**PTA Meeting - Minutes**

**November 5, 2018**

In Attendance: Ms. Taylor, Ms. Kerr, Colleen Dempsey, Robin Paddock

Next Meeting: December 3, 2018 @ 6:30pm

**Fundraising Activities**

**Halloween at HRH:**

* Successful - profited about $2K, which is comparable to last year.
* There were concerns from some parents that charging $10 admission was too high. It was noted by Ms. Taylor that there are some families that the school is aware of that likely can’t afford an admission fee and it’s always waived for them. Everyone in attendance agreed $10 isn’t too much.
* It was noted that there were many people coming in through the back doors where the second canteen was set up. Those people were sent through the school to the front lobby to pay their admission. Maybe we will start taking admission fees at the back door at future events, which will cut down on the crowd in the front lobby.

**Christmas Event: December 20, 2018, Potpourri and Reindeer Food**

* Volunteers will bring carts around to each classroom for the kids to make a bag of Christmas potpourri (made out of cinnamon sticks, cranberries, and oranges) to be simmered on the stove on Christmas Eve.
* Reindeer food can be made by each child as well, which is made of oatmeal and glitter.
* Will have three carts with two volunteers each. Will take approximately 30 mins per class. Each cart will do six classrooms.
* We will figure out who is doing what at the next meeting on Dec. 3. Here is what we know:
  + Amy agreed to do the classroom scheduling
  + Colleen is away that day so she cannot volunteer. Alicia, Bonnie, and Robin likely can volunteer.
  + Alicia’s husband can print the cards at Staples
  + Last year the materials were purchased at Costco, Michael’s, and Bulk Barn

**February Event: February 7, 2019, Paint Nite with Empty Nest Designs (END)**

* Colleen has reached out to END, who ran the paint nite last year. Waiting to hear back.
* Some feedback from last year was that painting canvasses was tedious for some of the smaller kids, so this year we may be able to paint wooden décor as well. END has some samples on its Facebook page if anyone wants to take a look.
* **ACTION:** Robin is going to reach out to Amy or Ms. Brown to find out the profitability of this event from last year, but we received approx. 50% of the profit from each canvas sold.
* Last year we offered the leftover canteen items for everyone to snack on (note, we did not sell them). Plan to do the same this year.

**Other Fundraising Ideas:**

1. An iCLEBO vacuum was donated to the school. Its value is approx. $800. PTA will sell tickets on this (we didn’t talk about logistics yet).
2. Gift Card Tree: we will put out a call for families to donate any gift cards they receive at Christmas that they don’t plan on using and we will make a GC tree. Will put the ask in the newsletter after Christmas. Wally Haddad offered to keep it at his store and sell tickets on it for a few weeks. We can also send out tickets with each student to sell.

**Funding Items/Ideas**

**Alternate Seating/Furniture:**

* Ms. Taylor showed us some of the items the school currently has: a stand-up desk, a rocking chair, a tray that a student can use like a desk if they want to sit on the floor and work, and a wobbly chair.
* **ACTION:** Ms. Taylor is going to ask the teachers for their wish list, as well as their feedback on the items mentioned above.
* There was talk about the places we can purchase the items from: Wheatons for wooden furniture (Colleen also said her dad can make any wooden items for the school at cost); Brain Candy at Sunnyside Mall (Colleen has a working relationship with the owner Darren); and Scholar’s Choice (**ACTION:** Colleen will drop off a catalogue to the school).

**Chromebooks:**

* There are currently four Chromebook carts that are in high demand.
* Staff would like one more cart, purchased by the PTA. This is something that we can consider funding.

**Water Fountains:**

* There was some conversation around possibly replacing some or all of the four water fountains at the school with filtered hydration stations, or water bottle filling stations, similar to what is at the BMO Centre, to be funded by the PTA.
* It was noted that this might not be a great idea since they might be used as toys by some of the students (not verbatim) – the button may just be pushed for fun, for example.
* We looked at them online – the prices fluctuate quite a bit but seem to start at around $1,300 (Home Depot). Some of the brands are Brita and Franke (this is the brand used at the BMO Centre). Not sure how the maintenance would work (i.e. the upkeep and changing of the filters) or how much it would be.
* There was also some discussion around how the school is currently on a well but will be getting city water soon. We may have to wait for the city water to be turned on before we can make any changes to the current water fountains.
* **ACTION:** Ms. Taylor is going to inquire with HRCE:
  + Do we need approval from HRCE to do this since the water fountains are part of the building?
  + Is there already some type of budget for building maintenance that can be used for this?
  + Is there a preferred contractor who can supply, install, and maintain this type of product (we were thinking there might be someone who is already providing this product/service to some of the newer schools)?
  + Do we have to wait until we are on city water before we can even consider something like this?

**Teachers’ Supplies:**

* We are happy to report that we have funded the teachers approx. $4,000 for classroom supplies