

Caldwell Parent Council Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2020

Present:

Carmela Ciocio
Kate Murray
Wendy Ferris Groulx
Laurie Flegg
Maeghan Gapp
Natasha Major
Donald Cram

Welcome

- Principal Carmela Ciocio took a minute to tell us about the issues with getting supply teachers. Our supply pool is being heavily drawn upon by the Ottawa board to also fill all of their absences.
- Chair Kate Murray did not make a meeting agenda, in favour of leaving it loose.

Principal Report

- Carm said the Bully Prevention and Intervention Plan is posted on the board website, as these plans must be posted and reviewed yearly.
- Last year's plan has been tweaked. The program that Caldwell is adopting is WITS - Walk Away, Ignore, Talk it Out, Seek Help.
- The plan encouraged kids to problem solve as well as develop skills to differentiate between conflict versus bullying, small problem versus big problem.
- Caldwell aims to use Grade 6 leaders to promote this messaging through designing pamphlets, doing virtual read-alouds, videos, etc.
- Bulletin Board - for this year's bulletin board, each grade will be assigned a colour of the rainbow and finish a sentence on the board, such as "I am a good friend when..."
- Being in class cohorts has reduced a few issues in the yard, but has also brought a few others to light. "They're getting tired of each other." — Carm

Snow Days

- We can't collapse classes this year and must maintain cohorts, so this year's snow days will involve review from home on the Teams platform.
- Carm recognizes that this could potentially be "another hurdle" for some families.

Round Table Comments

- Wendy Ferris Groulx: “Good job on the banner and getting the price down.”
- Kate: “Thanks to Natasha!”
- Carm: “It was a nice boost to moral.”
- **Council voted unanimously, after a motion was put forth by Kate and seconded by Wendy, to pay \$60-something to boost moral for teachers and have a banner made to hang at Caldwell.**
- **Council voted unanimously, after a motion was put forth by Kate and seconded by Wendy, to pay \$70-something to provide chips for the children for Halloween.**

Caldwell Swag

- Maeghan Gapp saw on the Facebook group that some people were looking for Caldwell swag and was wondering about our potential to produce/sell some.
- Maeghan suggested we use Level 1 Custom Gear. Arklan Elementary School is using this local company for their swag for their current school fundraiser.
- We could provide families with the option of purchasing swag directly from Level 1, without running it as a fundraiser, as council had previously discussed this not being a great time to run a fundraiser.
- Maeghan said it is great to see the kids get excited to wear their school wear and to identify other students in town because they are wearing their Caldwell swag. Options that are available: Caldwell Cubs face masks, t-shirts, toques, and hoodies.
- Kate wondered if we have to buy a bunch or if they do one-offs. Maeghan said they usually do minimum orders, but suggests there is wiggle room there.
- Carm said she will see if we are even allowed to do fundraisers right now. She said that Arklan is in a difficult position because they have to meet payments for their play structure, which is why they need to do a fundraiser even during the pandemic.
- Wendy said Caldwell has offered swag in previous years and we have the capability to make our own. But in making our own (not as a fundraiser) we run into the problem with exchange of money and distribution. Wendy pointed out that she would buy swag for her kids if it **is** a fundraiser, but not as one-offs that don’t benefit the school council.
- Does selling it as a one-off this year — making no money from it — eliminate the option to make money off of selling Caldwell swag in subsequent years?
- Wendy suggested that Maeghan does a Facebook poll to gauge interest to see if we can meet any minimum requirements.
- **UPDATE: Post-meeting Carm confirmed that we are not able to sell, or even mention selling through a third-party, any Caldwell swag at this time.**

Trustee Donald Cram

- Trustee Cram said a survey is coming out to gauge parent reactions to the four strands of education this year.
- Donald also mentioned the new snow day protocols.

- Donald spoke about spacing issues within the high school, which is running at high capacity. He spoke about possibilities of expanding the high school, or building a new one in Beckwith Township.

Holiday Concert?

- Carm said we have no idea at this point if there will be a holiday concert in any form. Perhaps streaming something out...but that opens up issues with permissions.

The Kids are Alright

- Carm said that the kids that are doing in-person learning are doing great.
- Natasha asked if we can do teacher gifts this year. Carm says the protocol about things coming in from home is that it has to quarantine for 72 hours.
- Wendy suggested that you can email a gift card this year.
- Carm said that a card is all that anyone really needs. But if something physical comes in, the rule is to quarantine. Please avoid food.

Next meeting is: January 14, 2021

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