

# Elizabeth Ziegler (EZ) Public School Council Meeting

## Thursday, January 22, 2015 – Meeting Minutes

### ATTENDANCE

#### VOTING COUNCIL MEMBERS

X	Ingrid Bachmann	X	Cher Mamuza	X	Jacob Shelley
X	Mike Delisle	X	Donna Martin	X	Carrie Stevenson
X	Rebecca Guzar	X	Sean McQuillin		
X	Sairin Hayes	X	Pamela Mulloy		
X	Emily Jaarsma	X	Adam Purkiss		

#### NON VOTING COUNCIL MEMBERS/GUESTS

X	Lynne Green (Principal)		absent (teacher)
X	Lori Peebles (Vice Principal)		

#### 1. WELCOME (Jacob and Carrie Co-Chairs)

- Agenda distributed electronically
- Quorum of 8 met for meeting

#### 2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- Meeting Minutes distributed electronically
- **Motion #1** to approve Nov. 27, 2014 EZ PS Council meeting minutes.  
*Motion moved by:* Sean  
*Motion Seconded by:* Adam  
**Motion passed** by all members of school council in attendance

#### 3. COUNCIL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES (Jacob)

- Open discussion about the goals and objectives of council
- Next year we will start sooner, the first fall meeting can be a review of council's role and the fundraising committees, but we should also set our goals at that time
- There's danger in asking for money, for the sake of the money – we need goals that the funds support
- Let's focus on a few key things, and do them well, rather than spread ourselves too thin
- Do we want to support "experiences" rather than "things"?
- The council's role should be more than spending money
- Comment that we're missing parents' interaction (due to commitments at work, home, etc.)
- What can we look back on, at the end of the year, that will make us feel that we were productive?
- From the fundraising committees' standpoint, it's frustrating to wait for these goals to be determined, because they want to advertise what the fundraising is supporting
- Comment made that years ago, the committee saved diligently for two years for a "big" item, that was then dismissed when the next council was created in the fall
- We need to keep nurturing this school's community, keep an open discussion going
- Lynne said her last two schools ended their year with a review of items needed, for the next year's goals, with a review in September. Staff needs to be moved in that direction
- Comment that we need over-arching principles first, that the teachers' "wants" should fit into
- After much discussion, the five goals of council are:
  - Promote literacy (english and french) and numeracy
  - Nurture the EZ Community (engaging parents)
  - Healthy Living/Physical Activity
  - Arts & Culture

# Elizabeth Ziegler (EZ) Public School Council Meeting

---

- By setting these goals, we can now find people to lead appropriate activities to support them (for example, a parent working in a math field could lead a “math club”)
- We need to bring people together to promote our goals
- Events don’t have to be recurring weekly, can be “one-offs”, with a single event in the library or gym
- We can apply for the PRO grant again this year, to support these activities (PRO Grant is \$1000 (via Ministry) – to be used for student-based activities)
- 

## 4. FINANCIAL UPDATES (Adam Purkiss – Treasurer)

### Balances

**General Account:** \$1710.42  
Council Shirts = - \$173.01  
GST Rebate = \$16.60  
Total: \$1554.01  
Outstanding: \$500 allotted to speaker, \$300 to kindergarten outdoor toys

**Greening:** \$3305.51  
**Words Out:** \$1024.62  
**Pizza:** \$3749.83  
School Day = \$2630.77  
Pizza Orders = \$164.00  
To Panago = - \$1215.79  
GST Rebate = \$120.00  
Total: \$5448.81

**MacMillan's:**  
Orders = \$1525.25  
GST = \$458.48  
Total: \$1983.73

**Magazines:**  
Orders = \$1461.32  
- \$183.18  
Total: \$1278.14

**Dance-a-thon:**  
Deposit = - \$150.00  
Prizes = - \$160.00  
Total: - \$310.00

## 5. COMMITTEE UPDATES

### (1) Words Out Committee (Pamela Mulloy)

- Writing Club continues to meet Fridays
- There is a core group of 25 students who write, and read their work to each other
- Meeting held last week to plan process for next student magazine, if council backs it
- It will begin with a flyer asking for staff volunteers, and then the rest of the school will be asked for submissions
- Parents will have to sign a paper allowing their child to participate, then they will be aware
- A magazine staff will be organized
- Groups of students will meet and learn about their jobs
- Timm Vera will meet with the kids about the production aspect of creating the magazine
- Timing – ready to start tomorrow
- Theme this year will be Dreams
- There will be a competition for the cover art
- Lynne suggested there is a launch party, when the magazine is printed (or at least an assembly)

# Elizabeth Ziegler (EZ) Public School Council Meeting

---

- In 2013 we printed 450 copies, and charged \$4 each
- Since then we have 50 more students
- Magazines will be pre-ordered to give us an idea of quantity required
- Cost to print this year is \$3300 (plus tax) which is a unit cost of \$8.30
- Selling it for \$5 will require funding of \$1485
- Selling it for \$4 will require funding of \$1935

**Motion #2** to give \$1500 to Words Out for the school magazine, and reimburse their account for additional unforeseen expenses

*Motion moved by:* Becki

*Motion Seconded by:* Sairin

**Motion passed** by all members of school council in attendance

## (2) Greening Committee Update (Adam Purkiss)

- Nothing new to report

## (3) Fundraising Committee (Helen, Jola, Carrie)

- Magazine sales earned \$1400+
- MacMillan's orders brought in \$1983
- Feb. 3 is the dance kick-off assembly, with pledge forms going home that night
- Dance profits will support literacy and subsidize the cost of producing the school magazine
- Forms for our last fundraiser, Vesey's Seeds, will go home Easter Weekend

## 6. COMMUNICATIONS (Website, School Day, Newsletter, Facebook)

- Newsletter sent home right before Christmas, not all parents received it
- Feedback suggested that the "guess the baby picture" section was unnecessary
- Question asked if it could be sent out electronically, possibly added to the website?  
Lori will find out
- There could be stickers in the agendas telling parents to look online for the next edition
- Possible future issues in March and June
- Still trying to get more parents to sign up for School Day – Blair School has a 98% sign up rate
- Comment made that the more content on it, the more people will want to see it
- Suggestion to add stickers to agendas to encourage more to sign up
- Lynne to see if Joan can do that, and find out what % have already signed up
- Q: can a website show details about classes, such as the curriculum they're currently working on?  
A: different teachers do it differently, some embrace electronic methods, some prefer paper newsletters.  
First step is to speak to the teacher and ask them
- Lori said she and Lynne will encourage teachers to make the transition

## 7. WRAPSC Update (Rebecca Guzar)

- Rebecca was unable to attend the last WRAPSC meeting
- She has arranged for a seminar Feb. 4, at EZ, topic is Anxiety in Children (council contributing cost of \$400 + tax)
- Focus isn't on disorders, but regular worries/concerns
- Hitting dead ends with arranging a Nutrition speaker
- Region of Waterloo Health doesn't cover this topic, but recommends the Loblaw's dietician
- Options
  - there's a powerpoint presentation that we could run
  - could find a private speaker (people who work in the field aren't always good at presenting)
  - cancel it
- Lori suggested we have both parents and kids attend, and make healthy snacks, and send them home with recipes

# Elizabeth Ziegler (EZ) Public School Council Meeting

---

- This would be more interactive, and we might get more families to come if kids are included
- More work to organize, but lots of fun (Apr/May timeframe)
- Ingrid volunteered to brainstorm this outside of council meeting

## 8. Vice Principal Report (Lori Peebles)

- Tomorrow is the drumming performance, in both english and french, for grades 1-6
- Dance-a-thon coming up February 20 (kick off assembly Feb. 3)
- Soon morning hockey will begin for grades 3+
- Basketball to begin soon
- Feb. 17 is the grade 5-6 ski trip
- PALS beginning soon (PALS = playground activity leaders in schools) where older students set up organized activities outside during nutrition breaks
- Upcoming orchestra field trip
- Upcoming Schneider Haus field trip
- Feb. 20 report cards go home
- Safe Caring and Inclusive Schools Committee will meet again, planning to print their Wordles, and choose their next steps
- Info. about bus costs for field trips:
  - One bus holds 72 kids/3 per seat (for local trips), and costs \$135 (Out of town is \$225)
  - They try to put two classes in each bus (except kindies) to save costs
  - Some destinations have additional entrance fees
  - Jr. students usually have one trip to Toronto (\$500)
  - Students walk when possible, such as visits to local library
- Costs for other events:
  - Scientists in the school \$7.50/student
  - Bicycle workshop \$10.00/student
  - Exotic animals \$300 (total)
- Another field trip idea for junior students – live theatre at St. Jacobs Playhouse

## 9. Principal Report (Lynn Green)

- Wishlist from staff, top items:
  - \$\$ for school trips
  - Tech: iPads, laptops, cords, connectors
  - Board games for classrooms for indoor breaks
  - Whole school presentations
- Additional requests – Learning Resources:
  - Dance resources
  - PM benchmarks (literacy kit of leveled books, eng & fr, \$500 ea.)
  - Calculators
  - Headphones, jacks
  - Rekenreks (counter beads)
  - K learning materials
  - Math resources
  - Science resources
  - Coat hook repair
  - Literacy resources – all grades
  - Timers
- Additional requests – Site:
  - Whiteboards
  - Smartboard mounts
  - Cork strips
  - Classroom rugs

# Elizabeth Ziegler (EZ) Public School Council Meeting

---

- Jen F, kindergarten teacher, has a vision for outdoor learning and is gathering ideas for creating a great learning space outside (e.g. big spool from wire, paint with blackboard paint on top, can be written on with chalk) – biggest issue is security, or where to store items if they're brought inside at night
- Green space beside kind. section of school could have tables in it, to make a learning area
- Will need permission from Board, and our grounds contact person has changed, Lynne to look into this, maybe plan it for next year. Keep in mind it needs to be a good, sound, long-term choice with suitable maintenance requirements
- Donations from homes could be useful, things like pots and pans, spoons, etc.
- \$300 allocated for kindergarten toys – keeping it as a fund to get unique things. Board gave money for outdoor toys too, so this money will be saved for spontaneous things that the kids show interest in, such as butterfly nets
- Adam noted that there are lots of grants available for outdoor projects
- Concerns: some projects are “fads” that won't get maintained or will be removed by the next principal
- Some kids like random things like posts
- Need to preserve our yard space, it all gets used at breaks
- Additional trees would help with shade in hot months
- Any trees council adds are our responsibility by contract, if we can't get parents to help out, we must pay someone
- Be sure what we plan is manageable for future generations
- Comment – let's designate some funds, buses have been mentioned several times
- If council chooses to support bus trips there are 19 classes (2 classes per bus)

**Motion #3** to give up to \$160 per class for field trip related expenses

Motion moved by: Cher

Motion Seconded by: Sean

Motion passed by all members of school council in attendance

**Motion #4** to give up to \$75 per class for indoor board games, puzzles, etc.

Motion moved by: Pam

Motion Seconded by: Sean

Motion passed by all members of school council in attendance

- Q: are classrooms outfitted properly for cords, etc. since we bought the equipment, we should make sure they have adequate accessories – Lynne said yes, they're fine
- Update – Book sale in the fall raised approx. \$700. It was difficult to get volunteers, and a lot of work Planning to use funds for a new rug in the library, possibly a world map design. Also need more chairs
- Repainting tiger in gym – Lynne to talk to Donna, for her husband to draw new one (match existing sign)
- Q: Bring back Spirit wear? (clothing with EZ Tiger and school name)
- A: Possibly, but if we do, bring in larger quantities, with a simple design, to sell long-term

## 10. CHAIR REPORT (Co-Chairs Jacob and Carrie)

- It's getting late, Jacob will email about committee by-laws in February
- They will be put in place for next year
- Examples: number for quorum, where committee reports are housed, etc.

## 11. ADJOURNMENT (Jacob – Co-Chair)

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

Next meeting is on Thursday February 26, 2015