

EZ School Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 25, 2021

6:30 p.m., Virtual

Attendance

Meaghan Gibbons
Jennifer Topham
Jo Thiessen
Ryan Gulka
Hilory Steffen
Krista Guenther
Anneliese Schwartz
Casey Thiessen
Heather Sequeira
Sara MacNeill (Principal)
Farida Jamal (Vice Principal)

1. Welcome
2. Motion to approve September Minutes - Moved by Anneliese. Seconded by Leslie. Voted in favour by all voting members.

Motion to approve October Agenda - Moved by Jen Topham. Seconded by Heather. Voted in favour by all voting members.

3. Executive Roles
-Chair - Hilory Steffen

Hilory introduced herself and told us a bit about herself. Everyone voted in favour of Hilory being the new chair.

-Treasurer - Heather Sequeira

-Secretary - Joanna Thiessen

Sara will send out a message on School Day to introduce Hilory and welcome back Heather and Jo.

4. Financial summary (Heather)

Summary of finances is the same as last month because we have not moved any money yet this year. Fresh From the Farm deadline was September 30th and we missed that date so we won't be doing this fundraiser this year. We have around \$8200 in the account and just need to decide what we do with it.

There is a discrepancy in the Greening account - they are short \$250 ish because money was moved from the wrong account last Spring.

For the classroom outdoor learning last year, \$2364.37 was spent. We allocated \$3400 last year to help facilitate students spending lots of class time outdoors.

FlipGive - Anneliese has a cheque for \$300 from FlipGive that needs to be deposited. Meaghan remembers that our intention was to use this for Rebecca Seiling to come and do a workshop for teachers about outdoor learning.

5. Determine committees for 2021 to 2022: Ideas last meeting:

1. Outdoor
2. Fundraising
3. Outreach
4. Mental Health
5. Other?

Sara asks if anyone has other ideas for committees. Hilory suggests we put out a survey to parents to find out more about what areas they are interested in. For example, what types of workshops would they be interested in? What sorts of fundraising would appeal to the community? Sara will look into what we are allowed to do because there are some privacy concerns around data collection with surveys.

Jen asks if we are going to fundraise just for the sake of fundraising or are we going to have the objectives first about what we want to raise the money for. It is helpful to have a goal with the fundraising.

Sara suggests fundraising for grocery gift cards 2 X per year because there are families who need this support.

Motion to approve these 4 committees for 2021/2022 - Motion moved by Ryan. Second by Heather. All voting members voted in favour.

6. Vice Principal/Principal report (Farida Jamal, Sara MacNeill)

Volunteers - it is only being piloted at the high school level for volunteer coaches. Other volunteers are not allowed back in the schools. For elementary, Strong Start volunteers will be the first ones allowed back in, but not just yet. Starting very slowly. This limits who can come into the building and for things such as fundraising initiatives.

Fundraising that can happen online and be shipped to the person's house would be do-able. Things that are small and don't require special storage could be picked up at the school but volunteers would not be able to come to help.

Jen asks about using an offsite location and wondering if we are able to accept e-transfers for donations. **Sara to look into these 2 questions.**

Outdoors - outdoor classroom was installed June 2021. This coming weekend they are supposed to do some planting (trees/shrubs) and put in some mulch. This was funded by a TD grant. Mulch will also be put into some of the forest areas.

One item for the EZ wish list is 5 watering bags to go with the new trees that are being planted. Next summer the landscaping company will come and water the trees June, July, August. \$120 was spent on these watering bags - the school would love to be reimbursed for these.

Trees were recently cut down at the back of the school - they were dying or invasive. Lots of vines at the back of the parking lot were removed as well. Work order has gone in to prune the trees along the back fence.

MANA had a clothing swap on October 23rd and lots of EZ families were there. Extra items were delivered to the school and Sara is going to wash them on school premises following public health procedures and then these can be given out if needed to children who don't have these items.

Kindergarten trough - this will be filled with sand.

Staff bike rack in the Spring - near the front entrance of the school (bus entrance).

Cement path up to the buzzer door is cracking and will be replaced.

Soccer goal posts will be installed. Two sets of goal posts. Should be coming soon (before winter).

EZ Wish list - it would be really helpful to have some kind of ponchos for kids - maybe this is something that the outdoor committee can look at to go over top of clothing. Also teachers are asking for waterproof/outdoor clipboards to take outside. Something that allows for things to be written outside eg. when kids are in the garden and want to write some things down - as long as it doesn't impact sight lines.

Lost and found - because of COVID there is no lost and found area in the school. This means there is stuff everywhere around the school. Going to start doing monthly "lost and found" with a table outside on the tarmac. **Reminder to parents to put children's names on everything that comes to school so that items can be returned to their owner.**

Halloween - message went out on School Day about how Friday October 29th will be an orange and black spirit day. Please do not wear orange t-shirts that are from National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Home reading - lots of details to work out including quarantining the books after they have been returned. Sara is hoping some staff members will take this on for the year.

Gym opened last week on Friday including equipment use. Each grade 1-6 class has 2 periods of gym in each cycle.

Library is starting to re-open in phases, starting with small group visits from Gr. 3-4 to Gr. 6 classes. Library books will need to stay at school for now. Classroom teachers can also get a bin of books for their classroom libraries to be used by students

Photo day - we have been approved to have a photo day this year. Our provider is Life Touch and they have safety protocols including daily screening and vaccination requirements for photographers. No date yet but it is coming!

Trail blazers - 24 children (grades 5 and 6 students) have agreed to be part of this leadership program. These kids are "model walkers" - walking on safe routes between their houses and the school. As they are walking they are being mindful of the road safety rules. They are not supervising any other children but they have more information about safety on the roads. They monitor the situation on the walking route and can alert Sara or Farida if there are any issues.

Progress report going out on November 15th. No marks on it but there will be comments from teachers.

7. Other items

WRAPSC meeting - Not much to report from the first WRAPSC meeting. Next meeting will have a lot of info on fundraising so if anyone has fundraising questions please let Meaghan know.

Point settia sale - Jen asking about whether or not we would be able to do this as a fundraiser or because it is associated with Christmas would we not be permitted. Sara says that this would not be an inclusive choice because it is connected to a Christian holiday and therefore doesn't include all people in our school population.

Meaghan asks if we should start a grocery gift card initiative again. This year MANA is donating the proceeds from our wreath and Christmas tree sale to the grocery gift card project.

8. Adjournment

Next School Council Meeting Dates:

November 29, 2021, January 31, 2021, February 28, 2021, April 25, 2021, May 30, 2021