

**CLEARSPRING MIDDLE SCHOOL PAC MEETING**  
**Thursday, October 19, 2023**  
**12:00 pm Board Room**

Attendance: Merrilee Plett, Candace Campbell, Sherri Trinh, Melissa Thiessen, Janelle Unrau, Kali Dyck, Tiffany Sawatzky, Jody Klebert, Carla Barkman, Wendy Buhler, Amanda Manchulenko, and Tanya Penner

**1. Welcome - Melissa Thiessen**

- Call to order at 12:02 pm

**2. Adoption of Minutes from June 1st, 2023 Meeting - Melissa Thiessen**

- Moved by Tanya Penner. 2nd by Carla Barkman.

**3. Adoption of Agenda - Melissa Thiessen**

- Moved by Janelle Unrau. 2nd by Tiffany Sawatzky.

**4. Financial Report – Janelle Unrau**

- See handout. Balance as of September 31, 2023, is \$4531.32.
- The school has \$3000 in an account that was given by PAC. This is specifically designated for the school playground.
- \$20 late deposit from the Grade 8 Farewell. Interest of \$0.19.
- SCU needs the AGM Minutes and who the Vice Chair is.

**5. School Report – Merrilee Plett**

Playground Update:

- ValleyWest is looking after the “Hobbit Hill”. Still hoping to have this completed before Winter.

Parking Lots:

- We are short 2 teachers this year due to financial cuts. However, there is more staff because of EAs. We have 23 EAs this year through the help of funding from Jordan’s Principle. Jordan’s Principle is federally funded for indigenous students. It ensures that First Nations children can access the products, services, and support they need when they need them. CMS has been able to hire more EAs through this program.
- The School has approached the division regarding the expansion of the parking lot as many times the lot is completely full.

Snow Day Booklets:

- Teachers will post work on Snow Days which is optional.

Spirit Week:

- End of October the school is having Sprit Week.
  - Thursday (26) - Sport’s Day      Friday (27) - Movie Madness
  - Monday (30) - 80’s Day      Tuesday (31) - Costume Day

### School Events/Activities:

- Cross Country: 120 students from *Grades 5-8*. Our school received 8 banners.
- *Volleyball*: going strong.
- School Athletic Teams: Safety expectations have changed and now a teacher is required to attend games and tournaments. Parent Volunteers are no longer allowed to go alone with the team. Puts a bit of a strain on finding teachers able to go during the evenings and weekends.

### Parent Teacher Meetings:

- November 15th. Parents can sign up through the Parent Portal.
- Report cards come out December 1st which is AFTER the meetings. This is intentionally done so that the conversation between teacher and parents is based on learning rather than their marks. Teachers see a big increase in students' work effort after these meetings.

### Cell Phone Usage:

- School is considering not allowing cell phones at school. The realization that there are both pros and cons to such a decision.
- There is a lot of online usage (after school hours) that is inappropriate and the school is being called as it includes different students. Staff are trying to address this as best they can.
- Would like to get ICE Unit (Internet Child Exploitation) to come. They offer a presentation that gives parents knowledge of what is going on and how to navigate.

### Fundraisers:

- New Bothwell Cheese in Fall/Winter.

#### **6. Questions/Response to Principal Report –Melissa Thiessen**

- Parents asked for a dairy-free cheese option for the fundraiser.
- Parents brought up the dress code and some inappropriate shirts girls are wearing. It is a sensitive issue to talk to parents about but it is being addressed.
- Lots of discussion on the cell phone issues. Many questions about how this would work (kids sneaking it now, parent pick-ups, data usage etc...). School Google chat is being shut down.

#### **7. Vice Chair Position - Melissa Thiessen**

- Tiffany Sawatzky has been nominated and has let her name stand.
- Call for any other nominations.
- Tiffany Sawatzky is in as Vice Chair.

#### **8. Grade 8 Farewell - Melissa Thiessen**

- Neufeld's Garage has been booked for Wednesday, June 26, 2024.

#### **9. Meetings - Melissa Thiessen**

- There was a discussion regarding the best time for meetings. It was decided we would mix up the meetings with some noon and evening times. But if we see no difference in attendance we will stick to noon meetings.
- Thursday, November 16th at 6:30 pm (there may be some conflicts in schedules).

The meeting adjourned at 12:56 pm