

# Elizabeth Ziegler Public School Council Meeting

Monday March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Meeting Minutes 6:30 p.m.

## ATTENDANCE

### VOTING COUNCIL MEMBERS

	Heather Sequeira		Joanna Thiessen		Melissa Arcand
x	Camelia Nunez	x	Rebecca Calma		Anneliese Schwartz
x	Erin Heimpel	x	Emily Jaarsma		Marcel Pinheiro
x	Ingrid Bachmann		Meghan Bennett	x	Jola Gurska
x	Carrie Stevenson	x	Skye Norris	x	Pui Ming Leung
	Rebecca Guzar		Jon Spee		Simonne Marchesseau
	Melissa Cowburn		Brenda Prins		

### NONVOTING COUNCIL MEMBERS/GUESTS

x	Susan Marchiori (Principal)	x	Sue Tomchick
x	Sara MacNeill (VP)		Brendan Payne
x	Kody Yoshy	x	Shemira Sheriff

1. WELCOME and introductions. Member sign in (Camelia Nunez)

#### **Motion #1 to approve January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 EZ PS Council Meeting Minutes**

- **Motion moved by: Carrie**
- **Motion Seconded by: Jola**
- **Motion passed by all members of school council in attendance.**

2. Discussion re: Buddy Bench with Kody Yoshy

Kody and his brother would be happy to build and donate a “buddy bench” to the school. He shared a sketch of what it could look like.

He owns a custom steel fabrication shop, working closely with a woodworker. They do interior and exterior work as well as gardening, planters, etc. Bench frame would be steel and powder coated to prevent rust. Online there are many ideas for how the wood could look including one where children paint it. Otherwise they would prepare the wood. We might want to consider something simple to avoid vandalism like what happened with the little library (grade 6’s decorated it, shortly thereafter it was vandalized and it needed to be repainted). The bench can be mounted to the ground so it cannot be easily removed.

Jola and Sue will lead a committee to think about where it is located, how it is installed etc. and bring this back to council. Susan will need to talk with the Grounds person at the Board about location and how it would need to be installed. She’ll find out if they will pay for installation or if council needs to find \$ to pay for installation. Might be something to dedicate E-waste \$ to.

#### **Motion #2 to use E-waste Fundraising \$ to pay for installation costs**

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- **Motion moved by: Carrie**
- **Motion seconded by: Rebecca**
- **Motion passed by all members of school council in attendance**

Once we get back to them, Kody and his brother could have this built by spring. Turnaround is about 2.5 weeks.

### 3. Teacher Presentation (Shemira)

Shemira conducted surveys to determine where students are at in terms of attitude towards problem solving skills, their growth mindset, and resiliency.

They surveyed grades 4, 5 and 6 with a question like “If I’m faced with a challenge, what would I do?” Most of the students chose to use their WITS, some chose calming strategies i.e.) taking a break, getting a drink, distracting strategies included playing, drawing, doodling.

On the math survey the outcome concluded the students have a growth mindset. The go to strategy is seeking help. As grades go higher the less confident students feel in doing math. As grades get higher students better understand the link between math and real life. Students prefer to take their time with math, enjoy working alone over groups, and don’t enjoy technology as much for math.

Zen Den for grades 3-6 is happening on 2<sup>nd</sup> nutrition break; the group started with 45 attendees and now has about 10. The goal is to help build resilience. It’s an opportunity for students to take a break from the chaos in class, to do something on their own that doesn’t require socialization. Offered during 2<sup>nd</sup> break as students are often more restless during this break over the 1<sup>st</sup> one. The students come into the library and can stay as long as they want throughout the break. Some bring a quiet activity with them. The lights are on low, calming music is played. The students help run Zen Den as well.

Proposal: to consider a rock labyrinth built into the ground to create a walking form of meditation for those children who need physical activity to assist in moving into a mindful state. A school Susan knows used pebbles and markers to make the labyrinth. This could be a project for the students to build.

Susan recently learned when on a trip to Norway about outdoor learning environments versus indoor learning environments. A labyrinth could be part of this experience. How can we support outdoor learning experiences and support teachers who are interested in bringing education outside? Do we want to talk on a bigger project and have this go under greening? There are also small things we could do i.e.) install a sail to create shade at the outdoor teaching area. Last year we had a parent come forward about how to make the outdoor space more like a natural play-scape. We would need to work with all of the stakeholders to gather information i.e.) parents, teachers, school board and explore all of our options.

### 4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

<http://elz.wrdsb.on.ca/2>

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- a) Greening (Becky—not present): Update from Camelia. Becky is no longer able to lead Greening. We have a few trees to water and mulching that is to be done. Note: Last summer we had a new tree planted otherwise they were planted 3 years ago. Clarification was obtained; we have 3 trees that require watering. We need to buy 500.00 worth of mulch and need someone to coordinate this. Carrie will seek a volunteer to coordinate this.  
We will need to vote on the 500.00 if we find a volunteer.

Jola Gurska, Rebecca Calma, and Pui Ming are willing to take on Greening. Melanie Kloet will be invited to join. Susan will also work with the new committee on their ideas. Susan will invite staff to share their thoughts on the outdoor space and what they would need to use the outside as part of the teaching process.

- b) Fundraising (Carrie) winter fundraising projects

- i) Fresh from the Farm: we have an opportunity to raise \$ via spring veggies. Hannah is leading this. This \$ is not yet allocated.

**Motion #3 to dedicate \$200.00 to buy soil and seeds for our planters (via Brendan Payne), and \$300 for student outdoor activities:**

- **Motion moved by: Carrie**
- **Motion seconded by: Rebecca**
- **Motion passed by all members of school council in attendance**

- ii) Dance-a-thon was Friday Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>: We raised \$4300. Lower than last year but higher than usual. Professor Jams has been paid. We can now purchase chrome books and other technology.

- c) Outreach: ESQ is running March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018. Activity stations have been chosen. Basement classroom and the gym have been designated for space. We need to clarify the time of the event. Susan will be here to welcome the ESQ team into the school.

- d) WORDS OUT: Janice Lee was here last year discussion ensued on how to proceed this year.

The money dedicated to French language Story Telling performances (\$306.00) is no longer needed as Alice obtained twice as much for a grant. Sue is open to exploring bringing an indigenous speaker to the school for a presentation.

**Motion #4: \$306.00 to be dedicated for a presentation delivered by someone in our First Nations Community. Sue will organize this.**

- **Motion moved by: Carrie**
- **Second by: Rebecca**
- **Motion passed by all members of school council in attendance.**

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**Motion #5: to use up to 500.00 from Words Out to be applied for a 2<sup>nd</sup> presentation or supplement the first one if the need arises.**

- **Motion moved by: Carrie**
- **Motion seconded by : Rebecca**
- **Motion passed by all members of school council in attendance.**

### 5. FINANCIAL SUMMARY (Heather Sequeira)

- a) See attachment.

We need clarification on the 1000.00 transferred over from the general account. Heather will determine what happened with the 1000.00 and seek clarification on what has been spent so far.

Discussion re: how to consider using Fundraising Incentives: In the past we tried individual and classroom incentives for fundraising. At the time, individual classrooms struggled with the competition. It can be hard for the families who don't have the resources or the networks. However, it could be a school-wide incentive i.e.) using a thermometer and then the whole school gets a reward. If we had a goal to set with a plan then it's easier to create a school-wide fundraising goal + incentive.

### 6. SCHOOL REPORT (Sara MacNeill, and Susan Marchiori)

Math focus continues throughout the school. The kindergarten teachers attended an in service about a month ago on early learning numeracy skills. Grade 1-6 staff will attend a session March 29<sup>th</sup>. PD Day April 13<sup>th</sup> will include math planning and a guest speaker on equity issues and inclusion. Staff are going to run a family math night on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Immunization suspensions: Any affected families will have already received documentation from the Region. March 28<sup>th</sup> is when the Principal will receive the list of families.

Beginning of March WITS leaders started by volunteering their recess to help students solve problems. They are in teams of 2 outside on the breaks. The students completed 5 weeks of training and they met with a constable. They are keen and eager. There are 4 outside at every morning break. They are nominating students who are using their WITS. Names go into a weekly draw for WITS prizes.

### 7. CHAIR REPORT (Camelia Nunez)

- a) Job descriptions Update: They are all drafted and can be sent with the minutes. Council is invited to provide input.
- b) WRAPSC update: Committee minutes reflect a discussion about funding and grants. School enrolment trends are higher in Kitchener, # qualifying for ESL funding is higher, and grants need to be spent. A Survey was done on School-Day use and it was used by 75.3% of families. Overall it is decreasing the # of cash transactions.

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Parent councils are encouraged to work with Principal's to use school day to our advantage.

- c) Safe caring inclusive schools committee (SCIS) Days of Significance: School board is interested to learn how EZ uses the school board's list of significant religious holidays for the year. Our school uses this through the announcements including some education on the holiday. School now has a committee including students and Sara. They are looking for a parent volunteer and someone from the community. Sara can put together a blurb for what the volunteer role would look like.

- 8. MEETING DATES: April 16<sup>th</sup>, May 28<sup>th</sup>, June TBA.

We would like to support an EZ parent business for our June Social and are considering Berlin Bicycle Café. Update needed from Brenda.

- 9. ADJOURNMENT (Camelia Nunez): Meeting adjourned