

Elizabeth Ziegler (EZ) Public School Council Meeting

Thursday, September 24, 2015 – Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE

VOTING COUNCIL MEMBERS

X	Becky Klokoﬀ	X	Donna Martin	X	Jacob Shelley
X	Carrie Stevenson	X	Holly Morwood	X	Jon Spee
X	Cher Mamuza	X	Ingrid Bachmann	X	Rebecca Seiling
X	Dan Ballantyne	X	Ingrid Wessel		

NON VOTING COUNCIL MEMBERS/GUESTS

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

1. WELCOME (Carrie)

- Agenda distributed electronically
- Introductions around the table, pleased to see new faces

2. OVERVIEW OF COUNCIL'S ROLE AND POSITIONS (Lynne, Principal)

- Vote held for position of Treasurer – results were a tie between Ingrid W and Becki G
They discussed it later and decided Ingrid would hold the position this year
- Lynne displayed and explained a sheet describing the role of School Council
- Key phrase is “working together”
- Note that a school council is an Advisory Body
- Council must operate within Board Policy
- The bottom line is “what’s best for our students”
- Not a place to pursue your own agenda or advocate for your child

3. FUTURE MEETINGS (Carrie)

- Future Council meeting dates: Oct. 29, Nov. 26, Jan. 28, Feb. 25, Apr. 28, May 26, Jun. 23

4. COMMITTEES

(1) Words Out Committee (Rebecca Seiling)

- Previously worked on Words Out under Pamela’s guidance, so has experience with this committee
- Committee usually rotates annually between reading and writing programs
- Since last year was the school magazine (writing), this year’s focus is reading
- “One Book One School” is an EZ reading program where students and families read a chosen book and beginning in February there will be activities based on it
- This year’s choice of book is Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
- They have lots of ideas to incorporate this book into school activities... details to come
- The Words Out Committee also brings in authors to speak, one for younger students and one for juniors
- Volunteers are always needed to help with activities, whether planning or facilitating, please speak to Rebecca if you’re interested
- Lisa Roy will be helping Rebecca, and two teachers as well: Joanna Struck and Tamara Awad Lobe

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(2) Greening Committee (Rebecca Guzar—unable to attend, but notes sent)

- Rebecca and her husband will chair this committee
- They plan to start small with a project discussed previously – putting large, flat “sitting” rocks in the forest area to make a living classroom
- They’ll also be co-ordinating days when parents come help in the schoolyard
- There is \$3190.60 in the greening account
- They will also co-ordinate a tree watering schedule for volunteers to help in the summer
- Lynne commented that she will need to speak to Rob Seely (from the Board) as well as the teachers about the ideas of these rocks and also replacing the tree that was cut down near the swings

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

- Always looking for volunteers, especially now when the teacher action prevents them from making photocopies, distributing info. sheets to students, etc.
- Other tasks include distributing pizzas on Fridays (10:30-12) and counting money for the Dance-a-thon
- Tell Carrie if you’re interested in helping out

(4) Outreach Committee (Chair position open)

- New committee, looking for someone to lead
- One goal will be to promote the EZ School Council at school events
- Committee will also co-ordinate well-being workshops (Previous workshops: Anxiety in Children, Healthy Sexuality, Internet Safety)
- Another task will be managing the ESQ (Engineering Science Quest) event – good news, the PRO Grant application was approved, so \$990 is available for the ESQ night

Discussion instigated by Jacob:

- Now at the beginning of this year, we have an opportunity to re-think what school council does, and what our role will be
- Some school councils are run differently, for example, one local school is sponsoring a Syrian family
- Last year Council chose to sponsor several cultural events, and the EZ community has helped a school in Uganda by raising money for books and shoes
- Comment that at MacGregor they have a social worker who works with the school to raise money for the needy in an African country
- The Union of Youth at EZ has a history of working on these really worthwhile projects, could Council back them as well? Do we need to fundraise for items at this school? Is there anything in the governing policy that restricts us?
- Question asked about what is needed at EZ, either for the school or the students? Parents want to know how the money fundraised helps their kids
- Comment made that it can be more about community engagement and social interaction, how can we be the catalyst for that, and make it less about the money?
- Suggestion made that Jacob come up with a proposal for Council to consider
- Another suggestion that the Outreach Committee could meet and work on these ideas
- Possibly a percent of money fundraised could go towards helping others, even those locally in our own community
- Lynne noted that Free The Children is an organization that helps students, their schools and communities
- Comment made that a lot can be done without money, as well
- Question asked how the outreach can work, how do we get people involved, in order to get their ideas? (To this end, communication methods were outlined in the following VP report.)

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

- Our Vice-Principal Lori is excited to be at EZ full-time this year
- She explained methods of parent communication currently being used:
 - Twitter – Lori is making daily tweets, account is @EZieglerPS
 - Website – ongoing and always a challenge to keep adding new content, so people will check it regularly
 - School Day – an online portal to pay for events and find out what's happening
 - Facebook Page – run by Council, a closed group that you need permission to join. Note that information is not monitored by the school so it isn't necessarily accurate
 - Board Website – parents can also subscribe to this site
- We really want people to be engaged with the school and know what's going on
- Please let the school know if you think any important information is not displayed on the website
- Note the Council newsletter will be retired this year – info. will be communicated on the website instead
- Suggestion from a parent that a paper be sent home to remind parents about the website
- Happy to receive the Pro Grant approval, using this grant money the ESQ (Engineering Science Quest) event will be held a few weeks before the spring Science Fair
- Dance-a-thon is usually held in February. Helen Fiddler will be co-ordinating it, and needs to have a date confirmed. It's a great event that promotes physical fitness, the kids are excited to attend, they can even choose music in advance. Date chosen is February 19, the Friday after Family Day
- Lynne is compiling a current wish list from teachers, for Council to consider

6. FINANCIAL UPDATE

- Opening balances for September 2015:

General Account	\$737.18
Fundraising/magazines	\$58.00
Greening	\$3190.60
Words Out	\$341.78

7. CHAIR REPORT AND OTHER ISSUES (Carrie)

Overview of Fundraisers:

- Last year approx. \$17,600 was raised but some fundraisers will be discontinued this year, due to lack of volunteers and/or declining interest. Therefore it is estimated that approx. \$12,000 will be raised.

Program:	Estimated Revenue:
Pizza	\$6000.00 (to be co-ordinated by Martha Norton)
Pitas	\$100.00 (funds go to Nutrition Program)
Mabel's Labels	\$85.00 (more of a service – lost & found items will be returned if they have a label on them)
Magazines	\$1000.00 (runs itself – online sales only – October “push”)
Treasures	\$1000.00
MacMillans	\$500.00 (only dried soups this year, no frozen products)
Dance-a-thon	\$3500.00
- Fundraiser suggestions: gift cards from Colour Paradise Greenhouses, also Chapters has a program that must be set up by the VP or Principal of a school. % of sales on one day will be given (as books) to the school library. Lynne to investigate this
- Question whether any volunteer jobs could be done from home in the evenings?
Answer: Yes, just ask!
- Question whether parents are ever given a “big picture” overview of fundraising for the year?
Answer: not previously, but maybe the website can be used to communicate that
- Suggestion to also ask parents what they'd like the funds to be spent on
- Comment made that this year there has been no communication home that asks parents to help
- Lynne noted that this is an unusual fall, with what's happening with the teachers
- For example, normally this week we would have had a school BBQ and meet the teacher night

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By-Laws:

- Last year Jacob began work on School Council by-laws. This is to be a guiding document for new parents coming to Council
- Still lots of work to be done on this
- Lynne will find samples from other schools to help the process

Spirit Wear:

- Carrie has quotes from two companies, ready to proceed, but needs someone to co-ordinate
- Also waiting for decision on graphic of tiger (school mascot)
- Becky Klokoff volunteered to head this endeavour
- Lynne waiting for teacher issues to be resolved before proceeding with graphic

Misc:

- Is anyone interested in being the contact person for the ESQ event? Jon Spee volunteered
- Ingrid interested in planning a healthy nutrition workshop, as discussed last year. She will work with Lisa Roy and invites anyone interested to come to her house for a planning meeting Oct. 6 at 7 pm. Hoping to incorporate Fenigo "litterless lunch" information into this evening. Invitation to be put on website if any other parents are interested in helping out and attending the meeting
- Decision made to have a quorum of 7 for future Council meetings

8. ADJOURNMENT (Carrie)

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm

Next meeting is on Thursday Oct 29, 2015