

# Elizabeth Ziegler (EZ) Public School Council Meeting

## Thursday, May 26, 2016 – Meeting Minutes

### ATTENDANCE

#### VOTING COUNCIL MEMBERS

X	Becky Klokoff		Emily Jaarsma	X	Rebecca Guzar
X	Carrie Stevenson	X	Ingrid Bachmann	X	Sairin Hayes
X	Cher Mamuza		Jenny Jahn-Hudec		
X	Donna Martin		Melanie Kloet		

#### NON VOTING COUNCIL MEMBERS/GUESTS

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

#### 1. WELCOME (Carrie, Chair)

- Agenda distributed electronically
- Introductions around the table

**Motion #1** to approve April 28, 2016, EZ PS Council meeting minutes.

*Motion moved by:* Becky G

*Motion Seconded by:* Ingrid B

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

#### 2. FUNDRAISER PROPOSAL (Jenny Jahn-Hudec)

- Jenny has two children at EZ and is a nurse in a hospital. She has lost 100 lbs. by changing to a healthier lifestyle, a large part of which is Epicure spices, herbs and recipes
- Epicure is 100% Canadian owned and operated, over 70% non-GMO Project Verified, 100% nut free, 100% gluten free, its products contain no artificial colours or sweeteners, are made without corn syrup, food dyes or hydrogenated fat, and are sugar and sodium conscious
- She is proposing that students sell a “kit” of 3 Epicure Spices (3 Onion, Cheese Chives & Bacon, Lemon Dilly) and recipes for \$20. Normally the school would earn \$5 per kit but she will contribute an extra \$1 as well as a pizza party for the top selling class
- Lynne was asked whether this fundraiser would break any rules around selling food products? She will check into it but is confident that similar to the dried soups we sold earlier this year, it will be fine

#### 3. PROPOSAL: Natural Play Spaces and Community Gardens (Melanie Kloet)

- Melanie recently attended a 5-hour conference @ École L’Harmonie (on Bridgeport Rd. in Waterloo about integrating community gardens into elementary schools
- More and more schools are becoming involved in these gardens, with parent and community partnerships
- Lynne noted that Rob Seeley, our WRDSB Site Foreperson, has had concerns with these gardens because they become neglected when the people who start them leave the school
- Melanie said a parent at EZ is a UofW professor and he started the gardens at the French school... they now have 8, 2 for students and 6 for the community
- There was an article in *Professionally Speaking* last week (page 39 <http://oct-oeeo.uberflip.com/i/678573-ps-june-2016/40?>) about these gardens, which stressed the importance of neighbourhood partnerships. Question asked whether the Mary Allen Neighbourhood Association might be interested in participating?

# Elizabeth Ziegler (EZ) Public School Council Meeting

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- As a teacher herself, Melanie recognizes that this needs to be simple for teachers, and said there is an abundance of content on websites for teachers, to tie this project into teaching plans
- These gardens are very successful when pairing retired people with young families, and making sure that everyone has a “buddy” to cover for them when they’re away
- There are many resources about finer details such as “what to plant and when”, and Melanie is offering her knowledge to help get this started
- There are also many available grants and tie-ins/discounts from retailers such as Home Depot that make it easier
- A parent in attendance also spoke of a great possible partnership with the local Extend-a-Family, where they are always looking for local projects that they can help with
- Lynne to speak with Rob Seeley and the admin. at Lincoln Heights, who have experience with this
- Melanie is also experienced with Natural Play Spaces, as she’s on the Board at Brighton, that has 5 great play spaces

## 4. COMMITTEE UPDATES

### (1) Words Out Committee (Rebecca Seiling)

- Words Out is done for this year, thanks to everyone who helped out

### (2) Greening Committee (Rebecca Guzar)

- Mulching of trees was completed with the help of approx. 10 volunteers – thanks to everyone who came out
- The 3 new trees have been planted and are set up with buckets for watering
- Watering schedule to be developed for this summer. Note that due to construction the watering stuff will be moved to the Kindie shed
- The new sand trough is here, just waiting for the sand to arrive, then it will be set up
- The Little Library is available June 4, and will be delivered to the school on Monday, June 6. The library will need to be “decorated” before it can be installed. Suggestion made to ask Grade 6 teachers to have their students do the decorating, to leave their mark at EZ before they move on. Rebecca G. to contact those teachers

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

- Fundraisers finished for this year, thanks to everyone for their support

### (4) Outreach Committee (Chair position open)

- Social Night for EZ parents planned for June 13, 8 pm, at the Princess Café (46 King St. N. Waterloo)
- Amazing response to the Math Night idea – 6 teachers and 8 parents immediately offered to help
- Brian Rankin said kits are available for this kind of event – EZ to obtain some
- Re: Engineer in Residence program – Sairin had her phone interview, and while waiting for their response, she’d like to meet with teachers before the end of the year. When asked about expenses, she said anything up to \$200 will be reimbursed

## 5. FINANCIAL UPDATE (Ingrid W – Treasurer) –Unavailable tonight

- Approx. \$6300.00 in fundraising money to spend tonight, including pizza money but not pitas

## 6. VICE-PRINCIPAL/PRINCIPAL REPORT (Lori Peebles and Lynne Green)

- Lots of construction meetings being held for the boiler replacement and installation of A/C this summer
- Windows are almost complete, just need safety grates added
- Today each classroom was visited by a group of dancers from “Bring on the Sunshine” who demonstrated and taught some African dances, and also talked about African culture, language, etc.
- Two weeks ago there were martial arts demonstrations
- The primary students finish their EQAO tomorrow, and next week the grade 6 classes will do theirs
- The results from EQAO are sent to students in the fall, and Lynne will share the overall school data then too

# Elizabeth Ziegler (EZ) Public School Council Meeting

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- Wishlist from staff:
  - Next year Mrs Howie (Child and Youth Worker) will be focusing on “Making Good Choices” with **WITS** (**W**alk **A**way, **I**gnore, **T**alk it Out, **S**eek Help). To kick off WITS she would like to bring in the “Power of One” presentation, which is two, skit-based, anti-bullying shows, one for primary and one for junior students (includes cyber-bullying for older students). Very engaging for students, they even sign an “oath board” to commit to the program. Cost is \$909, and includes everyone at EZ
  - Scooter Racks – money was designated previously for one rack, but after monitoring usage it looks like two would be better. The soup fundraiser was designated for these racks, each is approx. \$400, and money raised from the soup fundraiser was approx. \$600
  - Last April council gave Jen Feere/kindie classes \$300 to buy materials for kindie students. They are looking at ideas now, but what they would like most is iPads for their kindie classrooms
  - EZ has one “charging station” for their Chromebooks, but needs another. It’s a “bin style” where approx. 8 Chromebooks can be placed and charged, and it’s convenient because it’s portable (approx. \$200)
- Previous items on Wishlist:
  - Replenish board games in classrooms
  - Top up outdoor bins
  - Math Night
- Suggestions from Facebook page
  - Wobble boards
  - Bike seats
  - Stand up desks
- Comment from parent at council for next year, re: spending money. Could we use our social media resources to get more parent feedback? Discussion around setting up reasonable expectations... doing this makes us accountable to them, and there may be backlash if we don’t use their suggestions. If we ask for feedback, we have to be willing to accept what we get. Note that our Facebook page was used to ask for ideas, and only one person responded
- Note that it’s always good to identify our goals for each fundraiser
- Idea – use the fall BBQ to get feedback? Maybe parents could identify the “areas” they would like supported, such as “Arts and Culture”?
- Note that Council is always open to anyone who wants to contribute their thoughts and ideas

## 7. CHAIR REPORT AND OTHER ISSUES (Carrie)

- Discussion about dividing up funds among Wishlist items

**Motion #2** to designate up to \$950 for the Power of One presentation

*Motion moved by:* Cher

*Motion Seconded by:* Sairin

**Motion passed** by all members of school council in attendance (Update: booked for Nov. 15)

**Motion #3** to designate up to \$250 for a scooter rack

*Motion moved by:* Rebecca G

*Motion Seconded by:* Becky K

**Motion passed** by all members of school council in attendance (Update: both racks will be installed in the fall, after the construction “dangers” are past)

**Motion #4** to designate up to \$2000 on 3 iPads for the kindies and a Chromebook charging station

*Motion moved by:* Becky K

*Motion Seconded by:* Cher

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

# Elizabeth Ziegler (EZ) Public School Council Meeting

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**Motion #5** to designate \$1200 (\$50 x 24 classes) for balls, etc. in outdoor bins

*Motion moved by:* Sairin

*Motion Seconded by:* Ingrid B

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

**Motion #6** to designate \$900 (\$50 x 18 classes) for board games in classrooms

*Motion moved by:* Carrie

*Motion Seconded by:* Rebecca G

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

- This will leave approx. \$1000 to start off next year
- Next fall's BBQ will be held Wednesday, September 14. Carrie to confirm with Ryan (re: providing food)
- Classes aren't expected to fluctuate much next fall, so having it that early shouldn't be a problem
- 5:30-6:30 will be the BBQ, 6:30-7:30 will be Meet the Teacher time
- Suggestion made by a Council member to show appreciation for our teachers and staff by sending in treats on Thursday, June 9. The goodies will go into the staff room for all to share

## 8. ADJOURNMENT (Carrie)

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Next year's School Council meetings will begin on Monday, September 26, 2016

(Reminder: make quorum lower next year)