



Minutes

Tuscany School Enhancement Society (TSES)

February 18, 2021 at 6:30pm

- Via Zoom -

Call to Order & Welcome

Meeting called to order at 6:32pm.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motioned by Roxanne, seconded by Deanna.

Approval of January 14, 2021 Minutes

Motioned by Maureen, seconded by Vicky.

Budget Update

The General account has \$10,466.49 (Before cheques are cashed)

I have issued all tax receipts for this year's one-time donations. We have issued two cheques so far in February, one for \$2,063.36 for French home reading and \$1035.72 for iPads under technology. We have now cleared all one-time donations from last year. Account total after cheques clear: \$7,367.41

Here is the breakdown of the account we have:

\$2,951.44 remaining in this year's One-time donations

\$249.58 carry over from Special Events, Halloween dance

\$2180.03 Company Donations

\$200.00 Parent night raffle

\$1784.33 carry over from a previous GIC.

GENERAL ACCOUNT			
TSES ONE TIME DONATIONS			
Donation Designation	Allotted Amount 2020-2021	Actual Amount Spent 2020-2021	Funds Remaining
Home Reading	\$ -	\$0.00	\$ -
Technology	\$ 350.00	-\$350.00	\$ -
Arts	\$ -		\$ -
General Enhancements	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00
Any of the above	\$ 5,650.52	-\$2,749.08	\$ 2,901.44
Total Amount	\$ 6,050.52	-\$3,099.08	\$ 2,951.44

The Casino account is at **\$62,483.64**. We just issued two cheques for Casino account, \$5825.13 for Chromebooks and \$2270.76 for Document cameras. Balance of account after cheques clear: **\$54,387.75**

	Casino Account Budget 2020-2021		
Description Of item	Budget	Actual Expenses	Remaining
2020-2021 Budget Items			
Artist In Residency	-\$6,000.00		
Visual Journals	-\$2,400.00	-\$2,336.80	
Words, Words, Words	-\$500.00	-\$427.99	
Gardening Supplies	-\$250.00		
Alotted Amount to hold in account	-\$5,000.00	-\$5,000.00	
Insurance for 2019-2020	-\$840.00	-\$840.00	
Document Camers(Equipment)	-\$3,000.00	-\$2,270.76	
ChromeBooks	-\$6,100.00	-\$5,825.13	
PE Equipment	-\$586.38	-\$586.38	
Sound Creations	-\$5,906.25		
TU4HL(\$500 from previous year and \$500.00 this year)	-\$1,000.00	-\$320.50	-\$679.50
Total wishlist	-\$31,582.63	-\$17,607.56	
Starting Account Balance	\$66,978.86	66,978.86	
Total of Wishlist Items	-\$31,582.63	-\$17,607.56	
Estimated Balance for 2021-2022 school year	\$35,396.23	\$49,371.30	(Including \$5000.00 hold back)
Alien in Line	-\$5,500.00	-\$5,283.20	

New Business

Succession for 2021-22:

President

Secretary

Treasurer

Looking for someone to step into these roles in June.

Next Meeting

Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 6:30pm.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.



Minutes

Tuscany School Council Meeting
February 18, 2021 at 7:00pm
- Via Zoom -

Call to Order & Welcome

Meeting called to order at 6:40pm.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motioned by Roxanne, seconded by Melanie.

Approval of January 14, 2021 Minutes

Motioned by Vicky, seconded by Kelsey.

Committee Updates

Budget – Not a lot of spending this year. Account sits at \$14,398.24 on the last statement - pretty high relative to where we would normally be – only spent on teacher appreciation.

Spirit Wear – 33 items ordered in our last fundraiser, with quite a few pink shirts ordered. We just received an adjustment from our fall campaign and have made an additional \$360.

Fun Lunch/Fun Snack – Vicky: Questions coming in on Fun lunch - why are we only doing fun snack unlike some other schools. Harder to organize without parent volunteers to organize, distribute and clean. We have made \$867.45 so far with average number of orders 245. Tim Horton's coming up next week – orders due by Friday night. Maureen is interested in stepping into this role for next year.

Is it possible to have an additional snack? Possibly – Vicky will touch base with Cindy, but already a lot on their plate. Better situation now than we were in the fall.

Fun Snack for Kinders – Karen – we've done 3 already. Will do four more aligned with Fun Snack on Thursdays (one day earlier) – email to come.

Read-a-thon – Judith has offered to oversee the Read-a-thon this year running March 1-14, with Shaz away. We ask that parents please tally up the minutes on the form and those forms will be due on March 19th. Read-a-thon forms to go out next week with students. This is our 7th year in a row running this fundraiser. Hub students will be invited to participate.

COSC – Sasha – presentation and notes were sent out by email. A lot of talk around taking the initiative to talk to kids about their mental health. Other schools talked about what fundraisers worked for them – some new ideas for fundraisers for us to consider in the future. Michelle PB – expressed the need to really talk to their kids about mental health – some of the videos have been very helpful.

Naturalization – Morgan will plan some time to discuss fall plans with Ms. White and Mrs. Batchelor.

Kiss 'n Drop – Chelsea B: We have a few new volunteers, which is great. Can't park in Kiss 'n Drop zone, no idling zone either so please don't wait for your child in the Kiss 'n Drop zone.

Principal's Report

Welcome to our new Assistant Principal, Laura Devitt. Great introduction to Tuscany School since starting on February 8th, in her 30th year with the CBE. Very pleased to be at Tuscany School.

Looking Forward

Looking towards September of 2021 – Jan/Feb are typically the planning stages for next year and we have 505 students projected for next year. Time of year to have 1 on 1 meeting with school staff to discuss to current successes and ideas for next year. Like to bring in parent voices.

Covid has an impact on our children's learnings and kids are struggling – teachers are seeing it as well. School doesn't look like what it looked like last March. Cold snap – increase in irritability and less cooperation with others. Looking for ways for kids to give voices to their feelings. If they can voice it, can work towards solving – Plan B approach. Had to created COVID cohorts and now have limited accessibility to others, increasing the irritability – children are missing their friends across the grades. These relationships are critical for our relationships. Bonhomme was a big hit – built a sense of joyfulness in the students. Our Hub classes impacted our classes for September. It was not as embraced as we thought it would be and impacted our multi age grouping plans. Budget – loss of class size funding, PUF funding has the biggest impact on K-4 schools and we lost 5 teachers due to this process. We must be responsible in our planning – not expecting any windfalls next year.

Our learning leaders have taken on new roles – teaching roles in small group formats.

The unknown – we can't predict what is going to happen in September – will there be HUB – don't know? What impact will the variants have? Where have all the Kinders gone? Had more registered then showed up this year. We don't know how many might shift into French Immersion at Tuscany School to Grade 1 from other community schools. Will there be more budget cuts?

Eric Harvie – started their school multi-aging. Cindy doesn't like budget driving decision making – but the budget is creating circumstances and numbers are creating a need to look. We need to make sure all of the children have the curricular outcomes they need. Set the stage about how we are moving forward and the conversation on around multi aging outside of any budget discussions.

Our staff are comfortable with multi aging. Parent's expressed concerns, but said they are willing to be convinced otherwise. Will carry forward with sending out a survey which will include information on multi-aging. Research based information that discusses pros and cons. Cindy stated that she would not do just one class with multi-aging like the one class 3/4 like was done this year.

Question – some kids can't get past the 'listening' to other instructions. The learning outcomes are woven together – this not split grades, multi-aging is different. Laura has been a principal at two schools with multi-aging – it is a whole school approach where teachers skillfully work together and plan and teach each child as unique individuals.

The range of ability in any grouping of children, whether it is a single grade group or a multiage approach, is always vast. The educator's work is to give each child what it is they need. Multi aging would not include Kindergarten classes.

Question – does research show any benefits of multi-aging moving into Middle School/High School? Answer – it's more important on supports, bringing the child forward and their learning experiences support their needs – they see themselves as critical thinkers and being inquisitive – Cindy is going to include voices of adults who have gone through multi-aging in their backgrounds. Does multi-aging give them more coping strategies? Benefits appear around the village approach and leadership opportunities are able to surface. Can ask for help and be a leader in the same environment. Building tool belts – what are the tools each child needs to be successful? Every child's tool belt is individual to them. Gives them compassion, empathy, leadership, patience.

Progression to TMC, do the grade 4's get to do something so that they have strong connections going into TMC? Yes – restrictions permitting.

Community: Will be 1/2 and 3/4 and FI: Will be 1/2 and 3/4/5

How do kids with learning disabilities/struggles/challenges manage in this environment? Those kids still develop a tool belt to work on the things that they need. It becomes quite individualized for the student and the plan for the child.

Another question about social issues – gravitating to ‘younger’ kids, may not help to benefit the social skills? Every age groups play together. There is exposure to both – same age and multi-age. Social play with those they want to, but in the classroom, they can interact with both.

Can teacher handle it, will they know the children’s individual needs? Teachers say they can handle it and know the children well and communicate with parents. Staff can be successful and work with parents to ensure child success.

What’s going to happen when standardize tests roll around? Cindy - grade 3’s testing has been eliminated. Standardized tests happen in Grade 6 now. By Grade 6, students are able to apply their cumulative knowledge. It’s not about straight memorizing – with maybe the exception of Science.

Concerns around ADHD and belief that neurodiverse children will be left behind. Cindy – teachers never work in isolation and always have the ‘team’. Kari, Colleen, Cindy and Laura will help strategize and be part of the plan.

Do children progress beyond their grade level or directed to work on areas of weakness? Children will be engaged in math at deeper levels and still be lifted in their literacy skills? Keri – there is already a very wide range of abilities in straight grades, as well as multi-ages and teacher’s jobs are continuing to move kids forward.

Concerns on curriculum goals being met with having to teach more than one curriculum. Teachers have a lot more responsibility.

Unique Socks

We are going to do colorful socks on Monday - March 22nd. Adrienne has dropped off two wonderful books to be read by the teachers about being unique with an extra chromosome. We are going to do unique socks at home – gives them ways to show them how they are unique, but part of village.

Conferences

Virtual conferences are being held a bit earlier in March 11 and 12th. Spring Break is a week later than usual – end of March and beginning of April.

New Business

Succession for 2021-22 School Year:

Chair

Vice-Chair

Secretary

Communications

Fun Lunch * Interest Shown by Maureen Adams

Fun Snack (One-year term)

Teacher Appreciation * Interest Shown by Sasha Willard

Grade 4 & 5 FI Farewell (One-year terms)

Special Events

Next Meeting

Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 7:00pm.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:33pm

Attendance

Michelle PB, Jennifer D, Deanna H, Marty K, Sasha K, Vicky A, Melanie G, Roxanne W, Karen T, Krista C, Amit S, Kelsey S, Chelsea B, Maureen A, Morgan K, Barbie W, Emma C