

**Nestor Falls School**  
**Parent Council Meeting Minutes**  
**November 1, 2004**

Called to Order at 6:02pm

**Attended by:**

Lucinda Meyers

Kerri Halvorson

Holly Kropelin

Billy-Jo Chalupsky

Jennifer Lougheed

Tawnya Johnsrud

Veronica Hammond

Kate Woods – Absent

Suz Tomalty - Absent

Kathy Wiggins - absent

**Principal's Report**

- Kidney Table and Desks are all in and set up.
- Math text books for grades 1, 3, 4, 5, and 7 are in the classrooms now, and the other grades will be here in January.
- The EQAO testing will be done in June this year over 2 ½ days, rather than 5 days as it has been in the past.
- Behavior in school and on the playground has been very good recently, although bus behavior will need to be addressed during the meeting.
- Secretarial hours have been increased to 17.5 hours per week, due to more money being released in the budget.
- Both teachers have been away a lot recently due to PD (professional development) sessions, where they learn a lot and bring back skills to benefit their classrooms.
- Grad pictures will be done at Donald Young School again this year. Lucinda will be sending a letter home to Nestor Fall School parents of graduating students to offer them the opportunity to have their photos done too.

**Financial Report**

The Financial report will be reviewed 3 or 4 times during the year, and Holly will prepare a statement for the council to review.

**Old Business**

**The handbook** is nearly complete; there are just a few dates to be changed. Once it is ready, council members will review the handbook to see if there is anything else that should be added, and then it will be printed and given out before Christmas.

### **School Funds** – (Endowment and Home school funds)

What do we want to spend the money on??

Suggestions:

Holly – Clean up the sliding hills, cut down dangerous trees, branches, etc.

Lucinda said to consider asking high school students needing to put in their community hours to take on this task

Billy Jo – Purchase new hockey nets. Check at skates and blades for the cost on good quality nets that will last a long time. We need to find a convenient and secure place to store them.

Soccer field, installation of nets parallel to swings and field drainage.

We need to find out if the well in centre of field is the old well or existing well. If it is an old well, it can be leveled to the ground to make more room for a soccer field.

### **Hot Lunch**

- Billy will submit a letter to the U.C.W committee to see if there is anyone who would volunteer for our hot lunch program.
- Can the hot lunch menu/payment form be sent out to the parents a few days earlier so parents can make sure they have the funds and enough time to get the orders in?

**Swimming Lessons** are going good and students are enjoying this opportunity. The total cost of the lessons was a little over \$1200.00, which was recently paid by Holly from the school funds. The bill for the transportation has not been given to the school yet, but will also come out of the school funds.

### **New Business**

**Bus Issues** – The behavior of students on the school bus has been terrible. Lucinda has talked to the senior room three times and the junior room twice. A letter will be going home this week and a code of conduct booklet with highlighted passages pertaining to bus rules and safety. Severe action can be taken such as removing the privilege of riding the bus or school suspension.

Suggestions for improved behavior include having a parent ride the bus occasionally. The camera for the bus is being repaired and will hopefully be back in the near future.

**Fund Raising** – All council members were in favor of creating a **cookbook** with recipes submitted from our students, and selling copies to the public. The children can submit two or three recipes each, create a cover, and have pictures of them featured with their recipes. Lucinda will provide us with information from when Donald Young made their cookbook, and we will look into the cost of having Good Impressions print the finished copies. This will be discussed again at our next meeting in January.

There have been some enquiries from parents of graduated students who would like to buy our **school T-shirts**. The senior class has submitted their t-shirt logos, and the school will vote November 2 for their favorite choice. The winner will be used on the t-shirts.

Billy Jo has also suggested that our school host a **Turkey Bingo** as another fund raiser.

### **Goals**

Some ideas of what our goals should be this year are as follows:

- Holly – We need to decide what to spend the endowment fund on, any suggestions are welcome.
- Billy Jo – ‘Community Cooperation’ – Create functions, Activities and Events that would tie all of the different groups in our community together. E.g. community breakfast, community dinner, senior’s tea. The students of our school can be a big part of the function by helping serve the meals, clear tables, do dishes etc.
- Billy Jo - Nestor Falls history book. The last community history book was done ten years ago, and considering that many of the new families aren’t included in the old one, a newer updated version be created. (This would be a major and time consuming project that can be considered and discussed again.)

**Photo Albums-** Veronica suggested that we create some new photo albums which can be kept in the library or another convenient location in our school. Any pictures of school events or day to day life in NFS can be put in.

**Web Page** – Kate Woods has been working on our school’s web page today, and has made a few updates on it. (Jerry O’Leary isn’t the principal here anymore!!)

**School Pride Day** Kerri suggested that we have some school pride days such as planting flowers around the signs and/or road entrances to the school, getting a new sign for our school, clean the siding and other things to make our school more attractive and welcoming. The students can participate in most of these activities to give our school a much needed face lift.

**School Mascot** – Billy Jo suggested and the council all agrees that we need a new school mascot. The old brown wooden mascot is falling down and is very unattractive.

**Christmas Concert** – The Christmas concert will be held on Wednesday December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the United Church. A few changes were recommended in regards to the gift giving and exchange for the students.

- Instead of giving the kids each a gift, make a candy and prize bag with the boxes of merchandise donated from Nestor Falls bait and tackle. Santa can give this out after the concert.

- Ask the kids to bring in a donation of food, toy, etc. to give to the Salvation Army or another charitable organization.
- Instead of the kids having a classroom gift exchange, they can have a class activity and craft day, and they can make a few of their own gifts to give away.

Some of the concert ideas included having the audience join in on a few songs or carols. Playschool will do a little poem or song in the program too.

**Skating Rink** – The township and recreation committee have started the ball rolling with the preparation of the skating rink. The weeds have been cut down, gravel has been deposited at the far end to fill in the erosion of the bank, and new lumber is being purchased to fix some of the boards. The township will contact the fire chief Woody Linton in regards to having the department flood the rink as a training session. Ed Hammond has also volunteered to do some flooding if he can have a few other bodies help him. The school council will find someone to maintain the rink and rink shack once it has been flooded.

**Community Rep** – It was suggested that the school council approach Diane White for the position of community rep. She is a very outgoing and energetic person, perfect for the job!!

### **Other Business**

The **OPP Presentation** held on Wednesday October 27<sup>th</sup> was very informative. Officer Dejong came from Kenora to do talk about drug awareness and how it will affect our children. Bill Jo attended and said that it was an excellent presentation and a scary eye opener. She will be getting some literature to pass around on the different types of drugs that are the highest risk and the deadliest.

**Halloween Party** –The Party was a great success with a good turn out!! There were plenty of donations for treats and goodies, and all of the kids (and volunteers) who attended had a great time!! We are hoping that we will get more kids and parents out next year, as well as other people from the community to see the kids in their costumes! Hand written thank you notes will be sent out to donators and student helpers.

Next meeting – January 17, 2005

Community dinner is slated for April 2005.

Meeting adjourned 7:22pm

