

Elizabeth Ziegler (EZ) Public School Council Meeting

Thursday, November 26, 2015 – Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE

VOTING COUNCIL MEMBERS

X	Carrie Stevenson	X	Ingrid Bachmann	X	Lisa Roy
X	Cher Mamuza	X	Ingrid Wessel	X	Rebecca Guzar
X	Dan Ballantyne	X	Jacob Shelley	X	Sairin Hayes
X	Donna Martin	X	Jon Spee		

NON VOTING COUNCIL MEMBERS/GUESTS

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

1. WELCOME (Carrie, Chair)

- Agenda distributed electronically

Motion #1 to approve Oct. 29, 2015 EZ PS Council meeting minutes.

Motion moved by: Lisa

Motion Seconded by: Jon

Motion passed by all members of school council in attendance

2. COMMITTEE UPDATES

(1) Words Out Committee (Rebecca Seiling)

- The committee now has a list of ideas for their “One Book One School” program, which will ramp up after Christmas. They are meeting Monday to confirm plans
- Question asked how they can request funds for activities. Since council doesn’t meet in December, voting can take place via e-mail for these requests. Currently there is \$341.78 in their account

(2) Greening Committee (Rebecca Guzar)

- Question if Lynne had a chance to speak to Rob Seeley about whether we need to order trees through him, and which species are preferred? Lori to ask Lynne to follow up
- Lori also mentioned that she was approached by some older students who are interested in planting trees in the school yard. She asked them to do some research, and then they may be coming to the Greening Committee with their requests
- Lisa suggested that some Little Libraries might be a nice addition to the EZ school property, maybe a few different ones to cater to the different age groups in the school. Possibly more of a Words Out task than Greening?

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

- The MacMillans soup program brought in \$600, which is \$100 more than expected
- However, pizza sales are half of what was predicted, possibly due to the price increase, and also because (new this year) they can only be ordered online, which some parents didn’t know. It will raise approx.. \$3500 (not the \$6000 predicted)
- Q: Will School Day announcements come out when it’s time to re-order? (School Day affected by job action)

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- A: Lori will make sure it does – she also got the previous announcement out just before the sanctions began. She will put the info. on the EZ website too
- At the next Council meeting Megan and Holly will present their research into the Indigo Adopt-a-School contest
- Next fundraiser is the Dance-a-thon, which has raised as much as \$6000 – it brought in \$3400 last year. This year it will probably earn \$3000-\$3400
- In previous years Council held a draw for a bike for those bringing in Dance-a-thon pledges, and the last two years offered a draw for \$20 in UpTown Waterloo Bucks – per grade (all students included)
- Suggestion that it might be time to get rid of the draws, and let the students participate for the fun of the event
- Would like to direct the Dance-a-thon money to a specific project, which always makes it more successful
- Lori listed the following projects that could be funded by Council:
 - Bilingual Three Musketeers play for grades 1–6 (for both Core French and French Immersion students). They’ve applied for a \$400 grant, but the total cost is \$750 + HST. Could council fund the remaining cost? (Note last year Council paid for two plays – approx. \$1500)
 - The “Suddenly Shakespeare” touring group would perform a one-hour play combining four plays of Shakespeare. This would probably be for junior students only. Cost is \$675 + HST
 - Paying for buses for field trips (last year we gave \$160 per class to pay for buses, for an approx. total of \$2800)
- The Magazine fundraiser has earned \$760 so far this year (last year’s total was \$1400, but we’ll probably be under that this year). Lori was asked to put reminders about magazines and Mabel’s Labels fundraisers on the website
- Suggestion made for parents not interested in “buying” items from our fundraisers. We could have an open house, more of a social evening, where parents could come and browse, learning about fundraising goals, and have the option of donating cash directly to them
- Lori noted that there is a WEFI link on our website where parents can make a direct monetary donation:
<https://www.canadahelps.org/dn/15506>



- Suggestion that Council could have a table at the seasonal Open House in December to provide this information

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

- The Nutrition Workshop was a very successful event, and stayed within budget
- They collected email addresses from everyone attending, and offered door prizes from Vincenzo’s, Healthy Foods & More, Eating Well Organically and Fenigo
- There were six hands-on food stations around the room, where students could make and taste things like cucumbers and cream cheese, fruit kabobs, energy balls and chia pudding. There was also a cookbook station
- Approx. 140 people attended
- The students embraced the event, made posters, ran the announcements, helped set up and take down, etc.
- There was lots of positive feedback

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

- A formal proposal from Jacob was circulated with information pertaining to his suggestion to create a Social Responsibility Committee. He included background information, data from Ministry and Board guidelines, as well as an overview of past fundraising at EZ
- Jacob, and other parents who have spoken to him, are interested in this committee taking a charitable approach. Council was told they can’t use funds raised at EZ for outside community causes, but his research has shown this isn’t true. He found that four years of Council minutes and data should be available to the community, but they aren’t. (Lori is working on putting this back on the website.) He said that there should also be a community member on Council to represent the EZ neighbourhood

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- He estimates that council raised approx. \$50,000 in the last four years, with \$10,000 spent on the Home Reading program, with no feedback or details about what the money bought
- Jacob noted that the Spirit of Youth club at EZ supports local, regional, national and international organizations, and he believes Council should as well
- Therefore, he proposes that we create a “Social Responsibility” committee, that he and others interested in being part of the committee could create a draft document about School Council by-laws and “terms of reference” for all Council committees, and present it at the January Council meeting
- Jacob noted that Council money given for busing last year would feed an entire school in Uganda for a year
- Q: Would Council be deciding where money would go, or would students choose projects?
A: Both – Council could proceed alone or support ongoing initiatives in the school, currently championed by teachers, parents and students
- Jacob prefers that money spent by Council reflect the broader community’s wishes. For example, the Mary Allen neighbourhood may support a Syrian family and we could help them
- He’d like to see a legacy of continued community support, not just fundraising to buy things that (in his opinion) we don’t really need
- A parent thanked Jacob for his proposal, and said we would all agree in principle to his ideas. However, is Council the right place for this endeavour? For students to learn, it should be student-driven, not parent-driven, and run with their involvement. Also, there is a very small pool of volunteers on Council now, that would be strained with the addition of another committee
- Note made that we currently raise funds for dollars to be spent helping out at EZ, and parents know and expect that. We’d have to be very clear about money going elsewhere
- Jacob noted that many of our events are not student-driven, and it’s entirely within Council’s scope to do this
- A parent asked for clarification around “social responsibility” in order to communicate this to parents
- Jacob said the committee would have to work on that
- A parent noted that years ago some students from the Union of Youth made a presentation to council asking for help with an international concern, and council supported them
- Suggestion made that the Social Responsibility committee should work with the Spirit of Youth, and their supervising teachers
- Note made that the use of the word “community” usually means the EZ community to parents
- Question asked whether the Social Responsibility committee could fundraise its own money for their initiatives, separate from Council?
- Another parent agreed that it should be separate from the parent council
- Jacob asked why?
- Comment that parents on Council volunteer for EZ Parent Council to help EZ students
- Example given that at King Edward their pizza program had a set cost, but any money given above the cost went to buy a mango tree or goat for an underprivileged family
- Note made that the current committee’s goals are for the students – Greening projects are for students, the Nutrition night was for the students, etc.
- Jacob said they’d make it part of their discussion to involve the students
- Parent said the motions are easy to accept, but the wording isn’t. Maybe we could infuse social responsibility into what we already do?
- Parent suggested Council could be an advisory body... we hesitate to funnel money away from EZ
- Note made that the two themes seem to be “accountability” and “communication”
- If there are concerns with the current processes for fundraising dollars being spent, maybe a committee could be formed to research this?
- Lynne’s mandate has always been that fundraising initiatives should be for our students
- There are plenty of opportunities outside of the school to support these other programs
- Our Spirit of Youth group is very unique, and is run by bright, capable students. When they ran the entire food drive they learned that there’s more to it than just bringing in food. They had to make the phone calls, get the boxes, co-

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ordinate the pick up, etc. It wouldn't be right for this group to be overshadowed by a parent organization. The more the parents and teachers do, the less the students do and learn. It's not healthy to impose things on them, they have great ideas, initiative and enthusiasm

- How to proceed? Do we need to vote? Is there a commitment to define it?
- In principle it's a go, but they should look beyond Council for members
- There's a soft motion for them to continue developing ideas
- Next step – those interested will get together for brainstorming, and they'll contact teachers for their input
- If you're interested in contributing, contact Jacob

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

- Coming up in December is the 5 Days of Giving program with different charities benefitting each day. The students did a lot of research and had a hard time narrowing it down
 - Monday Dec. 7 – **School Supplies** (donated to Reception House, House of Friendship family programs at Chandler Mowat and Teachers for Tanzania)
 - Tuesday Dec. 8 – **Hats/Mittens** (donated to ROOF and House of Friendship family programs at Chandler Mowat)
 - Wednesday Dec. 9 – **New Toys** (donated to Reception House and House of Friendship family programs at Chandler Mowat)
 - Thursday Dec. 10 – **Personal Hygiene Items** (donated to ROOF and Teachers for Tanzania)
 - Friday Dec. 11 – **Food Drive** (donated to House of Friendship family programs at Chandler Mowat and the Food Drive)
- The teachers usually participate in a Secret Santa game, and this year their last gift will be a toy that they would have loved as a child. They will try and guess their Secret Santa from that, and the toys will go to the Toy Drive
- Good news, the labour issues are being resolved. There is still work to do at the local level, but sanctions are lifted and extra-curriculars are back on
- Volleyball and Dodgeball have begun
- Clubs now meeting: Spirit of Youth and a Craft Club
- Labour issues for support staff have not been resolved, so they don't answer doors, which ties Lori and Lynne to the office (involves secretaries and custodial staff)
- On November 11 there was an awesome Remembrance Day ceremony
- Tomorrow is PJ day
- 1000 Days of Awesome is a blog being created in one classroom at EZ
- Monday is Moustache Monday – students are asked to bring in any extra change to support Movember – several men on staff grew moustaches to raise awareness/funds for men's health issues such as prostate cancer
- The Seasonal Open House is Tuesday Dec. 8, 6:00-7:30 – there will be music, crafts, hot chocolate and more. Parents are invited to volunteer and share their skills and spirit
- Council members available to attend can wear their orange shirts and set up an information table, maybe run a craft there so children are occupied while parents chat about Council. Carrie to talk to Donna about details

4. FINANCIAL UPDATE (Ingrid W – Treasurer)

Income Statement – Fundraising – Nov. 26/2015

Revenue:		Expenses:	
Treasures Books	\$0.00	Treasures Books	0.00
Pizza	285.85	Pizza	\$1088.21
Mabel's Labels	58.00	Dance-a-thon	0.00
Magazines	66.80		
Total Revenue	\$410.65	Total Expenses	(-\$677.56)

	<u>Target Goal</u>	<u>Actual to Date</u>
Treasures Books	\$1000.00	\$1529.95

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Pizza	6000.00	2581.82
Mabel's Labels	85.00	58.00
Pitas	100.00	
Magazines	1000.00	66.80
MacMillans	500.00	
Dance-a-thon	3500.00	(-150.00)
Total Fundraising Profit	\$12185.00	\$4086.57

Balance Statement

	Balance Sept.24:	Balance Oct.29:	Balance Nov.26:
General Account	\$1737.18*	\$1737.18	\$1737.18
Pizza	0.00	3384.18	2581.82
Fundraising/magazines	58.00	1587.95	1712.75**
Dance-a-thon	\$0.00	(-150.00)	(-150.00)
Greening	3190.60	3190.60	3190.60
Words Out	341.78	341.78	341.78
Total	\$5327.56	\$10091.69	\$9414.13
Variance		\$4764.13	(-\$677.56)

*plus \$1000.00 planner money from May 2015

**Mabel's Labels \$58.00 and Magazines \$66.80

- Approx. \$1700.00 to spend

5. WRAPSC REPORT (Rebecca Guzar)

- One subject from the last meeting was Safe Caring and Inclusive Schools committees... every school needs to have one
- There was one at EZ last year, but nothing has happened yet this year due to job actions. Lori and Lynne waiting for direction from the Board
- Another topic was kindie transportation safety, and the new ideas they're trying, to get students home safely
- A spokesperson from the Ontario College of Teachers gave a talk. They regulate the teaching profession (more in the public's interest than the teachers')
- You can look up teacher's credentials and training. The website is www.oct.ca

6. CHAIR REPORT AND OTHER ISSUES (Carrie)

- Carrie will bring the orange shirts to the Open House for Council members to be easily recognized

Motion #2 to direct funds raised by the Dance-a-thon to bus costs for field trips

Motion moved by: Becki

Motion Seconded by: Sairin

Motion passed by all members of school council in attendance

Motion #3 to spend up to \$800 for the Three Musketeers bilingual performance

Motion moved by: Ingrid B.

Motion Seconded by: Sairin

Motion passed by all members of school council in attendance

- Brief discussion about choices for Internet Safety workshops. Some too costly or booked until next year. Carrie to follow up with the new one being provided, for free, by the Waterloo Regional Police

7. ADJOURNMENT (Carrie)

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Next meeting is on Thursday Jan. 28, 2016