**William Hamilton Merritt Parent Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, 5th of December 2017**

In attendance: Claire Gregory, Abolfazl Rafiepour, Mirella Colantoni, Kerri Rogers, Krstina

Dickinson, Cheryl D’Costa, Cathy Fletcher, Zohra Zafar, Acting Principal Mr. M. McLean,

Teaching Rep-Mr. Stan Pawlik

Regrets: Tricia Hall, Erica Lawrence, Julie Jehan, Debby Leigh, Principal-Mr. Salter

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| Issue or Topic: | **Welcome – Old Business** |
| Brought to attention by: | Claire Gregory, Mr. Pawlik, Krstina Dickinson and Cathy Fletcher |
| Points of  Discussion: | **Book Fair:** Was yet again a huge success! We surpassed the goal of $3,500 and raised $3,653! Our school will receive 60% back to spend on books and other items from Scholastic. Well done Mr. Pawlik, volunteers and families. **ChromeBooks Financial Breakdown Clarification:** Board paid $1500 towards the purchase and Council paid $2000.  **Recruitment Committee Table at Parent Teacher Interview Night:** Krstina and Cathy are off to a good start and had 13 new people express an interest in helping out council in areas that may appeal to them. Their emails have been recorded and we will contact them as needed. Principal McLean will mention again in the next newsletter that if anyone is interested in helping us out to contact the office with their email address. **Staff Coffee Keurig Machine:** As a present to staff, we personally have bought them a Keurig for $100. Please pay what you can to Claire to help with the cost if you so kindly wish. |
| Action  Required: | All: See Claire to pay. |

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| Issue or Topic: | **New Business** |
| Brought to attention by: | Claire |
| Points of  Discussion: | **Dance-A-Thon:** The date set is **Wednesday, February 14th**. Grade 8’s will help out the committee of Claire, Krstina, Kerri, Cathy, Cheryl and Mirella  **Trivia Night:** Tentatively planned for **Friday April 20th.** Claire will check Club LaSalle availability and form a committee-to be confirmed in the new year. |
| Action  Required: | As noted above. |

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| Issue or Topic: | **Treasurer’s Report** |
| Brought to attention by: | Krstina Dickinson |
| Points of  Discussion: | We have a balance of $6,346.62. Krstina reminded all that we have offered from our funds, $100 per teacher to spend on incidentals that will help enhance the classroom learning experience. Approx: $1,400. |
| Action  Required: | N/A |

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| Issue or Topic: | **Principal’s Report** |
| Brought to attention by: | Mr. M. McLean |
|  | As many of us know, there are two new faces at the office and we welcome them both. Mrs. Dorothy Harwood has taken over the duties as  Administrative Assistant from Mrs. Lockhart. Mr. Michael McLean has been named Acting Principal in relief of Mr. Salter and Mrs. Deluca Gates. Mr. Salter is still recovering from hip surgery and it is unknown at this time when he will return.    **New! Sip and Sing!** On **Tuesday, December 19th at 6:00 pm,** please come and join the William Hamilton Merritt students and staff celebrate the winter holidays with a Sip and Sing. Please bring your favorite mug to enjoy some hot chocolate or coffee and some timbits. Don’t forget to also bring your singing voice so you can sing some of the winter holiday favourites led by Mr. Barrett. Weather permitting, we will be singing outside on the lower tarmac near the playground and if not, we will be in the gym. A note will go home prior to this event so we can plan on the amounts we will require to make this an enjoyable night for all.    **Visiting Parents:** Whilst we want parents to feel welcomed in the school, there are some concerns for student’s safety and privacy when parents roam halls to drop off or pick up their child, bring a lunch etc. All visitors must come into the office and speak with Mrs. Harwood or Mr. McLean regarding the visit. They will be happy to help with the task. We hope all will help to create a safe environment that is conducive to learning and personal privacy. |
|  | **Communication:** Parent council cannot stress enough the importance of a good stream of effective communication with the office in regards to school information, activities or events. Emails, robocalls and other reminders are welcomed and very helpful to the busy families of today.    **Math Workshops:** Continue to be offered with the focus being on using proper math vocabulary. The children will then be prepared with knowledge of specific math language when approaching a test or assessment.    **Brock Student Tutors**: We are entitled to receive 100 hours of tutoring help from 2 Brock Students in the New Year. With Mr. Bos, the 2 young ladies will be available to tutor our younger students during periods 1 and 2, with early reading intervention being the focus.    **Grade 6 - Camp K:** Is on hold at the moment and another trip may be considered for the spring time.    **Clubs and Intramurals:** Some clubs are already in progress with some new clubs hopefully beginning in the New Year: Chess, Coding, Sign Language (Thank you Cathy!) and others. Mr. Lewis, Mr. Bos and Mr. Pawlik are also looking to run intramural sports which would be very well received and welcomed.    **Mrs. Serroul:** Who has been off a couple years due to health issues, is currently back with the Return to Work program. We have missed her and are very pleased to have her return to school part time in teaching some Core French. |
| Action  Required: | As noted above. |

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 23rd, 2018 -6:30pm**