinsettias drive and also have a couple other initiatives that Laura-Maria will expand upon on her fundraising report.
 - Stephanie shared the IPS Fundraising Targets. In consultation with the school and their wish list, we have an outline of what we would like to raise and what we are planning on funding within the school.
 - Staff requests are the divisional items (iPad- kindergarten, math and science exploration carts- Primary/Junior. The junior has a STEM focus.)
 - Artists and Scientists in the School is something we will continue to support
 - We looked for items that would benefit the entire school, rather than just a smaller group of students.
 - i. Fitness friends, literary resources, grove experiences and goal nets.
 - Toronto Marlies: they sell us a ticket, we can add a profit margin, at certain selling levels, we can have some prizes... sing the anthem, ride Zamboni, if we sell 400 tickets, we can have a family skate on the rink.
 - We are sending out a survey to gauge if people would be interested as we will need to put down a large deposit.
 - Tickets will be \$20/person.
 - If there is an overwhelming response, we will examine higher priced tickets.

Suggestion for Fundraising by Parents: IPS Beach Towels? Rain Ponchos?
Dividing the school into colour teams...

- Fundraising and Special Events Report
 - Our goal was 50% school participation. Small \$5 poinsettias for school and larger poinsettias for the condominiums. \$878 profit. Next year, we can reconsider reintroducing the larger price point for the larger \$25 poinsettias.

- Our next initiative will be selling IPS toques. They are navy with white stitching logos. There will be a soft launch at the Winter Fest, toques will be added
- Toques will be \$12.00
- Hoping for \$1700 profit.
- There will be opportunity for purchase prior to the holiday for families that are unable to attend Winter Fest.
- Skate Party at the Natrel Center. Hot Chocolate for children, with the purchase of an adult drink, will be donated by Boxcar Social
- We are looking at having Pizza for the skate party.... Stay tuned.
- Review of 2016-2017 fundraising targets
- Upcoming events with request for feedback
- Principal's Report
 - School Improvement Achievement, Well-being and Equity- School Preliminary Budget Powerpoint- given by Mr. Wolford.
 - Vision for learning... looking at and engaging a process with staff that focuses on learning achievement and equity.
 - Scott shared the EQAO results.
 - Research in the board, retains data and is able to examine school results and look for areas of strength and areas of growth.
 - Achievement focus in math
 - i. Critical thinking and problems solving embedded skill and knowledge development
 - ii. Multiple choice vs. open response questions
 - iii. Learning skills collaboration & self-regulation
 - iv. 60 minutes daily math blocks
 - v. Growth mindset & academic optimism
 - vi. Teacher & student resources that ensure level $\frac{3}{4}$ thinking and learning.
 - vii. Push in vs. pull out for students who require greater support.
 - **Question:** Where does practice at home come? Scott said that the knowledge and understanding piece should be looked at home.
 - **Khan Academy:** has not yet been sent home to all classes. It is the expectation that Grade 3-6. Class Code: Can that be sent home to all classes? Scott will look into this.
 - **Well Being Focus:**
 - i. Students need our collective support to be healthy individuals who possess a positive sense of self, belonging and contributing to the school community.
 - ii. Relationship and building resilience are key.
 - iii. Engagement.

The board did a survey to look at school climate, IPS results:

1. Kids feel like they belong.
2. Believe teachers will help
3. Learn to be kind
4. Feel accepted
5. Have friends
6. Sometimes feel left out.
7. Sometimes feel comfortable speaking up in class.

IPS will focus on engagement, active involvement in learning and contributing with the school

Have a tracking card, that will be looked at throughout the year.

Commitments and verification

Student voice and choice in the school.

Our goal is to improve student achievement and well-being for each student

Equity of outcome vs. opportunity (how do we ensure kids are engaged in opportunity)

Engage in courageous conversations to create the “Third Teacher” social environment.

Barriers to success/achieving for our students

Embedded in everything we do through an inclusive lens

IPS Plan to implement

- Shared leadership
- Sharing new learning and solving challenging issues
- Promoting questioning
- Working in collaborative trusting teams
- Encouraging innovation and creativity
- Infusing global competencies through the lens of equity using rich authentic learning tasks
- Holding high expectations for all learners.
- Building relationships that are positive learning to increased engagement and empowerment of students, staff, parents and communities.

Parent Questions:

Communication: What is the policy on teacher communication? How are you following up to ensure that communication is happening?

What is the policy for TDSB and homework?

A parent articulated that they are unsure their children are doing in class, not sure if they are struggling? We can supplement if there is stronger communication. As parents is it possible to have greater parent options for homework?

Scott: the research on homework is unclear, as is the desire for parents to do or not do homework. Kahn and Raz are available for families. Reading should be 30 minutes for each family.

The expectation of staff is to relay concerns to parents prior to report card.

Is it possible to see some form of activity from the kids? Is it possible to see a summative task that we can see as parents?

How can we show the evidence of their learning to parents?

There was a discussion again about teachers who are presenting homework weekly vs. none at all vs. daily.

Homework needs to complement what is being done.

There needs to be a much greater amount of communication of what is being learned in the classroom and support the ideas for children. We can support the knowledge and understanding at home to ensure we are able to support our kids.

There is an expectation that everyone is somehow communicating to their families, and it will look different in all divisions.

For example: the junior team with Ms. Parry and our junior teachers, greater focus on the student using the agenda.

There is an adjustment from grade 3-4.

Scott will put up recommended websites in the next newsletter

Razkids

IXL

Prodigy

Khanacademy.com

Teacher Report:

- Moving into December... winterfest afternoon December 15 kinder and December 16 1-6
- AIA boutique... during the day, our Grade 5/6 class sell chili and hot chocolate to the patrons, funds raised this year will go to end of year trip and global citizenship (me to we), 1am-4pm
- On December 22, cookie delivery day, to the seniors on the island, another focus on global citizenship and giving back to the community
- December 23 walk to school day, last week the kids walked along the boardwalk.
- Through the month of December, volleyball and basketball teams will begin.
 - Grades 5/6 will initially be invites.
 - 4's will have the opportunity to practice in preparation for the upcoming years.
- The musical will be June 6 and 7,
- June 8th is the BBQ
- Calendars are up on the website.

Treasurers' Report- Full report postponed until our next meeting. However, we are 2 x's ahead where we were last year at this time for funds raised, in addition, we have over 25K from last year. **Approved** division list.

Open Forum

Lice: communicating about how to deal with it. Maybe this is something school council can put together. We are going to do that.