

Elgin Street Public School
School Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 9, 2020.
6:00 P.M. Google Meet

School Council Chair: Lorraine Isaac
School Council Secretary: France Leclair-Kekes
School Council Treasurer: Zaida Moss

Member Attendance:

- Allan Mackay, Principal
- Amanpreet Dhaul, Vice Principal
- Lorraine Isaac, School Council Chair
- France Leclair-Kekes, School Council Secretary
- Zaida Moss, School Council Treasurer
- Sabeen Khan, Parent
- Heather Fischer, Parent
- Jennifer Nabney, Parent
- Emily Jaarsma, Executive Director for Greenway-Chaplin Community Centre
- Eleanor McCoy, Supervisor for Elgin Street YMCA Child Care
- Melissa Schrader, Teacher

1. Welcoming Remarks (Frankie Isaac)

- New introductions: Eleanor McCoy and Jennifer Nabney
- Members will email Allan MacKay to indicate their attendance for the previous meeting.

2. YMCA Update (Eleanor McCoy)

- Space still available in childcare, toddler and preschool (full-time and part-time)
- Following all Public Health and Safety guidelines (i.e., just like schools)
- YMCA Child Care will be closed Dec 24th at 3 p.m. - Jan 1st
- Program is utilizing space in rooms 17 and 18
- Administration will share information with school community through School Day

3. Greenway-Chaplin Community Centre (Emily Jaarsma)

- Continuing with virtual programs on Youtube channel and Facebook
- Selling holiday activity arts/craft bags \$5.00
- Planning/hoping for in-person programs in January
- Follow the centre on Facebook for upcoming information or Link:
<https://greenwaychaplin.com/programs/>
- FYI: City council passed a budget and is moving forward with neighborhood playground replacements. New neighbourhood playground on top of the hill (i.e., near splash pad) to be done in 2021, as well as the playground on Gail Street.

- Administration has offered to share information with school community through School Day

4. Principal's Update (Allan MacKay)

- Health and Safety
 - Focus continues to be on the healthy, safety and well-being of students, staff and families. Staff are focusing on daily routines. For example, safe arrival, staggered entry into the building, staggered nutrition breaks etc...
 - No new facilities news and no staffing changes
 - The school did have a positive case of Covid19, which was immediately reported to Public Health. The individual was last in building on November 20th. Messaging and communication did go out to families and is available on the website.
 - Students and staff are demonstrating a positive school spirit
- Outdoor Education Program
 - WRDSB is offering outdoor education programs, such as Bird Watching.
- Communication
 - Messaging posted on School Day on a regular basis (i.e., Friday's). Administrators will also encourage staff to use this preferred communication tool.
- SMACA Elementary Supervision Monitors
 - Elgin's been approved for an extra 15 minutes per week/supervisor to supervise students in the primary and kindergarten hallways at the end of the school day.
 - Supervisors will model and support Covid19 safety protocols around social distancing and staggered dismissal requirements.

5. Treasurer's Report (Zaida Moss)

- Carry over balance from last year is **\$40,273.88**
- Deposit made this year of **\$498.10** related to Zoup fundraiser that didn't get deposited last Spring, due to Covid closures.
- New balance: **\$40771.98**
 - Anticipate using \$30,000 for Kindergarten playground
 - Mr. MacKay anticipate that the playground will cost between \$60,000 - \$70,000
 - School council has saved \$13,000 - \$14,000 because WRDSB paid for the new fencing around the area and the new asphalt path
 - \$10,000 has been set aside from Charity Bingo funds.
 - There are school funds (i.e., unrelated to Council funds) of \$20,000 - \$25,000 for the playground project
 - It was suggested that council leave \$10,000 in the account to be able to spearhead other initiatives
 - For transparency purposes, it is important to share all information with new administration as soon as Mr. MacKay retires.

6. Dreambox Licenses

- Dreambox Licences were added to the school council agenda back in November

- Purpose is to discuss financials
- Request from Elgin staff is to purchase 63 Dreambox licenses to supply all primary students, as well as grade 4 students (i.e., grade 4 students in a primary junior split, such as grade 3/4) to access the math program/tool.
- Each licence is approximately $\$24.00 \times 63 = \$1,512.00$
- Administration recommends that students spend 15-20 minutes a day on the program to see gains in this subject
- Dreambox has been vetted by the WRDSB and is a valuable tool for developing mathematical fluency.
- Pre Covid, games and centres were normally part of instruction and practice in the classroom.
- Financials: If the school council removed \$30,000 for the Kindergarten playground, as suggested, it would leave \$10,771.98 in the account.
 - Funding the Dreambox licenses would leave \$9259,98 in the account
 - Vote: approved unanimously to purchase licenses.

7. Adjournment

- Meeting concluded at approximately 7 p.m.
- Next meetings scheduled for:
 - Wednesday, February 10th at 6:00 p.m.
 - Wednesday, April 14th at 6:00 p.m.
 - Wednesday, May 12th at 6:00 p.m.
 - Wednesday, June 9th at 6:00 p.m.
- All meetings to occur virtually via Google Meets
- Continue to look for communication updates via Elgin School Council Google Group