

EZ School Council Meeting Agenda

Monday, February 28, 2022

6:30 p.m., Virtual

1. Attendance:

Jennifer Topham

Hilory Steffen

Jo Thiessen

Ryan Gulka

Meaghan Gibbons

Carole Boucher

Brenda Prins

Casey Thiessen

Heather Sequeira

Sara MacNeill (Principal)

Farida Jamal (Vice Principal)

2. Motion to approve January minutes & February agenda

Moved by Jo Thiessen and second by Casey Thiessen – voted in favour by all voting members.

3. Financial summary (Heather)

Nothing has officially left any of the accounts. Peace by Peace invoice has been received but not paid yet - \$575 will come out of fundraising account. Balances – General \$126.12, Pizza \$2450.58, Fundraising \$1919.40, Dance-a-thon \$307.29.

Re: Dominoes Pizza Family Night. Meaghan asking about someone who wants to donate money instead of buying pizza – Sara to find out if there is a way that families can do this.

4. School Wishlist (Farida Jamal, Sara MacNeill)

Ryan commented that much of the funds we have in our accounts was raised prior to Covid and many of those families who contributed aren't part of EZ anymore because they have graduated out. We are stewards of this money and maybe we should think about spending the remaining money in a timely manner so that the remaining kids who were involved in fundraising this money get to benefit from the funds.

Sara said that she is interested in expanding some of the school's teaching resources (books etc) that relate to equity and inclusion. Sara is also trying to get the home reading program up and running again and might need some replacement books.

Heather said that typically we have allocated \$3000 to home reading at the end of the year - \$1500 to English books and \$1500 to French books. Suggestion to cut that in half and spend the balance of it on resources/books related to equity/inclusion. These books would be available for all classes to access.

5. Other Spending Ideas

The High Five Habit (book) by Mel Robbins – promotes self-confidence and resilience. Idea to purchase window writer markers for students to give some high fives and positive affirmations to themselves in the mirror.

Sara said this could be a neat thing for the whole school – send one home with every student – 460 kids.

Carole brought up a local book – Smart, Strong, Kind and Brave.

Sara is suggesting we allocate \$400 for these window writers.

Jo suggested allocating \$420 to purchase pronoun pins for all the staff at EZ from a local business, Unity Pins. All proceeds are donated to www.ok2bme.ca. Meaghan suggested purchasing some books relating to pronouns for the teachers to be able to use with their classes.

Motion to allocate \$400 for markers and \$420 for pronoun pins (from pizza account) moved by Ryan Gulka and second by Jen Topham - voted in favour by all voting members. This will leave \$1630.58 in the pizza account.

Hilory to organize the markers and Jo and Sara to work together to get the pronoun pin order going.

Meaghan asking where Sara buys books. Sara says she tries to purchase locally from smaller stores first such as Words Worth but it depends on what books are in stock.

Motion to allocate \$500 from the Pizza account towards equity and inclusion books that Sara will purchase – moved by Heather and second by Jen – voted in favour by all voting members.

Outdoor Learning

Idea to put together some kits that would go along with the outdoor learning curriculum that Rebecca Seiling is creating for EZ. For example, a garden kit, a birding kit, a bug kit. The money from the Dominoes Pizza fundraiser will go to this project.

6. Vice Principal/Principal general updates (Farida & Sara)

Dominoes Family Pizza fundraiser starts tomorrow. Dominoes will check in on Wednesday to let us know how much we raised. Two students will win a free pizza for their family every Tuesday!

Outdoor Learning Committee – next meeting is March 22 and anyone who wants to join this is welcome!

Warm wooly Wednesday is continuing.

Outdoor recess – currently there is so much ice on the tarmac and so the nutrition breaks have been indoor. Indoor nutrition breaks only happen when it is not safe to have kids out there because of the ice. The staff want kids outside as much as parents do 😊

Families are continuing to do the Covid daily verification forms. Some of the older classes are piloting doing these daily forms by Google forms with the option to use paper forms if that works better for them.

Jen asking about absenteeism rate at the school currently – Sara does not know.
Hilory asking about the lifting of restrictions and how this will look at school in terms of masking and verification forms. Sara does not know.

Farida - Grocery gift cards. We have enough money to do one more round of gift cards and then no more money has been allocated for this. Farida wondering if there is a plan for the council to do this again in the spring. Meaghan said we would do another ask after March Break and also a MANA spring fundraiser (pansies) where the money goes to grocery gift cards. Plan is to collect orders in March and then the flowers arrive in April.

Trailblazer update – winter walk Feb 16th. Lots of families walked to school that day and the Trailblazers had lots of fun.

Parking – we have had some parking issues on Moore – opposite from school bus area. This is causing a lot of congestion. The area across from the school bus area is a no stopping zone. The school purchased some pylons and will put those out in that spot so that cars don't try to stop there. It is unsafe to have the students running across the street there. Bylaw is supposed to come in the next few weeks to have a look at the situation.

Jen asking about the Factory Shoe fundraiser. Is it possible for this to get moving before March Break so that families can have the code in case they want to shop during March Break. Jo suggests that we earmark the Shoe fundraiser money to buy grocery gift cards.

7. WRAPSC update and Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant Updates

Hilory is working on research for the mural we had discussed – with the PRO Grant.

Any parents interested in sharing about their career with students can join the Speaker's Bureau as a volunteer.

See attachments from WRAPSC for more information about the latest meetings.

Important to encourage diverse voices within our council and our school community.

In terms of grade 6 and grade 8 graduations, it is important to make sure that any celebrations can be replicated in all schools so that there is equity across the board and nobody is left out.

Discussion about social media groups within parent communities. These groups should be able to be passed on to other parents as kids graduate out of the schools and should have the intention of connecting parents and not be a negative space to complain about specific staff members.

8. Adjournment

Next School Council Meeting Dates:

April 25, 2022, May 30, 2022