

# Alpine School Council Minutes

Wednesday, October 23, 2019



6:30 p.m. Library

**Present:** Rita Givlin, Heike Koester, Lea Becker, Mya W-G, Jessica Beaucage, April Cousineau, Tiffany Million, Samantha Hopkins

**Regrets:** Andy Slough, Donald Mann, Amanda Galway

## Principal's Update

### Staffing:

- Mrs. Kennery is now off on her maternity leave a little bit early. We are all looking forward to learning if it is a boy or a girl but have some time to wait yet before we get this exciting news. Mrs. Jennifer Reid will be joining the Alpine K2 team in the morning extended day and core programs as of October 24, 2019.
- Miss Hughes will be off on medical leave for the remainder of the school year. Ms. Kristen McCulligh, who has been covering the class for some time now, successfully interviewed for the position and will continue her work with 1/2A.

### Facility

- We are grateful to facility services for painting our exterior doors - they look much more welcoming. Just a few to go this weekend.
- Over the Thanksgiving weekend, the community members who enjoyed the grounds left quite a mess for Mrs. Fairhurst to clean up. In addition to trash being left everywhere, all of the books in our little library were scattered over the playground and the knob on the little library door was taken. We ask all members of our school community and neighbors to report inappropriate use to WRDSB and WRPS.
- The door to our GaGa Ball pit was kicked down a second time and the latch was broken. The door has now been replaced with a half wall. We are grateful to Fred's Fences for a speedy and very reasonable repair. However, this vandalism created an additional and unnecessary cost to the school council of \$50.

### Student Learning

- Caribou Math - 68 Alligators in grades 3-6 recently wrote the first Caribou Math

contest of the year. Thanks to our special education and classroom teachers who offered this enrichment opportunity to our students. Some of our students had amazing results and three were even in the top 5% of all students who wrote. We look forward to building student efficacy to meet upcoming challenges.

- Lexia - Once all of the licenses ordered arrive, we will have 58 students using Lexia. **These students are encouraged to also use Lexia at home where possible.**
- DreamBox - All of our grades 1-6 students are up and running on DreamBox. Our goal at school is to ensure 60 minutes of use each week and we are doing great. As we track our data, we note huge gains for the small group of students who also use DreamBox at home regularly. **Parents, your support at encouraging student use of DreamBox at home will help s achieve our goal of improved student outcomes in math.**
- Our Alpine staff does an amazing job of planning learning experiences beyond our walls and our students have been to the Waterloo Region Waste Management Facility, the Waterloo Region Airport, skating, and the safety village. A trip to Herrle's Market is planned for next week. Many thanks to all of the volunteers who support these excursions!
- The staff also brings experts into our school and students are enjoying the YMCA SHYFT program, Healthy Beginnings, and meeting the Mayor.
- Our grade 5/6 students were enthusiastic and informed voters when they cast their votes in Student Vote. And, their results were closely aligned to the results across the province. Citizenship in action!

### **Staff Learning**

- SEA Training for Staff - Our special education team brought in a trainer to support staff in learning to use Google Read and Write, Boardmaker and more to support our students. We have several staff members who are using Google Classroom more and more. Our staff members are learners too. Extra kudos to our EAs who joined the training on their lunch breaks. It is wonderful to see the engagement and excitement in learning.
- Lexia -We will also be hosting learning sessions for teachers whose students are using Lexia.
- PA Day - This Friday, October 25, 2019, staff will be focused on improving outcomes in math by building optimism, efficacy, and resilience.
- Alpine has been selected as a Wraparound school for job-embedded PD for the 2019-2020 school year. This means we will have consultant support and time to learn together to help us reach our goals of continuing to improve our math programs and develop hope, efficacy, resilience, optimism, gratitude, empathy and mindfulness in ourselves and our students.

### **ArtShine**

- This program is running after school on Tuesdays. We are very grateful to

ArtShine for once again going above and beyond and providing extra scholarships to support out Alligators. Session 2 details will be out shortly.

- Thanks to Mrs. Becker, Huron Natural Area staff will be coming to Alpine to support our staff in taking full advantage of all of the learning opportunities afforded by our beautiful playground and nearby forest.

**Waterloo County Teachers' Choir Grant**

- Kudos to Ms. Whistance for her successful application to the Waterloo County Teachers' Choir for a \$500 grant to purchase additional glockenspiels to support our music program. We are very grateful!

Fundraising

**MacMillan's**

Orders were due on October 22. While they have yet to be tallied, we are grateful to each of our staff, students and families who supported this campaign. Thanks to Jessica for her leadership and extra work on this fundraiser. Stay tuned to see how we did!

**Mabel's Labels**

The profit to the school thus far is approximately \$30. Thanks to all who ordered. This is an ongoing fundraiser so orders at any time can help. Thanks to Sherry Mahon for setting this up for us.

**Factory Shoe**

The profit to the school thus far is \$70. Thanks to everyone wearing new shoes who used the Alpine card! Thanks to April for getting this organized.

Financial Update

Balance forward: \$2566.13  
Less: Fred's Fences \$50 for repair to the GaGa Ball Pit.  
Balance: \$2516.13

Mission Statement Review

## **Alpine School Council Mission Statement**

The Alpine School Council strives to:

- Enhance learning outcomes by providing enriched opportunities (e.g., off-campus trips, guest speakers, playground improvements, new or improved technology),
- Build an inclusive, welcoming community by engaging parents and guardians and creating fun events for students and their families,
- Improve the school through volunteering and promoting our students' voice, and
- Advise the principal on school matters.

Council members enjoy:

- Getting to know school staff and feeling part of the team,
- Learning about school initiatives and goals,
- Influencing school decision making,
- Volunteering to make the Alpine school community stronger, and
- Making their own children proud.

Approved.

The mission statement will be on the bulletin board and website.

### **Parent/Student Survey**

A paper survey will be sent out to each family the week of October 28. We are hoping to get a greater response in this format as the return on our SchoolDay survey was quite small. Returned surveys will be entered in a draw for one free session of pizza! Date Due - November 1 at 10:10 p.m.

### **Staff/Principal Wishlists**

Staff would like (in order from most requested to least):

- A fund for guest speakers/presenters
- Snow shovels, rakes, and bug catchers for kindies
- Tarmac lines - council suggests adding chess/checkerboards
- Science materials
- Classroom sports equipment

Admin would like:

- Financial support for off-campus trips for families who are unable to pay

The council will add a donation tree to the bulletin board in the front hall requesting items such as balls and skipping ropes for classrooms.

## Community Building Event

Council is investigating new community-building events.

Tiffany - emailing U of W Science Outlook

Rita - emailing ArtShine

Mya, Jessica - investigating paint nights

April - investigating Funworx and the Museum

Games Night

Tentative Date - Nov. 28, 2019

Council Photo

## Alpine's 2019-2020 School Council

**Co-Chairs:** April Cousineau, Jessica Beaucage

**Secretary:** Rita Givlin

**Parent Representatives:** Donald Mann, Andy Slough, Samantha Hanley, Jennifer McCuaig, Jennifer Smerek, Mandy Clarke, Dawn Koehler

**Bulletin Board:**

**Facebook Page/Twitter/Instagram:** Samantha Hanley

**Principal:** Rita Givlin

**Teaching Staff:** Lea Becker, Heike Koester

**Non-Teaching Staff:** Marjolein Wijbenga-Groot

**Treasurer:** Sherry Mahon

*New members always welcome!*