

EZ School Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 17th, 2022

6:30 p.m.

Attendance

Meaghan Gibbons
Jen Topham
Jo Thiessen
Hilory Steffen (chair)
Anne Goerz
Chantal Drouin-Charters
Shawna Reibling
Farida Jamal (Vice Principal)
Isabel Gleebe (teacher)

6:30 - 6:35 pm Welcome & Attendance

6:35 - 6:40 pm Motion to approve September minutes and October Agenda

Voted in favour by all those present.

6:45 - 6:50 pm Financial Summary –

General account – carry over – \$246.12

Pizza – carry over - \$2,456.14

Fundraising - \$1,478.84 (\$250 still to be debited from this account for outdoor education)

Danceathon - \$320.48

Yard improvement/greening - \$84.11

Fun Fair - \$48.55

TOTAL - \$4,634.24 (\$250 still to be debited from this account for outdoor education)

\$250 still left to be processed for outdoor education

6:50 - 6:55 pm WRAPSC update - Hilory Steffen attended and gave a summary of the last meeting.

Hilory suggested that before the next WRAPSC meeting she can reach out to the council to ask if there are items that they would like added to the agenda to be discussed at WRAPSC.

Re Halloween and the Board position – WRDSB acknowledges that they made a mistake in their messaging last year about Halloween. Board wants to do better and wants to make sure that messaging this year is about inclusivity. Students can definitely wear costumes if they choose. Board has not finalized their messaging for this year yet but stay tuned.

Also discussed the idea of how can we support the different special days in the school year without it costing a lot for families eg. Halloween costumes, Orange Shirt Day.

6:55 - 7:00 pm Kids Coat Exchange Update Wed. Oct 19th 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Discussed the event this Wednesday. Everyone in the EZ community is welcome! Bring any coats/snow pants, boots, etc that you want to give away and feel free to take anything that is helpful for your family.

Hilory brought up the idea of connecting with a “sister school” who might have the need for some of the clothing that is left over after our swap.

7:00 - 7:10 pm Discussion/brainstorm event idea for PIC grant; Raising socially and emotionally healthy children

Hilory is wanting to get us thinking about the PIC grant for this year, because the application will come out in December so it would be good to be prepared with some ideas.

A big thing since the pandemic has been the mental and emotional health of the young people. Idea that the PIC grant could be used for something along these lines. Goal also would be that parents could connect in person at the school which we haven’t been able to do in previous years. Maybe something that involves some round table discussions which helps foster better connections.

Anne suggested that if it is marketed as an opportunity for parents to connect with each other than this will be more appealing for parents. Calling it a parent social might help with turn out. And having child care is important so that families can come together.

Hilory is suggesting doing a questionnaire to gauge what people’s area of interest are in the school community.

Chantal told us about a program that she is involved with that provides STEAM activities for young people so maybe this free programming could be offered to the kids. This is called LAUNCH Waterloo.

Maybe we could merge these ideas and have LAUNCH come and provide fun activities for the kids while the parents are doing something that is connecting them and engaging them and teaching them.

7:10 - 7:20 pm Fundraising –

Meaghan talked about Grocery Gift Cards and suggested that for the 5 Days of Giving maybe 1 of those days is for donating grocery gift cards for our school community.

Teachers are asking for money for buses for field trips.

Pizza – Farida says we are not ready yet on School Day to take money but hopefully we will be soon. Panago has lots of options – GF, DF, halal chicken, vegetarian, pepperoni, cheese. Panago cannot accommodate us on a Friday so we are thinking maybe a Wednesday would be a good day for pizza day.

Jo checked with Panago and they are available to start on Wednesdays as soon as we are ready with School Day.

Farida suggesting that it is very important to have a purpose for each fundraising activity – to know where the money is going each time. We could earmark for example the money from pizza to go towards field trips.

Hilory is asking if the pizza volunteers would need to have the vulnerable sector check – Farida to check – answer in November meeting.

7:20 - 7:30 pm Vice Principal/Principal report by Farida Jamal

Outdoor Ed came in last week for puppet show and workshop for JK to grade 3 and also the ACE classes joined.

Some clubs/activities have started – Running Club, Inter murals, Strong Start

School Improvement and Equity Team is working on turning the celebrations of different cultures into a teaching/learning opportunity. For example, Diwali is coming up and there are students who have volunteered to go around to the different classrooms and teach other students about what this holiday means.

There will be an education point for these cultural festivals so that students can learn about different cultures.

Wanting to have an inclusive culture at the school around celebrations such as Halloween.

Nov. 2nd – bus evacuation training.

Staff are coming up with the vision and direction for the school. Staff will spend time on Oct 24th PD day brainstorming this further.

7:30 pm Adjournment – Next meeting is November 28th, 2022