

Innisfail Middle School
Parent Council – December 2, 2014

In Attendance: Kari Fox, Lisa Jacobs, Gloria Thompson, Janine Gerrard, Michelle Martin, Trina Westman.

Approval of Agenda: Lisa Jacobs; 2nd – Trina Westman

Approval of Minutes from November 4, 2014: Trina Westman; 2nd – Lisa Jacobs

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Cookie Dough: Net proceeds are \$6,137, up from \$5,247 last year. The campaign ran very smoothly with excellent volunteers and only minor glitches. The extra tubs that rounded out the order are available for purchase.

Scoreboard: The scoreboard has arrived. Including GST and shipping, total cost was \$1,414.23.

Chrome Books:

- 20 additional units, including 1 year warranties, were purchased for Student Services for \$5,342.61 and are well utilized.
- Voice to text and text to voice capabilities are exceptional.
- Files are easily shared using Google based programs.
- Some site licenses are being purchased by Division - making the app available to all students.
- Apps are being considered on an individual basis to ensure that the needs of all students are being met.

Presenter: The presentation on bullying suggested at November's meeting is still being considered. The suggested audience is Grade 6 to 8 students and Mr. Steeves is researching whether the material is age appropriate for the entire school before committing. Other presentations may be better suited.

Construction: School focus continues to be on academics and not so much on construction. However, there has been some heating issues and JWES classrooms will likely be housed in the learning commons area once their modernization project begins in the spring.

Breakfast for Learning: Dorothy Jegou is helping Kari coordinate and pick up orders. The first installment of gift cards have been spent. The next batch is expected to arrive in January. \$1,200 remains in cash. Kari is looking into whether we may use it to purchase more gift cards - Cash orders are not preferred at No Frills and it is inconvenient to arrange cash/cheque payment.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Kari Fox / Gloria Thompson

Athletics: Basketball tryouts are almost complete. Grades 7 & 8 CENA teams will be chosen soon for girls and boys teams. Those not chosen will be given an outlet to play. Grades 5 & 6 will play in an exhibition league.

Educational Plan: Mr. Steeves' presentation on the results of the Accountability Survey and PATs are posted on the ABOUT tab on IMS website. Mr. Steeves is looking for feedback.

Spring Parent Survey: 51 surveys were completed. Only 3 were negative with the remaining providing positive comments or constructive criticism for improvement. More to come at next meeting.

Response to Intervention (RTI): Educators are looking to improve the provincial graduation rate of 79% (Chinook's Edge is 81%). RTI provides strategies to improve student learning experiences by training teachers to become more efficient in the classroom. It is proven that students stay in school in school longer when they are academically successful and the increased efficiency frees up time to reteach lessons so they may be understood by a greater number of students. This program aims to increase every students' progress and not just those in danger areas in need of additional support.

Mrs. Thompson has attended a conference and RTI will be available to IMS teachers in the spring.

Collaborative Day Stats: Prior to collaborative days, 7% of students were receiving individual supports to enhance their learning environments. With the opportunity to network and discuss strategies and successes, teachers now recognize that 23% of students require additional supports and are able to provide them.

Staffing: A few teachers are away on leave. Admin is trying to maintain stability with long-term substitutes. The Campus is considering sharing EA resources – especially with French Immersion.

- Mr. Dale - Mike Poppenroff has been substituting since Sept. but has other commitments in the New Year. An alternate may be required if Mr. Dale's return after Christmas is delayed.
- Mrs. Jenks – Michelle Martin and Sue Purcell are covering
- Mrs. Yeats – Janette Charleton will pick up extra shifts as her EA position at Bowden School allows.

Resource Officer: A new officer will be coming into the school after Christmas.

Leadership: Mrs. Oakley's leadership team did an excellent job of hosting a pyjama / movie night on November 27th. Christmas festivities are being planned.

NEW BUSINESS:

Finances: We have \$22,960.78 in school generated funds. Options to disperse these funds include:

- Enhance the playground – funds will be held in reserves and will be spent as needed once JWES completes their enhancement which is slated for construction in June 2015. We are optimistic that casino funds will be available once actual improvements to our playground begin.
- Library resources - Mrs. Thompson would like to see a greater selection of high interest-low vocab books for older students who struggle with reading.
- In-school Mentoring – IMS to purchase resources that will be dedicated to the program – board games etc.
- Teacher requests – A casual invitation will be sent to all faculty members to request funds for classroom resources or presentations. All requests will be considered on an individual basis. Unrealistic requests are not expected.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm

Next meeting is February 3, 2015. – No meeting in January due to Christmas Break.