

## **EZ School Council Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**6:30 p.m.**

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### Attendance

Jo Thiessen  
Hilory Steffen (chair)  
Anne Goerz  
Chantal Drouin-Charters  
Katrine Barrington  
Amy Humphrys (principal)  
Farida Jamal (Vice Principal)  
Isabel Gleebe (teacher)

#### **1. Welcome & Attendance**

2. Approval of October minutes and November Agenda

3. **Kids Clothing Swap** – This was a successful event, with many families coming and getting some gear for the winter. This event was easy to run and Jo Thiessen is happy to organize this again next Fall. Next time event should be shorter because all of the action happened in the first 15 minutes.

4. **Financials** – \$4634.24 total in our accounts

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)

5. **WRAPSC update** - Hilory Steffen attended and gave a summary of the last meeting.

Coalition of Muslim Women KW can come out and do some education or share perspectives if we ask them to. Amy commented that it could be helpful to have this group come out to an event with families so that people can learn from each other.

## 6. **School Direction / Key Focus** (Amy and Farida)

Wanting to in general work on centering students, enhancing student learning. Science of Reading – a collection of research over the past few years that can help improve students' reading. The Ministry is taking direction from "Science of Reading". WRDSB has come up with a 5 year plan to help support reading. This year the strand that is being worked on is Phonics, so lots of the PD and staff meetings will be relating to this. Moving away from Leveled Literacy and towards Decoding the words. Trying to get the foundation strong before working on comprehension strategies. This has been a focus for teachers especially K to 2. The Board is looking at this as an experimental year to see where we are at. The school is still having Home Reading currently, and not sure where we will go with this program in the future. Current home reading books at EZ are very picture based which isn't exactly in line with the new Science of Reading info.

Collaboration and celebration of diversity are 2 focus areas for the staff.

## 7. **Discussion/brainstorm of event for raising socially and emotionally healthy children**

PIC funding – Hilory will apply for this on behalf of the school.

Katrine shared her ideas about how an event could happen that would engage people by having smaller groups where people are sharing with one another from a guide of questions. Sharing their own experiences and their own perspectives. The rules of communication used in groups like this is called "Witnessing". There are themes that every day our kids have to navigate and by sharing we can learn from one another so that we can be inspired to try new things with our parenting.

Desire to build connection within the community because this is something that has been lost in the past few years.

Something like the LAUNCH program could be good as an event for the school to bring families in and connecting.

Amy said they are planning a fun event - "Outdoor Day" in January/February. The choirs want to sing/perform. Classes could each have a different area of the yard where they are hosting something such as birdwatching, sledding down the hill etc. Wanting to showcase some of the outdoor learning equipment that parent council has purchased.

8. **Pizza** – Looking at starting this up in January. Wednesdays are the days that work best. The volunteers do NOT need to have police checks. Three volunteers each time are required. **Hilory and Jo to connect further about this.**

**9. Fundraising** – Fundraising needs at this point – buses for field trips is the only thing at this point that is needed. Farida/Amy to find out what the cost per class for one bus trip might look like.

**10. School Principal Update** – Progress reports went home last week. There are no formal parent-teacher interviews but if parents want to connect with their child's teacher they should reach out.

There have been 3 trips to the WRDSB outdoor education centre so far and more of these to come.

Bus evacuation practice happened recently.

Remembrance Day assembly was held on Nov 11<sup>th</sup>.

Territorial Acknowledgement – each class is creating one and we will discuss this further at the January meeting.

**7:30 pm Adjournment** – Next meeting is January 30, 2023