

EZ Parent Council Meeting
September 16, 2019 – 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Attendance

Voting Council Members

Corrie Ballantyne (Chair)
Heather Sequeira (Treasurer)
Joanna Thiessen (Secretary)
Jen Topham
Erin Heimpel
Ryan Gulka
Jola Gurska
Brenda Prins
Davis Neable
Krista Hunter
Skye Norris
Dale Babiy

Non-voting Council Members and Guests

Susan Marchiori (Principal)
Sarah McNeil (Vice Principal)
Brian Enns
Meaghan Gibbons
Martha Norton
Brie Pointer
Koichi Sugiyama

1. Welcome

- Parents introduce themselves and new parents are welcomed

2. School Council's Role as an Advisory Council

- Involvement in the school council is positive and enhances learning environment
- Parents help make the school feel more like a community
- Work together to grow students and help them to develop as caring citizens
- Ministry of Education sets the parameters under which a school council operates
- School council is not the place to pursue an agenda or advocate for your student
- Individual issues should be addressed directly with your child's teacher first, then to VP or Principal if necessary

3. Executive Roles – definitions

- Roles on our school council – Chair, Secretary, Treasurer
- We need 6-8 voting members to make quorum – for new members, if you can commit to attending the meetings, please become a voting member

4. Motion to Approve Roles of treasurer, secretary and chair

- Chair – Corrie Ballantyne
- Treasurer – Heather Sequeira
- Secretary – Joanna Thiessen (Davis Neable as back-up)
- *Motion moved by Corrie Ballantyne, second by Jen Topham and approved by all voting members present*

5. Suggested meeting dates

- October 28, November 18, January 20, February 24, March 30, April 20, June 1

5. Financial Update - Heather

- PRO grant from 2017-2018 did not come through and we didn't realize until late in the school year last year – this puts us in a \$400-ish deficit for the start of this year that we need to pay back

- QSP (magazine sales) has closed the door so we can't get fundraising money from here anymore – this raised us around \$800 last school year
- Usually we raise \$14,000 to \$16,000 yearly – last year: \$8500 in cookie dough, over \$4000 in pizza, \$6300 for dance-a-thon
- Discussion about raising pizza prices to \$2 per slice – **Action point** – re-visit this in December when the order goes out for January pizza
- **Action point** – Heather to send out the fundraising spreadsheet for the previous 5 years (the colour-coded one) to show everyone. This includes where we allocated the fundraising money for the past 5 years
- Next meeting we will talk about where we want to spend the money this year
- In the past school council has taken wish lists from teachers to see if there are specific things that they are hoping we can support
- One things teachers have already mentioned that they want to do is the symphony field trip

6. Fundraising Priorities

- Discussion around the desire to still support field trips and home reading even though at the same time we are working on the goal of fundraising for the new playground
- Krista Hunter is wondering if there are grants that can be applied for to fulfill some of the wish lists and this will then free up money from our fundraisers for the playground
- Meaghan has a database of possible grants that she found in her research that she did for grants for the playground
- **Action point** - Davis suggests that the list of possible grants be sharable via google docs/sheets and be used moving forward

7. Outdoor and Greening Committee

- Just over \$8000 raised at the Fun Fair last week!!
- With the extra gaga ball money from last year and some individual donations, we are now at \$13,000
- For new parents who don't know, we are fundraising for a new playground to add to our school yard. Currently only primary kids can use the playground at recess so we want to add another playground so that everyone can use it.
- One of the ways we are fundraising is through Bingo – we get around \$200 each time we volunteer to help out the Lion's club at Bingo – the job involves selling tickets at the event
- **Action point** - *We are looking for 2 people to help out with Bingo on Dec. 28*

- **Action point:** Outdoor committee to coordinate with Fundraising committee to send out info to parents about all the upcoming fundraising events/opportunities so that parents know ways to support
- Hoping to get corporate donations to take the pressure off of parents
- Meaghan suggests that it might be good to get more parents joining the EZ Parent FB group
- Suggestion that maybe we can use the EZ Twitter account to disseminate information because there are over 400 followers. We have the EZ Parent FB group but this is not directly through the school
- Suggestion that we have a short questionnaire for people to fill out as they try to join the parent FB group eg. Who is your child's teacher?
- Outdoor committee is looking for some space to store things that were amassed during the Fun Fair planning - such as the big sign that is at the front of the school – Corrie offered to store a couple of plastic bins on her porch, Susan also mentioned that perhaps a few bins could be stored in the school basement
- Committee is looking for ideas for playground fundraisers eg. Family Gaga Ball tournament, Fun Run, Mountain Biking Adventure at the HydroCut
- Anyone wanting to join the Outdoor Learning and Greening Committee, please join us!
- Wanting to involve students in tracking the fundraising – a ladder poster outside the office to show where we are at in terms of \$50,000 goal
- Wanting to involve students in creating a thank you postcard to send out to the businesses who have supported the playground fundraising efforts thus far
- U of W came up with the playground concepts and then they were narrowed down and the students voted. Over the summer new designs were made that aligned as closely as possible to the original designs but these new designs fit in with what is allowed by the board and what is possible for the budget of around \$50,000

8. Committees

- **Outdoor Learning and Greening**
- **Fundraising** – Anneliese is leading this committee – so far the fundraisers that are in the works are: Fresh from the Farm, Terra Cotta, Dance-a-thon (booked February 21st), FlipGive, Pizza
- **Outreach** – out of time for tonight but we will discuss at next meeting
- Do we want to have a transportation committee? **Action point** - To discuss at next meeting.

9. School Report

- The non-staggered start to Kindergarten went well!
- Meet the Teacher went well. Lots of positive feedback about the fun fair and combining it with meet the teacher was a great idea
- PD Day September 20 – staff have meetings with Susan and Sarah in the morning and then staff has to do safety workshops
- Nutrition for Learning starts September 30
- Drill week – last week in September – 3 fire drills and 1 intruder drill that need to be done by end of September
- Grade 5 and 6 students being recruited for leadership opportunities – eg. Lunch helpers, announcement team, Trail Blazers starting this year – kids involved will go for a half day training session and learn about first aid and safe roadway practices and how to handle bullying if it arises on the way to school
- Clubs and sports will be starting up soon
- “Mash Up” – kids in grades 1-6 were in mixed groups and rotated around the school

10. Other Questions

- Ryan asking about what happens if there is a strike and how does that affect our fundraising efforts

11. Wrap up

- *Motion to adjourn by Heather, second by Erin, approved by all voting members.*