

Elizabeth Ziegler (EZ) Public School Council Meeting

Monday, April 24, 2017

ATTENDANCE

VOTING COUNCIL MEMBERS

X	Ingrid Bachmann (Chair)		Martha Norton		Gina Alderman
x	Ingrid Wessel (Treasurer)	X	Joanna Thiessen		Krissy Walker
X	Carrie Stevenson (Secretary)	X	Rebecca Calma		Russ O'Neill
	Rebecca Guzar		Ronda Werner		Alexis Motuz
X	Cher Mamuza		Erin Heimpel	x	Brenda Prins
x	Emily Jaarsma		Becky Klokoff		Dana Zegers

NON VOTING COUNCIL MEMBERS/GUESTS

X	Lynne Green (Principal)		Sue Tomchick (Teacher)		Jennifer Topham
X	Sara MacNeill (VP)		Holly Morwood		Shemira Sheriff
X	Jola Gurska	X	Brendan Payne	X	Brian Enns

1. WELCOME (Ingrid Bachmann - Chair)

- Minutes were circulated via email for review

Motion to approve February 24, 2017 minutes.

Motion moved by: Carrie

Motion Seconded by: Cher

Motion passed by: All members in attendance

2. COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

a) Greening

Parent, Brian Enns, submitted the proposal below for a school garden program. Teacher, Brendan Payne, expressed his support of the project and has recruited additional teachers to help (e.g. grow seeds, help build beds). Teachers are definitely willing as long as there is a committed group of parent volunteers to lead and maintain the project. Brendan expressed concern around time constraints involved in weeding/watering the garden during school and gave the example of only having three hours of science per week – that time will be used to incorporate the curriculum but not to weed/water. Staffing may change in new school year (should know mid-June) so volunteer teachers won't be finalized until then. Plenty of curriculum topics (math, art, science, heritage) can be applied to gardening. Brendan mentioned that the teachers' union is trying to incorporate nature into learning and Rebecca pointed out that a garden organization is currently working on a manual to create a turnkey curriculum tool.

The student Eco-Club is not officially running but teachers, Alice and Tamara, have both committed to helping with a garden. Brendan will investigate having the club run this year with Alice and Tamara. Local community garden, Good Earth Garden (St. John's), could be a good resource for "how to" run a garden successfully. Future EZ parent, Melanie Kloet, and current EZ parent, Stephen Svenson, are familiar with starting a garden. Parents and council members, Alexis and Jen T., have committed to supporting the garden.

Lynne confirmed that WRDSB grounds people support having gardens onsite but cannot maintain gardens themselves and reiterated that success depends on external support (e.g. community/parents) and a detailed plan so that volunteers know what is needed and can commit to specific tasks. Starting small is crucial. Rob Seeley (WRDSB) is experienced in layout and yard maintenance so he'll be able to provide direction around garden placement.

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Funding – Council supports a school garden but before voting, the group will need detailed goals and a formal request for funding (e.g. \$300 for May 30 to build 3 raised beds by volunteers, X and Y). Could tie the Veseys bulb sales into the garden launch by running the fundraising campaign in tandem with garden launch and direct the funds to garden project.

Motion to approve spending additional \$100 from the greening account to cover the higher-than-expected cost of tarmac stencils.

Motion moved by: Emily

Motion Seconded by: Ingrid W.

Motion passed by: All members in attendance

Action items:

- (February) Becki to purchase three Treegator bags for 2017 tree watering
- (February) Becki to coordinate mulching and clean-up in 2017
- John's Nursery to replace the dead tree that was planted last school year (under warranty). The other two trees have buds so do not need to be replaced.
- Garden group will meet before May mtg to create a critical path and plan and will discuss with other schools

b) Fundraising

- E-waste and yard sale event happened Saturday, April 22. Five families participated in the garage sale where the reg'n fee and donations totaled about \$120 for EZ.
- Filled about 1/3 of the e-waste bin with miscellaneous electronics (e.g. Glucometers, boom boxes, computers, monitors, etc.). Don't expect much revenue because the event is more outreach and service-oriented, than financial. EZ should receive the funds in 30-40 days. In future years, consider collecting clothes (through the same company), having fewer volunteers, and ending around 2 p.m.

Action items:

- (February) Jola and Carrie to coordinate the 2018 dance-a-thon

c) Outreach

- June parent social –Berlin Bicycle Club is licenced and eager to host a private event on Tuesday, June 13 at 7 p.m. for EZ parents
- Fall BBQ – Ryan Good can help with food ordering and prep again on Wednesday, September 13, 2017. This will be his last year as his youngest child will be entering grade 6 in the fall.
- Jo submitted PRO Grant application for ESQ visit in 2018

Action items:

- (February) Joanna to contact ESQ about 2017/2018 ESQ night
- (February) Lynne and staff will review possible locations within the school that are well-staffed should EZ receiving funding for the Elkay hydration station
- Identify volunteer to coordinate the fall BBQ

d) Words out

- Janice Lee – Led two assemblies on April 24 where seemed like a natural teacher and was really good at engaging the kids and then settling them down. Both assemblies included volunteers from the audience. She'd start a story and have the volunteers fill-in-the-gap (e.g. Once upon a time there was a...goat...that was good at...climbing mountains). She used a looping machine to incorporate animal sounds (recorded by kids) into the story telling. Encouraged using creativity, telling a

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story, using imagination, and thinking outside of the box. She included Korean drumming and explained that she'd just started learning in January. She encouraged the kids to try something new and persevere even when it's difficult. Thanks to Rebecca and Alexis for organizing!

Action items:

- Rebecca to forward Janice Lee's invoice to Lynne when she receives it

3. FINANCIALS (Ingrid Wessel)

Balance Statement

	Opening Balance	Balance Oct 20	Balance Nov 21	Balance Jan 23	Balance Feb 27	Balance Apr 24	
General Account (#850)	\$5,163.74	\$5,150.22	\$5,150.22	\$5,150.22	\$5,150.22	\$5,150.22	
Pizza (#851)	\$0.00	\$4,981.25	\$4,066.25	\$2,028.05	\$4,692.65	\$2,854.65	*
Fundraising/magazines (#852)	\$0.00	\$5,061.41	\$2,185.52	\$5,058.22	\$5,110.61	\$5,110.61	
Danceathon	\$0.00	-\$100.00	-\$100.00	-\$100.00	-\$100.00	\$5,652.61	**
Greening (#854)	\$1,648.91	\$1,648.91	\$1,648.91	\$1,648.91	\$1,648.91	\$699.71	** *
Words Out (#855)	\$345.17	\$345.17	\$345.17	\$345.17	\$345.17	\$345.17	
TOTAL	\$7,157.82	\$17,086.96	\$13,296.07	\$14,130.57	\$16,847.56	\$19,812.97	
VARIANCE		\$9,929.14	\$3,790.89	\$834.50	\$2,716.99	\$2,965.41	

* Pizza payment of \$1,585.50, payment adjustments of -\$252.50

** Danceathon deposit of \$6,073 and expense of \$320.39

*** Creative playgrounds expense of \$949.20

Funding Commitments:

Power of One \$
950.00

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Scooter Rack	\$ 250.00
Kindie Ipads (3) and Chromebook charging station	\$ 2,000.00
Outdoor play (\$50 x 24 classes)	\$ 1,200.00
Board games (\$50 x 18 classes)	\$ 900.00

Action items:

- Lynne to inquire about account balances to identify which items are outstanding and which have been paid for

4. VICE-PRINCIPAL REPORT (Sara MacNeill)

- n/a

5. PRINCIPAL REPORT (Lynne Green)

- Little Library – has been repaired
- Many events planned in next while:
 - EQAO Tests: May 23-25 (primary), 29-31 (junior)
 - UW Football: June 9, 15, 22 – Character-building with UW players
 - Music Monday: Choir has been practicing and will host an afternoon session and an evening session on May 1
 - Running Club – starting week of May 1, meeting with kids week of April 24 to share news
 - Jump Rope for Heart – Thursday, June 1, kick-off assembly to happen May 12
 - EZ track event: May 18
 - Track & Field regional event at Seagram stadium: June 13
- Technology – trading desktops out of lab (June) for Chromebooks (mainly for Junior classes), every class from JK-6 currently has at least one Chromebook. School computer committee will ensure current iPads are updated through iWatch. Junior classes have 9 Chromebooks each. Staff did in-school training on April 7 PD day to become familiar with the technology.
- Brendan – how kids use Chromebooks in class:
 - In-class access is crucial for quick access to info
 - Google Read & Write – program helps kids with lower reading abilities
 - Kids are researching fuel efficient vehicles as part of their climate change curriculum
 - Writing, sharing, and editing stories among partners (on 2 different Chromebooks)
 - Shermira Sheriff started a coding club where kids bring Chromebooks to her class at lunch and learn coding
- Scooter rack and triple hoop toss are on site (2 scooter racks \$1224, 1 triple hoop toss \$845, shipping \$500, HST \$333.97)
- Scooter racks – previously approved about \$885 (Oct. '15, May '16) for two racks but they came in at about \$600 each because the previous supplier had closed. Lynne ordered a Triple hoop toss with the scooter racks to save shipping costs (\$500). Council can vote to cover the extra rack costs and/or triple hoop toss once the account balances have been clarified/confirmed with Joan.

Action items:

6. CHAIR REPORT (Ingrid Bachmann)

- Volunteer still required to attend Waterloo Region Assembly of Public School Councils (WRAPSC) meetings. WRAPSC meets once per month at Forest Heights.

Action items:

7. FUTURE MEETING DATES

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- Meetings will occur on the following Mondays:
May 29, 2017

8. MISCELLANEOUS

Action items:

9. ADJOURNMENT (Chair, Ingrid Bachmann)

EZ Proposal to Council for a School Garden Program (Brian Enns)

Over the years there has been interest in setting up a garden program at the school. There were various visions for how it could look and teachers that took steps to start one, however a program was never successfully implemented for various reasons. Due to growing interest in the community and region, as well as commitments from teachers and parents, we are re-introducing the idea.

Benefits

- students learn focus and patience, cooperation, teamwork and social skills
- they gain self-confidence and a sense of "capableness" along with new skills and knowledge in food growing — soon-to-be-vital for the 21st century
- garden-based teaching addresses different learning styles and intelligences; our non-readers can blossom in the garden!
- achievement scores improve because learning is more relevant and hands-on
- students become more fit and healthy as they spend more time active in the outdoors and start choosing healthy foods over junk food
- the schoolyard is diversified and beautified
- graffiti and vandalism decrease because students respect what they feel some ownership in
- Anxiety levels decrease when people (children and adults) spend time with plants

Key Elements for the Program

Committed People
Shared Vision
Student Interest and Input
Budget/Donations
Time
Suitable Location

Possible Phases

- Council Approval
- School Approval
- Vision Setting and Buy-In with Stakeholders (e.g. caretaker, 2 or more teachers that are interested in using the garden with their classes, expert gardener, etc.)
- Responsibilities, Budget and Timelines Decided
- Phase 1 Build
- Phase 1 Operational
- Feedback and Planning with Stakeholders
- Phase 2 Build
- ... ongoing evolution

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Risks	Response
Flowering plants will attract bees, which are a health risk for some students	Minimize bee-attracting plants? Location? Choose plants that flower in July/August when students are not in school.
Teachers may not utilize it	Get commitment from 2+ teachers in planning stage
Nobody will water it over the summer	Shut it down during the summer or set-up a schedule of committed volunteers Choose drought-resistant, native plant species that do not require regular watering.
Nothing will grow	Get advice from expert on suitable plants based on how classes expect to use the garden (growing cycles, types of plants, etc.), suitable site and construction
It will get trampled/bad soil/poison ivy	Raised beds
Nothing will grow before Summer break	Start seedlings in the classrooms

Materials

- Wood, likely 4x4 untreated cedar
- Nails/Screws
- Soil
- Tools
- Watering cans
- Seed/seedlings
- Seed trays

Optional Materials

- Composter(?)
- Hose
- Sign Material
- Storage Bin

Phase 1 Estimated Budget

Item	Cost
Two Beds (wood only)	200
Soil	100
Tools	100
Watering Cans	20

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Seeds	30
Seed trays	Free?
Total	450

Ongoing Program Costs: water, seeds, tool replacement

We would look into getting donations from Home Hardware, Nurseries, etc. to cover some or all of the materials

Can we start rain collection barrels on school property?

Potential Funding Sources:

- TD Friends of the Environment Foundation: <https://fef.td.com/funding/> (September deadline)
- Evergreen: <https://www.evergreen.ca/get-involved/funding-opportunities/school-ground-grants/> (September deadline again)
- Whole Kids Foundation: <https://www.wholekidsfoundation.org/schools/programs/school-gardens-canada> (November deadline)
- EcoLeague: <http://lsf-1st.ca/en/projects/teacher-resources/action-project-funding>

Source material:

<http://www.spec.bc.ca/Resources/Documents/Food/SPEC%27s%20School%20Gardens%20Start-Up%20Guide.pdf>

<http://www.greenhearted.org/school-gardens.html>

<http://www.everactive.org/gardening-grants>

Additional resources can be found at: <http://www.davidsuzuki.org/what-you-can-do/connecting-with-nature-education-guide/>

Connecting with Nature teacher's guide:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B7Fg8b0VzZqFNkU4dHdYVkQ1ZmM>