

GOULBOURN MIDDLE SCHOOL MEETING MINUTES

LOCATION:	Goulbourn Middle School Library	
DATE:	Sept. 24, 2013	TIME: 6:30 p.m.
IN ATTENDANCE:	Melissa Aitken Leigh-Anne Sinclair Dorothy Penney (VP) Lisa Dixon Kim Newby Jackie Kimmerly Tina Binns Kristina Ducas	Gina Montgomery Robyn Darragh (Principal) Andrea Easton Fiona Livingstone Marcie Kwindt Lesley Moll Jennifer Tackabury
ABSENT:	Rosanne Wall Andrea Davitt	Susan Rabb
CO-CHAIRS:	Melissa Aitken and Leigh-Anne Sinclair	
SECRETARY:	Gina Montgomery	

REVIEW AGENDA & PREVIOUS MINUTES

Melissa welcomed everyone to the first Council meeting of the school year. Since there were some new faces, everyone went around the table and introduced themselves.

Melissa led a motion to approve the previous minutes. It was seconded by Leigh-Anne.

Melissa led a motion to approve the agenda “as is”. Gina seconded the motion.

It was brought forward that the positions of Council be elected. The following positions are as follows: Melissa Aitken (Chair); Gina Montgomery (Secretary); Lisa Dixon (Treasurer); Kim Newby (Fundraising Co-ordinator) and Rosanne Wall (Food Co-ordinator). The following members of Council are Members at Large: Marcie Kwindt, Jackie Kimmerly, Jennifer Tackabury, Kristina Ducas, Fiona Livingstone, Lesley Moll and Tina Binns.

Tina asked on clarification of the Music and Art at GMS being semestered. Robyn advised that there are not enough instruments for everyone for the full year, therefore some students take Music for the first term and then other students take Art for the second term, then switch.

CHAIR REPORT – Melissa Aitken

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Melissa advised us that there will be a Speaker Series on Head Injury Prevention and Concussion Management tomorrow evening at the Adult High School on Rochester Street at 7:30 p.m. This is a free seminar.

Cleaning the Capital is underway from Sept. 15 – Oct. 15. Melissa asked if the school is participating. Robyn advised us that the school is registered and students will be going out for a day to clean up the school yard.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – Robyn Darragh

Robyn expressed a thank you to all joining us for the start of the year. We had an incredible start to the school year. All of our students and staff seem to be settled in nicely to the school routine. Currently, we have 368 students. They are divided into 17 centres. In terms of staffing, we have one full time Principal, one half time Vice-Principal, 1 and a half Office staff, 24.33 Teachers, 4.5 Educational Assistants and one half time Library Technician.

Robyn advised that the year began with a four day Orientation week that focused on Character Education. Students participated in a variety of interactive workshops, where they focused on cooperation, empathy, conflict resolution, responsibility, respect and integrity. These workshops were led by teachers that our students do not normally have class with in order to also help them familiarize themselves with the entire Goulbourn team. The concepts learned and the character traits emphasized during this first week of school will allow teachers to refer back and use common language among Goulbourn students as we move forward this year in our development as good citizens.

Presentations were provided by the Goulbourn Orientation Team, our School Resource Officer (Cst. Archibald), and a very special guest, the 1988 Women's Single Figure Skating Silver Medal Olympic Champion, Elizabeth Manley. Ms. Manley shared her personal life story, focusing specifically on her journey to the 1988 Olympic Games. Both students and staff were moved and inspired by Ms. Manley's perseverance, level of personal commitment and responsibility to achieve her dream.

We had a great turn out for our Meet the Teacher event. Thank you to everyone who came out that evening.

You should have received our first newsletter via backpack express. Our email lists are being updated and e-news will be up and running shortly.

Our two Grade 6 classes, as well as Shipley Centre, will participate in the Bill Mason Team Building program. Each class will enjoy a day outdoors next week.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT (CONT'D) – Robyn Darragh

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Once again, we are able to run our after school Literacy and Numeracy Program (aka Homework Club) on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Permission forms were sent home yesterday via backpack express. Electronic copies can be found on the website.

We have once again been approved for the Apple a Day program through the Education Foundation. We receive a \$75 per month grant to purchase snacks for our growing students.

We have been selected to participate in the *Healthy Transitions* mental health program for young adolescents, their parents and teachers. The program was developed by the Child and Youth Health Network for Eastern Ontario, facilitated through the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO). During the five week program, children will learn about:

- Bouncing back from setbacks
- Talking to parents, friends and teachers
- Coping/handling feelings, worries and stress
- How and where to get help if needed

Students in Grade 7 and 8 will receive 5 hours of workshops, staff will be trained and we will host a parent session the evening of November 7th.

We have also qualified to participate in the Ministry of Education subsidized Future Aces project. This program empowers students to reach their potential to make positive differences for themselves as leaders in their schools and communities. There are seven modules that include:

- A two-day teacher training institute in Barrie which Mr. Mahon and Mrs. Friesen will attend on our behalf next week.
- A full school Future Aces presentation.
- Full school staff workshop.
- An inspiring three-day learning experience focusing on esteem and team-building initiatives led by youth leaders for Mr. Mahon, Mrs. Friesen and eight selected Greyhounds in November in Barrie.

Thank you to Rosanne and Fiona for getting the food programs off the ground. Our students always look forward to the special lunch days.

TEACHER'S REPORT

Robyn advised that Mrs. Hillsdon's and Mrs. Roesler's Student Council elections are currently being held in each homeroom. Two members per class are chosen – one as a rep. and one as an alternate.

TEACHER'S REPORT – Terri Klassen

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Mr. Brown and Mr. Mahon report that they are coaching the Senior Boys Touch Football team and have selected the team after 6 tryouts. The regional tournament is on October 20 at the Kanata Rec. Complex on Terry Fox.

The Eager Readers Club takes place every Day 3 in Room 101 with Mrs. Thompson.

Chess Club is beginning. For those who know how to play, it will serve as a time to play some friendly rounds of chess with new friends and classmates. For those interested in learning the game, there will be workshops each week to help teach students the rules and regulations associated with the game.

Shipley Centre is working on putting together a School newspaper, "The Greyhound Gazette"... look for the inaugural edition in October.

Mrs. Friesen advised that the school musical this year in April will be The Little Mermaid. Auditions will begin mid November with lots of opportunity for students to participate in a variety of ways (acting/stage design, stage crew, costumes, etc...)

Mrs. Benoit stated that over 40 Grade 7 and 8 girls came to Touch Football tryouts. Much sportsmanship and athleticism was demonstrated. A team of 14 girls will participate at a tournament on October 17 in Kanata.

Mrs. Andrews advised that Math Counts will run during recess every Day 2 in Room 103. This provides help or a quiet place to work/catch up or complete homework for any student in the school.

Mme Norton advised that Grade 6 Soccer tryouts have begun for both boys and girls. They are held after school.

Mme Klassen stated that this year, over 50 students have come out for two morning runs a week already, 23 of whom are die hards, who show up even for the third optional practice! Our school run, honouring Mr. Richard Kee, will take place October 8 for all of the Phys. Ed. Classes between 10 a.m. and 11:45. The regional race for the Grade 7 and 8 students is October 16 at Walter Baker Park and October 18 for Grade 6. The board finals for Grades 7 and 8 are October 23. We're not called Greyhounds for nothing!

We continue to collect Canadian Tire money to supplement our Phys. Ed. Equipment. Thank you to those families who have already donated.

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Andrea advised that as of August 31, the bank balance is \$11,759.52. Andrea stated that the two shelters that were purchased for sports/events are being returned since they are broken. Sue kindly offered to take them back, in the hopes of getting a refund/exchange. Two food program refund cheques for \$142 were never cashed (stale-dated). The Milk program made a small profit vs. the loss previously mentioned in May. The Grade 8 Grad expenses totalled \$360.63 and Council spent \$1,158.60 more than was raised.

FUNDRAISING REPORT – Melissa Aitken/Rosanne Wall

Melissa advised that there was nothing to report in fundraising.

Gina advised on behalf of Susan that she will be getting out the Vesey Bulb fundraising information in time for fall planting.

ACTION: Sue to send out Vesey Bulb fundraising information.

FOOD PROGRAM REPORT – Rosanne Wall

Nothing to report as Rosanne was absent.

NEW BUSINESS

Melissa discussed the needs assessment for teachers/school. Andrea made a motion to give \$5,000 to Robyn for the needs of the school. The motion was seconded by Gina. All in favour.

Melissa advised that an excellent Anti-bullying seminar was given by Jennifer Laale at Westwinds earlier in the year. She thought that might be a possibility for our school to have her come in to speak. It was decided that due to several upcoming parent information evenings already scheduled, we could reassess and revisit this seminar at a later time. Other options for the students that may be brought in by Council could be a fun evening such as a “Zumba night”.

ADJOURNMENT

Melissa motioned to adjourn the meeting. Marcie seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD TUES., OCTOBER 22, 2013 @ 6:30 P.M.