

## School Council Establishment Meeting Agenda

June 14, 2012 – 6:30pm

### **Introductions & Welcome – 6:37pm**

### **Initial Questions – 6:40pm**

- Q. *Anything important that needs to be put out there now?* A. No response!

### **Discussion Points: - 6:41pm**

- Vote: *How should we talk about these discussion points: as a table group or whole group?* A. Whole group.

#### **1. Level of involvement of school parents**

- Parent Q. *How involved do you want parents to be? Different principals have different expectations/needs?*
- A. Meeting student needs comes first. With the opportunity to start a new school comes change and gifts. See a different role for parents. Disservice to our students when we don't have opportunity for fluidity. No one knows their child; needs, strengths, fears, confidence etc. better than you and it's the schools job to learn about these. It cannot happen with minimal parental involvement. Teachers are also experts at knowing what your children need to know and best way to organize/do it. Best way to leader is to listen and empower leadership in others; parents, students, teachers. If we as schools are not the conduit for community resources and activities, we would fail at capitalizing on opportunities.
- Q. *What are your hopes and dreams for your kids?*
- A. Unsure what to expect, very happy to have the chance to volunteer in the classroom on a daily basis.
- A. Opportunity to volunteer is not there for some; look for other ways to be involved. Notebook/agenda is a good piece of communication.
- Response: We will take collaboration digital. The purpose of is to offer opportunities for parents who both work to have meaningful communication. Hosting events such as "Fall Fling" – meaningful opportunity to volunteer outside of school hours. Having childcare after school AT the school. We don't want children playing parents against school

#### **5. Government Model to be used (representative or Assembly/town hall) – 6:55pm**

- Everyone can come at every time, but we have a core of people who come. Meeting minutes available for everyone.
- Consensus: All in favour.

#### **3. Mission, Vision and Goals of Council/advisory – 6:56 pm**

- Q: *What are you thinking about this?* \*School council is there to advise principal about matters. Fundraising/parent advisory do the fundraisers and make the money.
- A: We need a new name. Friends of Herons Crossing, Heroes of Herons Crossing. Vote on name: Show of hands, Friends of Herons Crossing is the name.
- A: Facebook page, where people can chat about meetings, reminders etc.

#### **4. Frequency of council meetings – 6:57 pm**

- Q. *Once per month (Thursday) for meetings okay with everyone; first Thursday of each month?*
- A. Anonymous. Yes.

#### **6. Voting privileges, role of observers, meeting format – 6:59pm**

- Q. *Do we have democratic/majority rules vote if it comes to it?*
- A. Co- chairman said that majority vote worked well.
- *Consensus toward majority vote.*
  
- Q. *Do observers get equal vote to the council?*
- A. It should be heard as long as agenda is available to all before meeting so people can make sure they are there if they'd like to be.
- Parent Q. What counts as membership? One child, one vote?
- A. One vote per parent. If you get to controversial issue, it needs to be set.
- Sylvia A. We must remember that as a school council, we are advisory to principal, and getting feedback from this number of people is great. You do need one person to take the lead. If something controversial, we'd have to go out to all parents and find a different way to go.
  
- *Meeting format:* agenda driven. 7 days prior, agenda put up on the school website.

#### **7. School community expectations of council and school – 7:10 pm**

- Q. What are the expectations? Need shared understanding of purpose of council.
- A. Community.

#### **8. Total number of school council members – 7:12 pm**

- Q. *Are we comfortable with the typical layout? Is there another role?*
- A. What is role of treasurer? Did not have one at Nose Creek.
- A. Should we have one unit for now, as the school is so small.
- A. We have the opportunity to feel out what parents want.
- Suggestion: Think about it and email your opinions/thoughts.
- Suggestion: Vote on it now.

#### **9. Executive members and roles therein? – 7:18pm**

- Chair, vice, co-chair, treasurer. Q. *Any other roles needed?*

- Parent Q: Clarify roles.
- FYI: June 21 – information session after the meeting: go through jobs.
- Suggestion: We have an experienced committee that we need to use.
- Suggestion: We will have so much fundraising to do, we people will need to wear 2 hats.

#### **10. Executive members election – 7:28pm**

- Asking to fill positions (volunteers, group agreement)
- **Q. Secretary?** Miranda Reed
- **Q. Co-chairs?** Heather Nikkel and Dawn Sorsdahl
- **Q. Treasurer/fundraising role?** Leslie Stenhuer, Angie Dziaduck, Darcey Sharp, and Nicole Robinson (Nicole Robinson, also **Volunteer Coordinator**)

#### **11. Term of office for school council members/elections – 7:32pm**

- *Q. Everyone agree with annual meetings for council members/elections? A.*
- *Parent Council:* Year to year, even if the person would still like that role, it goes up for election.
- *Friends of Herons Crossing/parent advisory:* A person may keep the same role for two years, but after two years, you must be in a different capacity/role.

#### **12. 5 parents minimum rule for each meeting – 7:34pm**

- Must have 5 parents at each meeting so that a vote can occur and we can proceed.
- *Q. Is this an appropriate limit? A. Yes.*

-- BREAK --

#### **Items for Advice/Support from School Council/Parent Advisory – 7:48 pm**

##### **June 20 Parent Welcome Event**

- We will identify executive. Please bring children if you want!

##### **School Mission, Vision, Logo, Motto**

- Core belief is that it isn't any one person, but a group. We need student voice, parent voice, Trustee voice, staff member voice to make it collaboratively. May have logos put together and we vote.
- We could include the kids in banners, t-shirt design, community cookbook etc.
- Heron and tying in the environmental aspect of the school name.

##### **Casino Dates**

- Quick as possible. We must have an established "society" and make an application ASAP.

##### **Volunteering/Volunteer Coordinator**

- Want parents to have an active role.

### **Kindercare/ Before and After School Care**

- In survey sent to all parents, we will go from there; 17 responses so far.

### **Breakfast/Snack Program**

- Thoughts about breakfast club? Its positive effect on students.
- *Concern:* Lunches too short; need time to eat.
- We will have students eating in classrooms. Spend least amount of time *getting* the lunches. Snacks throughout the day. Having them go outside for recess before lunch.

### **Lunch Program**

- 40 min. lunch. Kids need to have fun, go to washroom, nutritional needs met. Want to avoid fights, problems etc. We will have extracurricular activities at lunch. Need proper supervision.
- If parents want kids to go home for lunch, they can.
- Teachers need a break as well. Extra time for them needs to be engaged in professional development.
- *Suggestion:* Taking bussing money to put towards lunch program.
- For now, all students bussed to and eating at this site.

### **Parent Liaison Role**

- What will it look like – talk at later point.

### **Fundraising:**

#### **Field Trips**

- Opportunity to learn in real life context. School paying vs. parents paying?
- Suggestion: Money could be used toward other things in a new school. Parents pay, we will help out other families.

### **Home Reading**

- A strong home reading program necessary; getting parents actively engaged as teachers, teaching their child to read is important.

### **Guided Reading**

- Children are not at the same level; 8-10 different reading levels.
- Guided reading program means leveled books for students at their “just right” level. Need thousands of dollars per classrooms: multiple copies for one text, kids need 20-40 books/level to move up a level.
- \* Overall, three collections of reading books (home, school, guided). We will take donations to the Friends of Herons Crossing/Parent School Council. Scholastic books specials.
- Q. *What are you missing in the school in regards to resources?*
- A. We have a budget in terms of resources. Home reading is area of need. Playground. Lunch program plan & support.

## Playground

- Need to get started ASAP.
- Q: *Can we take corporate donations?*
- A. **This could be viable; will follow-up.**
- Response: At previous meeting, Greg Bass suggested corporate sponsors.

## Concluding and Final Thoughts – 8:30 pm

- Final questions/comments/concerns.
  - o Nicole Robinson – volunteer for Volunteer Coordinator.
  - o Mandatory Police Checks for volunteers – E-mail school to get a letter so that you can get check for \$10.
  - o Q. *Will we have a lunch program?* Parent run lunch program would be ideal. Would you be able to bring younger kids if you volunteer? **Will follow-up re: policy.** Solution could be parent sharing.
  - o Q. *Crossing guards/patrol program?* Student component would be ideal, but must be safe. Needs a supervisory role.
  - o Q. *How long are our kids going to be at the Education Centre?* As a guideline window, October/November/December.
  - o Q. *Who needs to register for school this year?* Anyone who has not gone to a school yet, is moving into the area or not gone to Nose Creek must register.

## Wrap-up – 8:50 pm