

Arklan Community School – Parent Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2023 @ 6:30 PM

1. Welcome and Introduction of Members

Present:

Brittney, Katherine, Liz, Leanne, Lauren, Stephanie, Nikki, Samantha, Rebecca, Janet, Courtney, Patricia, Kristina, Katie, Jackie, Cara, Benjamin

2. Updates on current fundraising efforts

- Waiting for the cheque for Purdy's \$1000 + raised
- Online Auction - \$735 made from donated items from businesses
- Chip sales - \$413 (maybe have this as a regular fundraiser)
 - **Motion:** host chip sales as regular fundraiser
 - Moved by Stephanie, seconded by Cara
 - Carried
 - **Motion:** Reimburse Katie for the cost of the chips on an ongoing basis
 - Moved by Stephanie, seconded by Cara
 - Carried
- Pizza – hot lunches are happening. Healthy Food policy is the basis for the requirement to offer whole wheat crust and low fat cheese. We are also offering a gluten free option and dairy free option because of allergies and food preferences. Must order the full 11 lunches for the term. 8- 9 people available volunteers to hand out pizza.
- Little Caesars pizza kits fundraiser suggestion in May when there isn't snow and less tracking snow and mud into the gym. Also gives parents a break from fundraising. Possibility of delivering it for extra fundraising. (Katie, Rebecca and Britt going to spearhead this event)
- Purdy's fundraiser – Considering it for Easter.
- Consider Lanark Village treats for next Easter for fundraising. Would need to create an order sheet that would come home.

3. Reschedule of dance-

- Dance needs to be rescheduled (again).
- Debate whether it should be a dance or carnival. Decision to hold onto Carnival idea for beginning of next year.
- Motion: Host dance on Friday June 9, 2023
 - i. Moved: Courtney, Seconded: Cara
 - ii. Carried

4. Co-chair expression of interest:

- Courtney stepping down as Co-Chair, need a replacement
 - Stephanie Kearns will be taking on role as Co-Chair until next elections
5. Treasurer Update
- As of Feb 9 - \$3400 (this is before the fundraising efforts have been deposited).
 - Requested an update again for next month.
6. **Principal's Updates** (delivered by VP Nikki Derosiers)
- Staffing – Jacqueline is on leave, Dan Officer current Principal, new staff member teaching grade 4 and 3, board got extra finance for special education in February and it resulted in movement and changing positions. 5/6 role open,
 - Online ordering for Pizza closes on March 19th. March 27th is the first day that pizza days start. Dusta will be reaching out to the volunteers who are handing out the pizza
 - IEPs will be going out for parents soon, questions and concerns can go to teachers
 - Expected behaviour draw – keeping my space clean is the expected behaviour target especially shared spaces. Does parent council wants to donate prizes for expected behaviours?
 - Meredith Wood moved into part time Spec Ed, Ms. Hamilton is full time spec ed. – self regulation/ social emotional learning room. Criteria students had to meet to be part of that program.
 - Most likely find out our child's teachers on September 8th because it takes awhile to figure that out.
 - Madame Hickey replaced Madame Best, Mrs, Flynn is here part time.
 - Some difficulty at the beginning of the year with not knowing classrooms. Kinders are different than older grades where there is more notice given. Consistency is important. Nikki to look into the plan for next year for organizing students on first day and helping children find their new teacher.
7. **Other business**
- **Communication** –
 - Arklan Newsletter has been going out since November 2022. Students missing the bus due to poor communication.
 - Concerns expressed that there is lack of communication about changing staff in the school.
 - Discussion about agendas, some parents want to bring them back. Issue of not knowing what the homework requirements are and classroom news and events. Suggestion about agenda books that some teachers might appreciate the organization it could provide with better communication. It could be a nice check in about changes at school and also homework. Staff find having them expensive and more work. Many kids/families stop using them as year goes on. Families can send in their own agenda.
 - One style of clear communication requested.
 - Nikki will bring concern for next school year about agenda books to the staff

- When the secure school hold happened, there was no communication to parents. The communication to come through communications department at UCDSB not the school. The lockdown training was put on hold during COVID, taking place soon in the school. Difference between secure in place and lock down discussed.
 - **Concussion process:** parent raised concern that she was contacted with paperwork about concussions but no details on what happened. Any hit to the head, the board policy is to do the protocol, a series of questions, check mark no signs or symptoms, communication to the parents. Concern that no one witnessed it and could not tell her what happened. Other parents discussed receiving more information.
 - **Bullying** – Children getting hurt or hit at recess. It is becoming consistent. Nikki welcoming parents to meet one on one to meet and discuss incidents privately. Parents talking about sometimes their children not knowing enough to be able to report what happened in a bullying situation. Pink shirt day suggested as opportunity to discuss bullying at school. Violent Threat Risk Assessment Training and ASIST training for suicide risk on site. VTRA or a case conference to decide how to deal with unsafe situation/ threat
8. **Date for next meeting: May 9, 2023 6:30 pm**
 9. Fundraising sub-committee welcomed planning, expression of interest to be sent out