**Riverview Central School**

**School Council Minutes**

**May 15 20, 2017 at 5:45 p.m.**

School Council Representatives Present: Paul Veriker (Acting Principal), Greer Macdonell, Jessica Wood, Lisa VanderVeeken, Heather Arnold, Carol Flanagan, Julie Johnston, Anne Hazzard, Kevin McGlade, Travis Hooper.

Also in Attendance: Amy VandenDool, Dennis Robinson, Bob Murphy, Bradon Burnham, Dave VandenDool, Renee Depooter, Kevin Depooter, Cindy Woolman, Stacey Rosseel, Nikki Leach, Tammy Wirtz, Stacy Goethals, Will Goethals, Patty Delisle, Sherri Davis, Bryan Gray, Monique Hazzard.

Absent: Lillian Rota

Minutes: Jessica Wood

Additions / Corrections

• Item #5 - Student Safety Concerns and Lockdowns moved to the beginning of the meeting.

1. Welcome and Introductions
   * Motion of business accepted and passed by School Council Representatives
2. Student Safety Concerns and Lockdowns
   * Mr. Veriker acknowledged why the concern has been placed on the agenda and offered an explanation of the process for "lockdown" situations and other similar circumstances.
   * Parents expressed concerns related to the term "hot water man" used by children during an incident in the school.
   * Parents concerned about student being able to keep personal cell phone on their person. Parent suggested the child in question go to the office to use the phone as this can be distracting to other students and may portray unfairness between children.
   * Several parents shared the concern that families have left or are thinking of leaving the school and attending a different school due to concerns of safety and resources being "pulled" from "well behaved" children and going toward children with more immediate needs.
   * The Safe School Act was discussed by Mr. Veriker with the group.
   * An incident occurring in the grade 8 classroom today was confidentially described with the incident and repercussions explained.
   * The majority of parents who attended the meeting have strongly requested better communication from the principal with regards to incidents that take place at the school. The request includes details of the incident which occur, with respect to confidentiality of the student(s) involved, what actions took place to ensure the safety of the children and measures that parents can take to help alleviate fear and/or anxiety of their children and asked for suggestions of debriefing strategies.
   * Several parents requested the process of how a child can be suspended or expelled from a school, i.e. the number of violent outbursts or incidents a child has to exhibit before the school takes a more aggressive approach.
   * Parents are concerned that their own children are suffering academically due to these violent outbursts or incidents in which students have to "catch-up" on work missed or as a result of resources and teachers' time being spent with the child/children with behavioural concerns.
   * Parents expressed worry about the child/children who are having these outbursts and if they are receiving the help they need.
   * Mr. Veriker discussed what progress has been made and what possible next steps can be made to help alleviate the fears that parents are expressing.
   * Parents expressed their disappointment in the prioritization of communication, i.e. letters sent home regarding the USA presidential election and how to talk to our children about any concern or fear they may have, but no letter sent home when a child/children are violent at school.
   * Parents stated they have a "lack of confidence" that issues will be addressed when they are brought forward to the principal.
   * Mr. Veriker stated he plans to request a Police Officer review of the lockdown procedure and make suggestions for improvement. He feels a mock "lock down" may be beneficial to students and teachers. Some parents requested they attend the mock drill; Mr. Veriker was in agreement to allow a small number of parents/grandparents to observe the drill.
   * The School Council Principal Profile was reviewed by Greer. Mr. Veriker suggested a subcommittee meet with the Superintendent for the LKDSB to review the concerns expressed.
   * Greer agreed to ensure the minutes from meeting were posted on the school website and a link added to the Facebook page.
   * Recommendation made for the Best Start Hub to be debriefed after future incidents occur.
3. Best Start Report: C. Flanagan
   * Sombra Township Child Care 25th anniversary will be celebrated at Brander Park in September.
   * Graduation of the preschoolers will take place June 21, 2017.
4. Principal's Report: L. Rota
   * Spirit Days to promote school spirit, community involvement and awareness:
     + Tie Dye Day March 28,
     + National Tartan Day April 6,
     + Hat Day April 18,
     + Wacky Hair Day May 12
   * School Events:
     + STEM Night was a huge success. Everyone particularly enjoyed the Egg Drop. Thank you to all the School Council members who assisted.
     + Musical and Talent Show on May 11th was well attended and enjoyed by all. Thanks to Mrs. Pedersen, Mrs. Glover, Mrs. Kilbride and Mrs. Brenda Mann for planning and assisting with this event.
   * Fundraising for Charities:
     + Jump Rope for Heart event held on May 5th raised $2130.00
   * Water Bottle Station Update: The water bottle filling station has been purchased by the LKDSB but the installation process is going to be very extensive so it will be installed in the summer.
   * Cross Walk Update: The proposal sent into the municipality was approved. (Solar flashing lights and a sign indicating a reduced speed of 50 km/h during the school’s arrival and departure times.) St. Clair Township has purchased the equipment and a contract to install had been awarded. We are just waiting for the company to install it.
   * Fundraising for the School
     + Big Box of Cards: We are waiting for a few Big Boxes of Cards that were sent home to be returned to the school. Once this is complete the total profit will be able to be calculated.
     + Flower Fundraiser: Flowers were picked up on Tuesday and Wednesday, a few orders were missing so they have been re-ordered.
5. New Business

* Track and Field date is May 16th and May 18th is the rain date.
* Timeline for EQAO for grade 3 and 6 students is May 23rd till June 5th.
* Grade 8 Graduation date is Tuesday, June 27th at 5:30 p.m., to be held at Wilkesport Community Hall.
* School Council $500 Amount: An official vote on how to spend this money has been requested. Previous suggestions made at School Council Meetings were:
  + A school wide art project made out of paint sticks. Anne Hazzard provided a calculation of the cost of this project. LKDSB Building Services has given suggestions on the materials required and the regulations we would need to follow for the installation process.
  + Gardening equipment including gloves and trowels to be purchased with the remaining funds.
  + A vote transpired for the use of the School Council $500 to be used for the above noted items; all members in agreement, none opposed.

1. Other Business
   * Student Safety Concerns and Lockdowns placed at the beginning of the meeting.
   * Snack Program: Heather announced that she will no longer be holding the full time position of snack program lead for the next school year (2017/2018) and is looking for a volunteer to take over.
2. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.