

Keewatin Public School

School Council Minutes | October 16, 2018 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Present:

Heather Mutch, Alexis Boucha, Tara Vandall, Shayla Smith, Fallon Cody, Jackie Chalkley, Amanda Taylor, Tekla Rundle

RAISE THE FLAG FOR AUTISM

Fallon handed out information packages on Autism awareness and the Raise the Flag event. She discussed the benefits of hosting this event, which include raising money for Autism Ontario and involving and informing our student body (and their parents) about autism.

After some discussion Council decided to move the event date to **Saturday, April 5, 2019**. Initial planning suggests this will be a very involved event, and where we hope to have many parents present, so a weekend date will likely be better attended than a weekday event.

Council brainstormed several ideas for the event:

- Peer presentations: having other KPS students present information about autism to their peers and parents.
- Including members from the O.P.P. to ease (and raise awareness of) concerns autistic parents have when their children encounter first responders.
- Toonies for flags: hand out blank 'flags' for students and parents to design their own, for two dollars each.
- Car raffle: Fallon is working on receiving a donated car to raffle off as a fund raiser.
- Informative posters that can be printed and displayed around the event, possible theme of the top 10 things you wish other parents/kids knew about autistic students.
- Food: as a way to bring people to the event, possibly offering free food. Look into having Gropp's donate all or partial catering, or if the Seven Generations Culinary School could cater for free (or cheap).
- Sensory/informative stations: possibly setting up a series of tables throughout the school (or gym). Each would feature a sensory game to help better understand what autism is like, or present different information about autism.
- Passports: as a way to avoid people just coming for free food, handout 'passports' you get signed at each sensory station, and free food only available when your passport is full.
- Tours: a tour of the special equipment KPS has for autistic and special needs students. Would need OT on hand for this.
- Pig roast: as a feature food, something unique to draw attention to the event.

Council also briefly brainstormed the idea of creating a parent support network for parents of autistic students, who could meet at the school on a regular basis. Several obstacles, such as child care, were raised, and further discussion will likely be required.

SCHEDULE

Council decided to move meeting times back to 6:30 p.m. to accommodate Colleen's availability.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Discussed that the prizes for scariest, silliest, etc. trunk be changed to a 10-pack of passes for the Kenora Rec Centre.

Council also felt that some parents and new parents might not know enough about Trunk or Treat. Determined that a note will be sent home and that Shayla will create a graphic to share on social media.

COAT RACKS

Alexis informed council that Colleen wants to know if we can reimburse her the cost (about \$100) of the new coat racks she added to her classroom. Council approved this, and further decided that the \$250 previously allocated for Forest School can be used instead to help pay for any other coat rack / cubby solutions other classrooms require. (Forest School recently received a generous \$1500 donation from Fallon and her family.)

2018-19 FUNDRAISING

Council brainstormed ideas for new fundraising efforts during this school year, potentially to replace the Luck of the Irish draw. Some ideas included:

- A seedling or planting event of some kind, in the spring, to coincide with a pancake breakfast.
- A memory or keepsake book, similar to a yearbook, that can be pre-sold to the student body and their families.
- A formal gala or dance, as a chance to get dressed up, around Christmas or in the spring.
- A mom's night out.
- A 'Forest School' easter egg hunt.

SANTA CLAUS PARADE

Council briefly discussed showcasing a float in the 2018 Kinsmen Santa Claus Parade. Shayla volunteered to be the lead on this project.

NEXT MEETING IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20 AT 6:30 P.M.