

Parent Council Meeting Minutes – March 18, 2025

Generated by AI.

Meeting notes:

- **Principal's Report:** Valerie and Christian discussed the principal's report, which included a video message from Krishna. The report covered several important initiatives, including the 2025-2026 school year calendar, budget survey, virtual school survey, math and literacy resources, AI in education, student census, and human rights report.
 - **2025-2026 Calendar:** Krishna's video message highlighted that option three was selected for the 2025-2026 school year calendar by most families, staff, and students. The Board of Trustees has approved this calendar, and it is awaiting Ministry of Education approval.
 - **Budget Survey:** The 2025-2026 school year budget survey is open until March 21, 2025. Families, students, staff, and community members are invited to provide feedback to help the Board of Trustees make decisions to best serve students' needs. The survey is voluntary, anonymous, and confidential.
 - **Virtual School Survey:** Families interested in enrolling their students in virtual school for the 2025-2026 school year should complete the survey by March 22, 2025. This helps with early planning for the next school year. The virtual school option is for students who learn best online or need a virtual environment due to medical reasons.
 - **AI in Education:** Limestone established an AI steering committee in fall 2024 to develop guiding principles, resources, and information for educators. The goal is to help students use generative AI tools effectively, responsibly, and productively while prioritizing privacy, safety, equity, wellness, and teacher-student relationships.
 - **Human Rights Report:** The 2023-2024 human rights report will be shared in the next month. This report is based on the Limestone District School Board's student human rights reporting tool, launched in October 2022, and aims to address issues such as discrimination, harassment, and other human rights violations.

- **Supplementary EA Allocation:** Valerie announced that the school received confirmation to keep their current allocation of supplementary EAs until June. This ensures job security for staff and continued support for students.
 - **EA Allocation:** The school has been allocated 5.25 EAs, which includes the regular 2.5 EAs and an additional 2.75 EAs due to the needs of the students. This allocation is confirmed to be maintained until June.
- **Math Achievement Action Plan:** Valerie shared that the school is working on implementing the math achievement action plan from the board. This involves reviewing best practices in math and ensuring consistency in teaching across classes.
 - **Best Practices Review:** The school is reviewing best practices in math to ensure that they are following the curriculum, teaching the right number of minutes of math, and using the right tools. This review is happening during staff meetings, PA days, and coaching days.
 - **Coaching Support:** A coach has been assigned to support teachers in implementing the math achievement action plan. The coach's role includes co-planning, co-teaching, and co-learning with teachers to ensure that the strategies of the ministry and the board are effectively put in place.
- **Kindergarten Sandbox:** Erin brought up the idea of a sandbox for the kindergarten class, which was discussed in the fall. Valerie confirmed that there is a plan in place for the sandbox.
- **Basketball Nets for Primary Kids:** Erin mentioned the need for shorter basketball nets for primary kids in the gym. The group discussed finding a solution, such as replacing the nets or building new ones.
 - **Net Replacement:** Erin highlighted the need for shorter basketball nets for primary kids in the gym. The group discussed the possibility of replacing the existing nets or building new ones to accommodate the younger students.
 - **Custom Nets:** The group considered whether the shorter nets could be custom-built or if they could find manufactured options. They discussed the importance of finding a solution that would be valuable for the whole school.
- **Kindergarten Cooking Request:** A kindergarten class requested \$200 for their monthly cooking activities. The group discussed the potential inequity of funding one class's activities and considered alternative ways to support the request.

- **Funding Request:** A kindergarten class requested \$200 to support their monthly cooking activities. The group discussed the potential inequity of funding one class's activities and considered whether similar support should be extended to other classes.
- **Alternative Support:** The group explored alternative ways to support the kindergarten class's cooking activities, such as seeking donations from parents or using gift cards. They also discussed the possibility of having the class participate in student projects to secure funding.
- **Equity Concerns:** Concerns were raised about the equity of providing \$200 to one class for consumable items like food, while other classes might also have similar needs. The group considered how to ensure fair distribution of resources across all classes.
- **Fundraising Efforts:** Rebecca provided an update on fundraising efforts, including the Fun Script program and the successful Domino's pizza fundraiser. The group discussed exploring other fundraising options and continuing with the pizza fundraisers.
 - **Fun Script Program:** Rebecca mentioned that the Fun Script program has not been well-attended, with many people registered but not purchasing. The group discussed the possibility of doing a paper order to increase participation.
 - **Domino's Fundraiser:** The Domino's pizza fundraiser was successful, raising close to \$1000 for the library with minimal effort. The group decided to continue with the Domino's fundraisers, as they are easy to organize and generate significant funds.
 - **Exploring Options:** The group discussed exploring other fundraising options similar to Fun Script to find a continuous flow fundraiser that works. They emphasized the importance of finding easy and effective ways to raise funds for the school.
- **Spring Bling and Crafty Things:** Alicia and Patty proposed a new initiative called "Spring Bling and Crafty Things," where students can create and sell crafts to raise money for the school. The event will be held alongside the pop cycle sale.
 - **Event Proposal:** Alicia and Patty proposed the "Spring Bling and Crafty Things" event, where students can create and sell crafts to raise money for

the school. The event will be held alongside the pop cycle sale, providing an opportunity for students to learn about business and fundraising.

- **Student Participation:** Students will sign up to participate in the event, creating crafts to sell. Each student will donate one craft to the council table, with the funds raised from that table going towards student-led initiatives at the school.
- **Logistics:** The event will be organized with time slots for students to sell their crafts, ensuring that not all students are at the table at once. The group discussed the importance of having an adult present to handle the cash box and assist with transactions.
- **Rocks and Rings Program:** Paul suggested bringing the Rocks and Rings program to the school to teach students about curling. Valerie shared her positive experience with the program at her previous school, and the group expressed interest in exploring this option for the next school year.
 - **Program Overview:** Paul suggested the Rocks and Rings program, which teaches students about curling using stones on wheels and ball bearings. Valerie shared her positive experience with the program at her previous school, noting that the kids loved it.
 - **Future Planning:** The group expressed interest in exploring the Rocks and Rings program for the next school year. Paul mentioned that the program is not expensive, and he will come back with more details on costs and available dates.
- **Board Games Funding:** Christian and the group discussed funding for board games, with a proposed initial seed of \$250 to build a collection of games for the school. The group agreed to focus on purchasing games from Nexus to support the local business.
- **Library Wish List:** Valerie provided an update on the library wish list, which includes items such as books and rocking chairs. The group approved a \$2500 budget to start purchasing items from the wish list.
- **Library Management:** The group discussed the challenges of managing the library without a librarian and considered various solutions, such as using a digital system or implementing a simple check-out process.

- **Carpenters Union Donation:** The group discussed the possibility of receiving a donation from the Carpenters Union to build a sound baffle partition for the library. They agreed to ask for the amount needed to cover the cost of the wall.
- **Student-Led Initiatives:** Christian provided an update on student-led initiatives, noting that there are currently no applications but there may be requests in the works. The group discussed potential projects, such as the basketball hoops for primary kids.
- **Memorial Centre Farmers Market:** Cat announced that the school will have a presence at the Memorial Centre Farmers Market on March 30th to raise awareness and funds for the library. Volunteers and students are encouraged to participate.

Follow-up tasks:

- **Sandbox for Kindergarten:** Follow up on the status and plan for the sandbox for the kindergarten class. (Valerie)
- **Basketball Nets:** Investigate and find a solution for replacing the shorter basketball nets in the gym, including cost estimation. (Erin)
- **Kindergarten Cooking Funds:** Decide on the request for \$200.00 to support the kindergarten class's monthly cooking activities. (Erin)
- **Fundraising Options:** Explore alternative fundraising options similar to Fun Script and assess their feasibility. (Rebecca)
- **Little Caesars Fundraiser:** Confirm the availability and details for the Little Caesars fundraiser from April 7th to April 21st with pick up on May 5th. (Cat)
- **Library Wish List:** Send the list of purchased items from the library wish list to Cat for tracking. (Valerie)
- **Carpenters Union Funding:** Request the Carpenters Union for the full amount needed to build the sound baffle partition wall. (Cat)
- **Financial Report:** Track down the financial report from the previous year for the Bingo application. (Rebecca, Christian, Cat)