

Elizabeth Ziegler (EZ) Public School Council Meeting

Thursday, January 21, 2016 – Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE

VOTING COUNCIL MEMBERS

X	Carrie Stevenson		Helen Fidler	X	Lisa Roy
X	Cher Mamuza	X	Ingrid Bachmann	X	Rebecca Guzar
X	Donna Martin	X	Ingrid Wessel	X	Sairin Hayes
	Hannah Marcus	X	Jon Spee		

NON VOTING COUNCIL MEMBERS/GUESTS

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

1. WELCOME (Carrie, Chair)

- Agenda distributed electronically

Motion #1 to approve Nov. 26, 2015 EZ PS Council meeting minutes

Motion moved by: Ingrid B

Motion Seconded by: Cher

Motion passed by all members of school council in attendance

2. PROPOSAL BY ECO CLUB (Tory and Jessica)

- Tory and Jessica, leaders of the Eco Club, explained their Litterless Lunch and Boomerang Lunch initiatives. The Eco Club is comprised of approximately 12 students from grades 5 and 6
- They are educating students (with announcements, posters, etc.) about the benefits of bringing litterless lunches, and on Wednesdays challenge everyone to bring a lunch that produces no litter. They have “counters” who go to each class and count how many students have complied, with results being posted outside the office
- At the end of the program in May, they wish to reward the top classes with the best results (from three different age ranges) by giving them a free trip and tour of the local landfill. This will require bus transportation, and they are requesting financial assistance (\$300) to pay for two buses
- They are also working on a newsletter to send home to parents
- Questions and discussion followed

Motion #2 to approve \$300 bus cost to the landfill for winning classes

Motion moved by: Jon

Motion Seconded by: Ingrid W

Motion passed by all members of school council in attendance

- Comment made that decisions about future presentations should be held until the end of the meeting, when presenters have left

3. COMMITTEE UPDATES

(1) Words Out Committee (Lisa Roy)

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- The committee has met twice and worked out the details for their upcoming “One Book One School” program taking place every Tuesday in February. At each Tuesday event they will focus on a specific set of chapters with book club style discussion questions followed by activities. Comment made that it would be helpful for parents to have access to the questions ahead of time to discuss with their students
- They sold chocolates at the Seasonal Open House to promote the event, and despite selling almost at cost they raised \$296 which will be used to replenish committee supplies (such as markers) with leftover funds added to their account
- Question asked whether any grade 6 students will be recruited to assist? They will leave that up to the teachers volunteering, Mme. Struck and Ms. Awad Lobe
- Question asked about other events Words Out has organized in past years? Answer: events like author readings and a family writing night
- Another initiative Words Out is investigating is the installation of a Little Library behind the school. This has been approved by Rob Seeley from the WRDSB. The cost of the kit is \$50, and a local Scout group runs a fundraiser where they build the kit for \$30, or install it for \$70. This can’t happen until the spring when the frost is out of the ground – will discuss further at the February council meeting

(2) Greening Committee (Rebecca Guzar)

- The greening account has \$3190.60. Rebecca presented options for discussion, including:
 - Planting 2–3 ‘mature’ trees. The cost through Rob Seeley is \$400–\$500 each, including installation. The new tree location would be near the swings to the side of the playground
 - Mulching – we missed doing it last year, and it’s important for existing trees. Cost is approx. \$500 for 8 yards of mulch. Might be able to make a deal to have it delivered for free if new trees are ordered
 - Sand troughs – like raised sandboxes, to move the students’ digging from the ground where holes and hills are created, causing walking hazards. Cost is approx. \$400 each
 - Little Library – as mentioned by Words Out
 - Garden Planters – they are like a raised herb bed. Would require one or more teachers interested, and seeds could be purchased at a discount through a council member
 - Watering of trees – a summer schedule of volunteers will be created. Last year we purchased a cart to help with this, and may need a few new buckets this year
 - Clean up of brush areas – this was last done several years ago and it’s growing in again. It will help improve sight lines and remove “hidden” areas
- Question about status of kindie garden? There were some issues with poison ivy, which has been removed. Lynne hasn’t heard whether any teacher wants to pursue it again
- Discussion about merits of above proposals

Motion #3 for purchase of 3 trees and mulch, up to \$2200.00

Motion moved by: Sairin

Motion Seconded by: Lisa

Motion passed by all members of school council in attendance

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

- The remaining fundraiser is for the Dance–a–thon. Blast Off assembly is Feb. 3 and event is February 19
- The company that runs the Dance–a–thon has asked for permission to sell glow sticks and toys at the event. Other schools do this and it makes the gym look fun with all the colours/glowing
- Discussion followed with comments about the products being very cheap, breaking easily and not being eco friendly
- Consensus was not to have these products there, it’s already a fun event with a very positive atmosphere
- The Indigo fundraiser idea was investigated by Holly, Meghan and Lori and unfortunately it won’t work for EZ
- New fundraising event proposal by EZ parents Hannah and Helen
 - Modeled after the “100 Women Who Care” events, where a group of women meet several times a year, listen to charities pitch their causes, then choose one to support and each woman gives \$100 to it

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- Suggestion for teacher/student teams to pitch their ideas/causes for the school or community and parents attending could give money to support their favourites
- Discussion and concerns around potential competitiveness and/or divisiveness of this proposal. Request not to create a situation where groups are competing
- Teachers and/or students may be focused on their unique wants which may not benefit the whole school
- Also worries about event not being well attended, where very little money will be raised
- Suggestion made to tie it into another event, such as the ESQ night or Science Fair
- Idea proposed to videotape the pitches and post them online for families to watch
- Pitch ideas could come from students
- What happens if money targets aren't met? Funds could be put in an account to be completed in the future but would have to communicate that clearly so parents aren't disappointed
- Discussion around funds being directed to current council initiatives such as Words Out, Greening, home reading books, etc.
- Lynne noted that the idea that "council's spending is random" is **not** true – there are definite teachers' needs that are being met, and goals are in line with council committees. Some experienced committee leaders have left, so new people are stepping in – it's a transition year. There's also merit in having the ability to be responsive mid-year
- Suggestion to send out a letter next fall listing the fundraisers and explaining how funds can be given to WEFI and directed where parents choose. Lynne and Joan could also create a more itemized list of spending to illustrate where money goes
- Could also use these ideas to find out what the parents would like and would support – information gathering and feedback from the school community

(4) Outreach Committee (*chair position open*)

- They will meet with ESQ in March to choose the specific activities for that event
- Very easy event to run, ESQ does it all, just need to direct them to the space

(5) Proposal for a Social Responsibility Committee (Jacob Shelley)

- Jacob unable to attend tonight, further discussion at next meeting

4. FINANCIAL UPDATE (Ingrid W – Treasurer)

Income Statement – Fundraising – Jan. 21/2016

Revenue:		Approved Expenses:	
Mabel's Labels	113.90	Pizza	\$1433.00
MacMillans	635.35	Field Trips	\$2700.00
Rheo (chocolates)	296.75	Classroom Games	1500.00
		3 Musketeers Play	400.00
		Words Out	13.45
Total Revenue	\$1046.00	Total Expenses	\$6046.45

	<u>Target Goal</u>	<u>Actual to Date</u>
Treasures Books	\$1000.00	\$1529.95
Pizza	3500.00	1148.82
Mabel's Labels	85.00	113.80
Pitas	100.00	
Magazines	1000.00	66.80
MacMillans	500.00	635.35
Dance-a-thon	3500.00	(-150.00)
Total Fundraising Profit	\$9685.00	\$3344.72

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5. VICE-PRINCIPAL/PRINCIPAL REPORT (Lori Peebles)

- School events: hockey club, primary classes to the symphony yesterday, Hoops for Hunger raised \$500, Movember raised \$400, fantastic Seasonal Open House in December, mandatory bus evacuation drills
- Upcoming – Learning Buddies, where older students are matched with younger ones. They'll be working on 3 minute presentations (poems, slide shows, etc.) for upcoming assemblies where they reinforce the EZ TIGER code of conduct
- Working on a program where students can catch other students doing something good, and recognize them for it. (Possibly give them a piece of paper.) EZ is always looking for ways to build positive connections
- Question about the Shakespeare play discussed earlier in the year – probably too late
- Lynne to present teacher wish list at February meeting
- Reminder that Dance-a-thon funds are going to support field trips. Lynne to gather some actual examples of field trips for feedback
- Question – is there still a shortage of French home reading books? Answer – Yes. Last year EZ didn't apply for the WEFI fund for home reading, but will to do it this year, to replenish the French books
- Question – what are the problems with students on the playground after school? Answer – it's fine for students to play there when parents are supervising, or for students to go home and then come back to play later. But there are safety issues with students there on their own. There is an after school program available that parents can pay for. It's not OK for parents to tell their kids to stay and play until they can pick them up after work, especially in bad weather. Some schools don't allow any students on their property after school – preference at EZ is not to discourage this positive community gathering

6. WRAPSC REPORT

- No one available to attend last meeting

7. CHAIR REPORT AND OTHER ISSUES (Carrie)

- Need to think about applications and uses for these two grants: PRO (Parents Reaching Out) and PIC (Parent Involvement Committee)
- PIC grant could be used for event similar to last year – parent social night at the Princess Café with appetizers
- PRO grant was used for ESQ event two years ago. The application is due in late April. They tend to favour math nights and multi-cultural events
- More information can be found here: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/reaching.HTML>
- The School Year Calendar Committee has asked for parent feedback on these questions:
 - How do you feel about PA Days on Mondays? Would you prefer all PA days to be Fridays or does it matter to you? (council: nice to have a mixture)
 - Would a PA Day placed to create a 3-day week work for you? Would you prefer 3 short weeks (e.g., 4-day weeks) in a row? (council: no – spread them out)
 - What is your opinion of PA Days placed prior to the first day of classes (e.g., before Labour Day)? (council: mixed responses)

8. ADJOURNMENT (Carrie)

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Next meeting is on Thursday Feb. 25, 2016