Parent Council Meeting – September 27, 2022

Wilson Parks called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Conducted round of introductions of all those on the meeting.

Attendance: Mackenzie Alain, Heather McNutt, Amanda Gaudet, Lori Bolton (on for 3 years), Bella McDonald, Joanne Woodhouse, Aimee Lukenda (teacher representative), Nicole Dunn (EA representative), Wilson Parks (Principal), Susan Olsen (Vice-Principal)

Wilson Parks reviewed nominations for council memberships.

1. **Nominations**

Wilson Parks requested nominations for Chairperson.

Chairperson nominations: Self nomination from Mackenzie Alain, self nomination from Lori Bolton

Lori Bolton Chairperson, and Mackenzie Alain Vice-Chairperson

Wilson Parks requested nominations for Vice-Chairperson. Mackenzie Alain agreed to be Vice-Chair, and Lori Bolton agreed to Chairperson.

Wilson Parks turned it over to Lori Bolton to do nominations for Secretary and Treasurer. Amanda Gaudet requested further information for these two positions.

Secretary: take notes, attendance, general notes about what is discussed and voted on. Send copy of those notes to the principal, and copies go to all by email. Notes are also posted on school webpage.

Amanda Gaudet self-nominated for secretary. Joanne Woodhouse self-nominated for Treasurer.

Lori asked about the possibility of fundraising this year. Wilson Parks said that fundraising is an option this year, but we always need a clear goal of what the fundraising is for. Lori Bolton asked if there is anything that the school needs that would come from the fundraising. Wilson Parks said that will come up over time, as we work through the Principal’s Report. Before the end of the meeting we should talk about what events we would like to see in the school community throughout the year.

1. **Principal’s Report: Wilson Parks**

First year at Caldwell Street PS, first full year as a Principal. Wilson Parks was a principal at Caldwell, and remembers visiting as a teenager. Caldwell was his dad’s last school, and now his first school as a principal.

Start up this year has been successful. 316 student enrollment, and looking ahead there is a significant development being built, which will feed into Caldwell Street PS. 1000 new homes going into Mississippi Shores, which will likely impact enrollment in the future.

Hot Lunch program has returned. Orders were due last week, and encouraging families to complete orders online if at all possible. Starting with pizza and subs, but considering options throughout the year.

Open House last week, which was very well attended. Lovely to see families in the school, and have everyone in the building.

School photos are coming up on October 4 next week.

Terry Fox walk/run last week, and raised approximately $825 for the organization. All students participated in the walk/run outside. Weather cooperated, and we finished just in time as rain was moving in.

Reminders from the Health Unit regarding the screener for families, and continuing to use the screener daily. Quarantine time has been reduced, and symptoms improving for 24 hours, then one is able to return.

Challenges to start:

Staffing – still working through staffing, and changes that have happened. Letter tomorrow is coming to all families regarding some changes in staffing. Number of staffing changes in the school. Melissa Benham Grade 4/5 will be leaving. Ms. Lavoie will be in the 4/5 full-time, and a new teacher will be coming into the Special Education role. Ms. Jensen will be leaving, and Dana Hitchins will be coming into that role.

We are currently anticipating EA movement in the next few weeks. There are permanent contracts that have come up, which may result in some staff movement as they secure these roles. There are 2 permanent EA positions posted at this point.

Caldwell Street PS – has been granted a PUP 2, Specialized Education Program, tailored to meet needs of some Junior students (Grades 4-5-6). Meant to address significant academic gaps, and socio-emotional needs as well. Intended for up to 8 students. Students must have a formal identification from a professional, and it would be no more than one school year. Both classroom teacher, and EA in the classroom to target the learning gaps. PUP2 will stay at Caldwell in the future, and it can be adjusted to target student needs each year. This is a big project, and it is not available at every school. In the process of interviewing for the Special Education Teacher position.

Transportation remains a challenge. Busing continues to be a challenge, and today we had a bus that was 40 minutes late. Student Transportation of Eastern Ontario (STEO), has been feeling impact of driver shortage, across Ontario. Replacements are difficult to find, and sometimes a driver is doing a double run.

Cross country has started for 4-5-6. Students starting to getting involved in the intramurals.

Wilson Parks opened the floor to any questions regarding the Principal’s Report.

Question from Mackenzie – what do students do when the bus is late? Today in the gym with Mr. Parks and Ms. Olsen.

Questions from Mackenzie – who determines who is in the PUP2 classroom? Conversations at the school level, decided with staff and administration, and proposed to families.

Question from Amanda – pizza order online, when you pay online the only option is Paypal? Is there a way to set up another form of payment rather than paying into Paypal? Wilson Parks will look into why we use Paypal, and if we can do e-transfer. There are families that are doing both cash and Paypal.

Mackenzie had said previously e-transfer could be difficult if they weren’t labelled properly, can be difficult to give all the information needed for the food order. Can be a lot of cross-referencing.

1. **Teacher Report: Aimee Lukenda**

Denise Packard was in this role in recent years. Ms. Lukenda said she had touched base to see what her responsibilities. Cross country and soccer up and running. Truth and Reconciliation day is on Friday.

Wilson Parks added that we have been collecting shoes, and have been working with a family to organize a memorial on September 30. Planning to create it in the library, and can be left there for some time for classes to reflect. Lori Bolton asked if there is still a need for more shoes, and Wilson Parks said yes if there are any extra shoes at home, and to please not buy new shoes for this.

1. **Support Staff Report: Nicole Dunn**

Nicole Dunn introduced herself, and in kindergarten they are having a lot of fun. Students are coming in clean, and going home dirty from all their play. The kindergarten students love playing in the kindergarten yard.

Wilson Parks added that we currently have 7 EAs, and are increasing by 1 more. We have 2 RECEs in September, and we have added an additional RECE.

Question asked - what is the largest class size? Reviewed class sizes of the kindergarten classes. Reviewed the importance of registering prior to the start of the school year.

1. **Additional Business:**

Lori Bolton, asked if there is any input about events for the school year, and if there is anything parent council could help with.

Heather McNutt asked about a possible Christmas Concert this year. We are looking towards opening these opportunities going forward. Staff are already thinking about these items again.

Wilson Parks asked question: if there are fundraising goals that have already set? Or are there events that we would like to revive and set up or let go to the side?

Heather McNutt – in the past big Halloween event, Fun House in the gym, different classrooms with different games and activities. Families rotated through the school. Activity at night, teachers ran it. Children didn’t wear costumes to school, bought tickets, and cash in their tickets for the activities, and could wear their costumes.

Joanne Woodhouse – Around Christmas time, there was kid’s shopping. Children spent money on the gifts that were there. Christmas opportunity.

Amanda Gaudet – families would adopt another family for Christmas gifting (food and items), and assigned a family to help over the holidays. Heather McNutt added that there was an Angel tree that would specify certain gifts with some in mind. Wilson Parks added that Food Drives can happen at these times.

Amanda Gaudet – Asking if there is Remembrance Day ceremony this year. We are looking towards that and planning for.

Wilson Parks said he is very conscious of not over loading staff, and not over volunteering these people that are helping. We are always looking to complete IEPs, Report Cards, and board wide projects, just to keep in mind as we move through the year.

Nicole Dunn had said they had different initiatives that can be done. Writing letters to those in the military, and having the feedback return to them. Wilson Parks will reach out to staff regarding what this will look like. Great curricular links, and has an impact to those that receive them.

Wilson Parks is conscious about having the community knowing that we there, and we are in the community with one another. Proposing a possibility of clothing orders for the school community. Parent Council had looked into it previously, but not sure of the outcome last year. Wilson Parks will follow up to ask Rachel Perks for more information regarding clothing order. We are looking to stay as local for orders if possible. Mackenzie offered to send out an inquiry to 2 businesses to see what the price options are. Would be looking at distributing from the school if we go ahead for it.

Lori Bolton mentioned that she would like to see parents be more involved in school activities and life, as we have been limited the last few years. Wilson Parks mentioned parent council could start fundraising towards the cost of classes for year end of trips. This would be something that is likely going to happen. Councils can contribute to each class in the school. Wilson Parks had looked into the International Plowing Match, $5 per student to enter, bus $512 for bus (3-4 buses), limited for bus hours (after start of school day, and return before high school end of day), resulted in 1.5 hours for approximately $20 a child for limited time.

Last year the parent council paid for the parent volunteers to go on year end trips last year. Not sure about how much that costed last year, and have a better idea of what the cost needs would be for this year. Wilson Parks can see if we can pull that information from last year to get a cost for last years’ trips.

Heather McNutt – Asking if there is something that could be used as a fundraiser to bring families in, charge a small fee, Fun Night, etc.

Wilson Parks has mentioned Vessey’s Bulbs, and can be ordered prior to the spring.

Amanda Gaudet said she has done in the past, a lot of the money goes to the business, and parents will just send in the money, and it lists the percentages that the companies give to the school. Lets people know in advance what fundraisers are coming through the year, and lets them know what the profit margins are for schools.

Nicole Dunn suggested Mabel’s Labels throughout the year. Checking in to see what money is there?

Wilson Parks suggested we thinking about these 3 parts: When are we going to do it? What are we going to do? And what will the fundraised money be spent on?

Meeting minutes will be sent to the Principal and Chair to be approved, and then sent to council. Wilson Parks asked about meetings going forward. General consensus seemed to be Tuesday. Council preferred earlier in the month, but seemed to agree on the second last Tuesday. Wilson Parks asked if we prefer meetings in person or online? Looking to switch to in-person meeting next.

**Meeting dates for school year 2022-2023:**

October 18, 2022 at 6:30pm

November 22, 2022 at 6:30pm – Will reevaluate if holding December meeting.

December 20, 2022 at 6:30pm

January 24, 2023 at 6:30pm – Will reevaluate if holding February meeting.

February 21, 2023 at 6:30pm

March 21, 2023 at 6:30pm

April 18, 2023 at 6:30pm

May 23, 2023 at 6:30pm – Will reevaluate if holding June meeting.

June 20, 2023 at 6:30pm

Time will be at 6:30-7:30pm for the one hour.

Meeting is adjourned at 8:30pm.