

Parent Council Minutes March 28th 2019

Minutes from February 21, approved by Norah and seconded by Stephanie

Treasurer's Report: Approximately \$9056

Principal's Report:

No surprising changes for staffing for September 2019, once enrolment is calculated, classrooms will be set up.

Ministry Announcements: As we know, changes are being made to education in Ontario, most changes won't affect Selby students or staff too much. The formula to calculate ECE's in a classroom has been modified somewhat, but will not affect us at Selby. Primary caps are remaining as is for grades 1-3. Grades 4-8 will be changed somewhat, going from 23.84 students to 24.45. Most of the changes will be happening at the Secondary School level. A new 4 year math strategy will be phased in beginning September 2019. Cell phones will be banned beginning in the fall, but will be permitted for educational purposes, medical issues and special education needs.

Beyond Classrooms: Mrs. McCutcheon's grade 5/6 class was able to spend a week at the Napanee Museum and the students loved it. They had a great experience learning about local history, listening to guest speakers, journaling, it was a wonderful experience and Mrs. McCutcheon said she will definately be applying again.

Math bags have been going home with some new items added and a new math area has been added to the Parent Lending Library in the lobby. Fractions seem difficult for a lot of students so more games involving fractions have been added to the bags. Some sort of parent engagement may be set up, but so far nothing has been set.

The Kidpreneur Fair was a great hit. Students had a great time figuring out their ideas and making their presentations. Students selected to move on to the countywide fair will go to the SPC on April 30th.

The MakerSpace is currently on the stage which isn't optimal for usage. The students have been working hard at sewing, baking and woodworking. Some of the funding was used for staff to go and tour other schools and see how they set up their MakerSpace and get all classrooms involved, many great ideas were shared. Eventually it would be nice to move the space off the stage and have a dedicated space, turning the MakerSpace into more of a STEAM program, perhaps moving to the library if space allows.

Mr. West has spoken to a few schools who have added a sensory path to their hallways and many of schools Mr. West spoke to would also like the same information. One school used painters tape and made a path on the hallway floor. This held up very well to washing and waxing. The school that inspired others to try a sensory floor had a commercial company come and install the path on the hallway floor, but this is very expensive. Mr. West spoke

with Peggy Collins who was going to ask a friend with a vinyl cutter for some ideas and pricing. The biggest challenge will be caring for the hallway path properly, while still having the floors washed and waxed on a regular basis.

Joe Hendry came to the school to talk about possible yard improvements. Terrance from Evergreen will be coming out again with Joe in April, possibly the 10th, to sit down and see what possible options we would have for improving the green space. Any improvements to the yard will be very expensive, however, it will give us an idea of what to aim for when fundraising. A collaboration with Terrance and possibly Joe, a student, teacher and a parent volunteer to form a committee was recommended. This will give valuable input as to what is desired for the yard and then make a plan on how to implement it over the course of the next few years.

Expenditures:

Many classes are in need of Chromebooks, the school needs approximately 20-21 Chromebooks to give the classes a 2:1 sharing ratio. Mr. West has put in grant applications to Best Buy, but won't hear any word until sometime in June. If the school had 10-11 Chromebooks that would fill the void until Mr. West hears back in June about the Best Buy grant application.

Each Chromebook costs \$367.84, for 11 Chromebooks the expenditure would be \$4046.24. Norah proposed parent council purchase 11 Chromebooks which was seconded by Becky, Tanyelle and Stephanie.

Mr. West mentioned that when printing fundraising forms, it is important to say on the form what the money raised will be used for, such as technology and yard improvements. This will be included on the next round of fundraising forms going home in May.

Next parent council meeting: May 9, 2019