

Alpine School Council Minutes

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

6:30 p.m. in room 13



Present: Rita Givlin, Heike Koester, Lea Becker, Amanda Galway, April Cousineau, Mya Wijbenga-Groot, Jennifer McCuaig, Jennifer Drimmie, Amy Lauriault, Donald Mann, Judy Oke, Kristy Gall

Regrets: Jessica Beaucage, Pauline Schafer, Jen Smerek,

Carizon

- Erin Young has begun her maternity leave. Welcome to Kristy Gall, our new Community Resource Worker.
- Partnership with school boards to open access to community health supports
- Goal is to strengthen our community
- Kristy is at Alpine every Tuesday morning but is flexible to meet other times
- Referral goes through principal but is confidential- information does not come back to the school
- Community resource worker does not work directly with students but works with parents
- Coffee connections - can offer discussion facilitation with a group of parents on a topic
- Suggested topics -self esteem in children; dealing with media messages; helping my child learn to speak up and be assertive; Tools for Life; Saying no and meaning it
- Parents would like different times of day - one in the evening
- Kristy is invited to come to Movie Night and help at Fun Fair

Principal's Report

- **DreamBox** has been ordered for all grades 1-6 students to support our work to

deliver a comprehensive math program to improve student achievement. DreamBox provides purposeful practice and responds to student answers when providing the next question. An incorrect answer may result in an easier question. Several correct answers in a row may result in harder work. Teachers can assign certain questions to students - this is new to us as a staff so we will be learning how to do this together. The licences have just arrived - teachers experienced with DreamBox are beginning this week, those without any experience are trying to begin next week. There are always glitches to work out as we begin a new year so everyone's patience and persistence is appreciated. ***Our staff will ensure students use DreamBox for 60 minutes in class each week; parents will be asked to support by ensuring 20-30 minutes of independent learning at home each week.***

- **Facility** - thanks to WRDSB facility services we now have a water bottle filling station in the school! We are grateful and are hoping there will be fewer spills once we get used to it!
- **Off-Campus Trips** - with the school focus on increasing our technology to support learning and the council focus on installing a new creative playground, trips will need to be on a cost recovery basis. The school contributes \$10 per child per year. The exceptions will be the grade 6 camp trip and the grade 1 skating lessons. Students may never go on a trip without written permission; if payment causes an issue for individual families they are asked to speak to a teacher or to Ms Givlin.
- The Indigo Adopt-A-School campaign is now over and the final total raised is **\$3760** - Mrs. MacLeod will use the suggestions provided on our book wish list and take full advantage of the 30% off that Indigo is offering. We can't wait to read our new books!
- **Fundraising** - our recent campaign run by Mrs. Crewe has raised almost **\$1500** for the school thanks to the **17%** of our families who participated. This money will support the grade 6 trip.
- We currently have **291** students from _____ families in **13** classes.
- @alpwrdsb now has **254** twitter followers.
- **97%** of our students SchoolDay accounts are linked to a parent/guardian email. **Our goal is 100%**. All trip permission forms come home via SchoolDay as well as updates and reminders. Mrs. Mahon is happy to help parents get registered in the office. Parents whose internet is not working are welcome to come to the school and use one of the Chromebooks - just drop into the office for tech and help.
- It is possible to link a second email to a SchoolDay account. Log in to

SchoolDay. Find your child by entering their OEN number (on the report card) and then click on alternative email. It is easy to stay in touch!

- The **Alpine Calendar** on alp.wrdsb.ca is now active. Those with Google Calendar can follow to get updates. Never forget pizza day again!
- A family math night has been booked for March 6, 2018
- In a response to a question raised at last month's council meeting, Alpine PS does not have a megaphone.

Financial Report

Current Balance: \$11 218.93

Outstanding Commitments: none

Fundraising

Movie Night - Nov 23

- 5:30 movie starts at 6:00
- Movie - Sing
- Popcorn - Matt spears
- Front table - Jess, April, Rita
- Buy movie - Jessica
- Pizza and popcorn and water -Judy, Jennifer
- Bake sale table - Donald
- Bake sale donations- Mya, Donald, Jen
- School day order form - Rita - bring chairs, plates, water bottles/ glasses
- Float - \$50
- Garbage and recycling
- Cleanup crew - Rita, April, Donald, Judy,

MacMillans - packages home Nov. 8, due Nov. 24, delivery Dec. 1

Rita to get volunteer to count money

Nov 27 input forms - Jessica, Jennifer

Delivery -

Movie Night - January 19, 2018

Dance-a-Thon - Feb. 13, 2018

Fun Fair -

Playground Update

- In a truly collaborative effort involving parents, admin, staff and students our application for the Community Placemaking Challenge was submitted to the City of Kitchener this week on October 23. Yahoo! What a beautiful thing when our school community comes together as one! Now we wait with fingers crossed for 4-6 weeks.
- If we are not successful we will apply to the Neighbourhood Matching Grant in January.
- A copy of our application is here - click on the links to see the great writing and videos prepared by our Alligators!

Congratulations! You have successfully submitted your application to the Neighbourhood Placemaking Challenge. Please see below for a copy of your submission.

The Selection Committee consists of equal representation between community volunteers and city staff. They will review all applications after the deadline. All applicants will be notified of the Selection Committee's decision in approximately 4-6 weeks.

The Neighbourhood Placemaking Challenge is an annual event hosted by Love My Hood: Kitchener's guide to great neighbourhoods. Residents take the lead and the city supports them along the way. To learn more, visit lovemyhood.ca.

Funding is provided through the City of Kitchener's Neighbourhood Development Office, Economic Development division and Planning division.

Name of main contact

First name Heike

Last name Koester

Email

heike_koester@wrdsb.ca

Phone Number

519-743-4338

Would you like to receive email updates about other Love My Hood tools, resources and funding opportunities?

Yes

What grant are you applying for?

Living large - \$20,000

What is the name of your idea?

Alpine - Active Lively Playground
Inclusive of Needs of Everyone

Who is getting together for this placemaking project?

Alpine Public School - council members, staff and students.
Alpine Community Association
WRDSB - Written approval is included in this application.

Where do you want to hold your placemaking project?

Alpine Public School
75 Lucerne Drive
Kitchener, ON N2E 1B4
Playground

What's happening at this location currently?

Alpine currently has a lovely playground. There is an adjacent baseball field (on city property) used by the community. On school property, community neighbours enjoy two soccer fields, basketball hoops, a tarmac for practising cycling skills, a creative playground for ages 5-12, benches, a table, rocks and a sand pit. We have beautiful trees to provide shade. To make this space more inclusive for school, family and community use and to complement the existing features, we would like to add (reinstall) a creative playground for children aged 2-5 years old.

How will you creatively transform this location into a gathering place?

Addition of the creative playground for ages 2-5 "introduces at least one more thing to attract people of different ages and backgrounds to have reason to spend time in the place". Our goal is to have something to appeal to the whole family and meet the needs of all ages!

We would also like to add a small community garden to encourage community use during the summer months. Our students can be involved in planting and harvesting during the school year. It is important for them to learn about where healthy food comes from and to connect with nature in a new way.

In the future we will continue to add trees to improve air quality and sun protection.

How is your project multi-use and accessible?

Younger children who use the new playground before entering kindergarten will have the benefit of being familiar with the school grounds to ease the transition into Kindergarten. Family and friend connections can be made as our community uses the facility outside of school hours - a benefit for both school and the community. This will truly be a multi-use project as the playground will be well used by our kindergarten friends during the school day to develop gross motor skills while playing and having fun with friends. In addition, increased community use may decrease vandalism and encourage greater care of the environment.

Adding a small community garden that can be used by the school and community will increase student learning of where our food comes from. Many of our students live in apartments where they would not have an opportunity to grow fresh food.

What do you envision happening in this place on the Challenge Days of July 28-30, 2018?

We would like to hold a grand opening of the playground and community garden during this time with school and community support. We envision a community event with food and fun, some planting for fall harvest and perhaps even a movie night under the stars. We would encourage neighbours to attend

and also our school families and
staff.

What's your project plan to make your ideas come to life?

School council has been working on improving the playground for years.

2016-2017 - fundraising of \$11 218.93

2017-2018

September - council decision made to allocate all funds raised by council to the playground - strong commitment to active fundraising by parent council (detailed plans in budget with approximate income based upon last year's fundraising) with goal of earning another \$7000 - \$8000.

October - whole school involvement in creating and submitting an application to Neighbourhood Placemaking Challenge including persuasive letters, videos; council and staff contacting various approved vendors for quotes to establish reasonable and realistic costs; gain permission from WRDSB to build on property; reach out to Alpine Community Association for partnership

November - family movie night fundraiser

December - MacMillan's Fundraiser

January - finalize play structure plans and select company based on quotes - involve feedback from local residents and students and staff when making selection; invite parents of our students with

special needs to offer feedback to ensure playground will be suitable for a wide range of special needs; further discussions with WRDSB facility services about supports needed and safety requirements including excavating old structure base, installing garden and reusing black plastic playground borders for raised garden bed and ensuring playground is accessible

February - dance-a-thon fundraiser; connect with Alpine Community Association to begin planning Challenge Days

March - continue planning with Alpine Community Neighbourhood Association

May - June - installation, inspection

June - Fun Fair fundraiser - incorporate new playground into events at Fun Fair so our Alligators can get playing; promote Challenge Days Grand Opening through a variety of media in partnership with the City of Kitchener

July - Challenge Days Grand Opening July 29 - promotion through school web site, School Day, twitter, Instagram, Facebook - facepainting, food, music, time to play, planting...

2018-2019 and ongoing
September - installation of a plaque thanking City of Kitchener, Alpine School Council, staff and

students for the playground

Council commits to fundraising
\$2500 for ongoing maintenance
and repairs
Continued improvement of space
with further greening
Continued use of garden

How have you sought the involvement and support of local residents near the proposed location?

Our passion for this project can not be limited to just this box or application! Click on the link to read our letters and see the videos our students and staff and parents have prepared. Be prepared to be caught up in our excitement!

Alpine Grant Proposal

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B0zDY3ymlkfnCFUyN3lwUXY1Mjg?usp=sharing>

Our parents are local residents. Our students and staff have written letters and created videos to encourage your support. It is amazing how preparing for this application has pulled our school community together - older students want our younger students to have a place to play just like they did, teachers have commented that the persuasive writing on this subject is the best they have seen from our students, parents want to be able to

stay and play and use the facility after hours with younger children.

Provide a basic budget for how you'll spend the grant money.

Alpine has been very busy raising funds for the new Active Alligators playground project in a variety of ways: selling fundraising products, movie nights, a Fun Fair, and so much more. To date, we've raised approximately \$11,000 for this project. This amount in addition to a possible \$20,000 Placemaking Challenge grant would enable us to buy a creative playground, and have it installed. The School Council future budget plans beyond this year, also provide for \$2,000 annually (money to be raised through fundraising events) to maintain the new structure.

Why are you excited about this placemaking project?

Our schools' dream for a community playground can come true!

How did you hear about the Placemaking Challenge?

A city staff person told me

My neighbourhood association told me

Any Other Business

- Facebook Page for school council @Alpineschoolcouncil - all parents are encouraged to follow
- Willows for sandboxes - Jennifer will look into purchasing
- Hooks for kindie fence - Jennifer will purchase

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, November 29, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.