

Elizabeth Ziegler (EZ) Public School Council Meeting

Thursday, October 29, 2015 – Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE

VOTING COUNCIL MEMBERS

X	Becky Klokoff	X	Holly Morwood	X	Lisa Roy
X	Carrie Stevenson	X	Ingrid Bachmann	X	Rebecca Guzar
X	Cher Mamuza	X	Ingrid Wessel	X	Sairin Hayes
X	Donna Martin	X	Jon Spee		Sharon Leage

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, great turn-out tonight!
- **Motion #1** to approve Sept. 24, 2015 EZ PS Council meeting minutes.
Motion moved by: Rebecca G
Motion Seconded by: Ingrid B
Motion passed by all members of school council in attendance

2. REVIEW OF COUNCIL'S ROLE AND POSITION (Lynne, Principal)

- In response to Jacobs's interests expressed at the previous council meeting, Lynne presented an overview of the WRDSB policies and procedures for School Council as it relates to fundraising
- Since we are a school-based organization, our focus must be the school (there are many worthy community-based organizations supporting community needs that families can contribute to)
- Therefore our fundraising focus should be on school learning
- According to the Sept. 1/2012 policy, any money raised through school council must be school based, and approved by the principal/vice- principal
- The Waterloo Regional District School Board supports fundraisers that enrich students and the school community, and fundraisers must be conducted under the guidance of the principal
- Items fundraised should complement school programs and not replace any board supported items
- Carrie reminded us that our Council is focused on these 4 key areas:
 - Numeracy and Literacy
 - Community Engagement
 - Healthy Living
 - Arts and Culture
- Acceptable fundraiser uses include assistance funds for students (such as our "benevolent fund"), supplies, equipment and services that enhance student learning. This also includes field trips, speakers and school yard improvements
- Unacceptable uses include classroom learning textbooks, school upgrades and infrastructure, professional development for teachers, support of political parties, and goods and services for teachers (such as a teacher lunch)
- Our job is to support our students in their choices to give back to the community. For example, students here recently arranged a food drive for the food bank, and by organizing it themselves they learned how much work it takes, and how to set up this kind of program. We can support our community, but students must be involved

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- There are always consumables (books, outdoor toys, games for classrooms) that need replenishing
- We are not giving things to a group of privileged kids, we have a broader set of goals
- The greening initiatives are also excellent, where an enhanced learning area is developed outside, plus it provides sun protection and a cooler area in hot weather
- Local/national/international giving can be guided by students. Last year they ran the 5 Days of Giving program which benefited many organizations including ROOF (hats & mitts), an international school received books, toys to local children, and items for Anselma house
- In the end we're here to help the students get involved and support their initiatives

3. COMMITTEE UPDATES

(1) Words Out Committee (Rebecca Seiling)

- The committee has begun some initial planning for this year's "One Book One School" program, which will ramp up after Christmas
- Volunteers are always needed to help with activities, whether planning or facilitating, please speak to Rebecca if you're interested

(2) Greening Committee (Rebecca Guzar)

- Review of previous accomplishments through grant money and fundraising (approx. \$30,000-\$40,000)
- Last year was a "maintenance" year
- In the spring there will be a yard clean up, trees will be mulched and the fences around them checked
- Approx. \$3000 remains in the Greening account
- Want to get input from teachers and students about what they'd like
- Possibly replace a few trees, especially the large one removed last year
- Rob Seeley (WRDSB Site Foreperson) suggested sand troughs (elevated sand boxes) which allow children to dig in the dirt without creating holes in the ground, that become a hazard instead of just filling the holes in the sand that already exist
- Also Rob suggested we continue the line of trees to the space where the large tree was removed last year
- Note that new trees in that area shouldn't be too small, they need to be closer to the size of existing trees, which will be more expensive
- Rob Seeley is putting an order in soon, and we could order with him for a cost saving. He will also advise on the types of trees recommended
- Lynne will get details from him to facilitate budgeting

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

- The Treasures coupon book program is finished, and brought in \$1530 (\$900 less than last year, partly due to the teacher situation). This program is very labour intensive, especially with the teachers unavailable
- Magazine fundraising information went home a week ago, and so far \$430 has been raised (made \$1500 last year). So far we're on target, and this program is no work for council, Lori and Lynne distributed the information (thanks!) and all orders are done online
- On Nov. 11 information will go home about the MacMillans dried soup campaign. These products will be easier to store and transport, compared to the frozen foods offered last year. Orders will be delivered in early December
- The Danceathon kick-off assembly will be Feb. 3, with the event on Feb. 19. More info. to come

(4) Outreach Committee (Jon)

- The ESQ (Engineering Science Quest) event will be held April 14
- EZ's Science Fair will be May 12
- More info. to come, closer to these dates

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(5) Nutrition Workshop (Ingrid B)

- A Nutrition Workshop will be held for EZ families on Nov. 17. It will be a drop-in program beginning at 6:30
- A group of parents has met twice to plan this... there will be different stations where kids can make food
- There will be another meeting with kids to make posters and advertise the event, if you want to participate
- Hoping to hold it in the gym... Lynne or Lori to speak with Joan about availability. Will need tables set up
- \$250 was allocated in last year's budget. Lynne asked them to submit "clean" receipts for expenses
- Planned foods are: fruit kabobs, veggies & dip (tahini-free hummus), trail mix, power balls (dates, coconut, etc.), chia pudding, cucumbers & cream cheese. There will be a recipe exchange area where people can take pictures of recipes or write them out
- Need to find a way for people to RSVP to the event. Can't use School Day due to the teacher action. Suggestions included EventBrite, Council email, paper distribution, stickers in planners (maybe reminder right before event), website, flyer
- Need to get the information out next week... could have a "tear off" bottom portion to hand back in
- There will be door prizes – need to ask people to donate them
- There will be a Fenigo tie-in, maybe get coupons from them
- Hoping to create an email list from this event, and bring people back together in January at the Princess Café

(6) Health-related Workshop

- We usually hold a healthy living workshop during the school year
- Previous topics included: anxiety in kids, sexuality, social media networks
- Council asked for ideas for new topics. They need to appeal to a wide range of ages
- Suggestions were: creating resiliency in kids, internet safety
- Carrie mentioned that the WRAPSC Facebook page had some suggestions, she will look this up

4. FINANCIAL UPDATE (Ingrid W – Treasurer)

Balances

General Account: \$737.18

Danceathon: - \$150.00

Fundraising:

Treasures Book:

Revenue \$4589.95

Expenses \$3060.00

Total: \$1529.95*

Greening: \$3190.60

Pizza:

Revenue \$4973.90

Expenses \$1579.72

Total: \$3394.18**

Words Out: \$341.78

Total: \$9,100.74

**deposit of \$1,529.95 (Treasures Book profit)*

***payment to Panago approx. \$350 for each of 7 more weeks*

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

- Lori encourages parents to follow EZ on Twitter for the most current information
- Activities this fall: fire drill, touch football, Blue Jay day, Food Drive, students voted in election mirroring ours, Halloween tomorrow (no masks or weapons please)

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- Working hard to communicate with parents
- Note that schoolyard supervision is 15 minutes before the morning bell, and 15 minutes after the final one. Students shouldn't be in the yard, unsupervised, outside of these times. There are occasionally issues with older students modeling unsafe behaviors for younger children
- There are both before and after school programs that parents pay for – we have to honour this situation, and cannot be sure of childrens' safety when they're not involved in these programs
- Lynne's update about the teacher action – all three employee groups here at the WRDSB are negotiating (note that the WRDSB unions are not CUPE). Since it is closed negotiations, we don't know how it's proceeding
- Lynne and Lori supported our fundraising efforts because we were organized and ready to go
- They've also been answering the door and making calls to bring students to the office
- Their mandate is to keep students safe, keep the school open and keep learning happening
- Note that any updates are posted on the website immediately (and School Day too)
- Since some families don't have access to these, there have been some papers sent home to convey important information such as the progress reports being cancelled
- Yesterday was the first rainy day where all students were kept inside, and they made use of the games purchased with council funds
- Q: do all classrooms have games, and have all the funds been used?
- Lynne will check, and remind teachers to use this resource
- Lynne will also remind the kindergarten teachers that \$300 is reserved for their use (funds originally designated for outdoor toys)

6. WRAPSC REPORT (Rebecca Guzar)

- WRAPSC is the Waterloo Regional Assembly of Public School Councils
- Rebecca attended the first meeting last month
- They will be providing training on suicide awareness – after attending the training you would be able to run an education night for parents
- The main topic of the meeting was the sex ed. curriculum
- They also focused on communication, and the directions from the Board are to move to electronic communications using websites
- Note the by-laws state that school councils cannot have a Facebook page, although it's OK for parents to create one (Therefore Carrie will change the name of our Facebook page, removing Council references)
- At the bottom of the general website there is a spot that says "let us email you". Click there to receive news and updates from all the committees
- You can also sign up with your child's WRDSB # (found on their progress reports)
- Note that EZ isn't allowed to do mass mailings – you have to sign up to receive information
- One speaker's topic was about alcohol use in older students and resources for that problem
- The message for the sex ed. topic was "equity and inclusion"
- The committee will make accommodations for people, but try and separate the myths from the facts. Their website contains key messages about the new curriculum, with a special parent's guide
- Another resource on the Ministry of Education website is a grade-by-grade curriculum
- Lynne showed a thick volume of the Health and Physical Education program – be aware that it's not all about sex ed.
- EZ has always communicated with parents when sex ed. Information will be presented to students
- When people learn the details, 95% of the time they're relieved and unconcerned
- Tell anyone who is worried to call the office to get their questions answered
- Useful links referenced above:
 - <http://www.wrdsb.ca/blog/2015/05/04/new-physical-education-health-curriculum/>
 - <https://www.ontario.ca/page/sex-education-ontario?gclid=CLXejeP-5cgCFQuraQodAegJIA>
 - <http://www.peopleforeducation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Sex-Education-tip-sheet-2015.pdf>

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7. CHAIR REPORT AND OTHER ISSUES (Carrie)

- A parent asked if we've ever looked at the Indigo adopt-a-school program? Schools in need can win \$5,000-\$10,000 in books for the library. Carrie asked this parent to do some research and make a presentation at our next meeting (Holly will also speak with them about this – it seems to be very administration driven)
- Q: is baseball now banned at EZ?
- Lynne noted that many schools do not allow baseball, due to unsafe situations. She announced to the school today that the baseball season for this year is now over, and asked students to take their bats home. Students can still play catch with soft balls (tennis balls), but baseballs and bats must remain at home. Some bats were not being used appropriately, and this affects the junior students more than primary
- Q: Do bins of outdoor toys need to be replenished?
- Lynne noted that "used" gym equipment is being circulated to those bins
- Q: How do spending decisions get made?
- Carrie explained that we put together a list of wants from teachers and parents, then vote on them
- This year things have been on hold due to the teachers' job action
- Lynne distributes "wish lists" to the teachers, and will call them back when the job action is resolved
- In the past there has been a focus on "bigger projects" such as greening, document cameras and the new sound system in the gym
- Lynne explained that some costs can't be foreseen and pre-planned. For example, suddenly last year there were 60 scooters in the school, there was no place for students to "park" them, and it was unsafe when they were being carried throughout the school. She showed an example of scooter "racks" (similar to bike racks) that can be purchased
- This was met with enthusiasm, and a suggestion made that the upcoming MacMillans fundraiser be directed to get some of these for EZ
- **Motion #2** to direct funds raised by the MacMillans soup fundraiser towards the Healthy Living initiative of purchasing scooter racks.
 - Motion moved by:* Carrie
 - Motion Seconded by:* Cher
 - Motion passed** by all members of school council in attendance

8. ADJOURNMENT (Carrie)

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

Next meeting is on Thursday Nov. 26, 2015