

## School Council Minutes Monday September 25, 2023

### Attendance:

Lauren McDonald  
Hilory Steffan  
Christine Rogalsky  
Chantal Drouin-Charters  
Isabeau Glebe (teacher)  
Farida Jamal (vice-principal)  
Amy Humphrys (principal)

Call to order: 18:05

May Minutes approved: Motion Lauren, second Chantal, passed

Agenda Approved: Motion Chantal, second Lauren, passed

### Election of executive: Chair, Secretary, Treasurer

- Roles were described
  - Chair is about 15 hours/month, secretary and treasurer are 5 each
  - Chair has some extra volunteering around the school, attends monthly meetings (2 hours commitment) of WRAPSC (Waterloo Region Assembly of Public School Councils). Meetings are first Tuesday of the month with a hybrid model, can attend on-line or in-person. However, someone other than the chair can attend the meetings.
  - Treasurer keeps tracks of all finances – tracks allotment at meetings, follows up with secretarial team to check where the funds were coming & going. Funds come through school day, so we get a nice little spreadsheet from secretaries to keep track. Treasurer marks allocated funds that haven't yet been spent
  - Secretary puts together meeting minutes after chair, principal and vice-principal goes through them sends them out to the mailing list.
- Question: can there be co-chairs? A lot of schools have them. Helpful for working parents who may not have time for the full commitment.
- In the past the council has not had bylaws (such as quorum) – best practice says it's ok to go with consensus among those who show up
- Candidates for election were: Hilory and Lauren standing as co-chairs, Chantal as treasurer, Christine as Secretary. Executive was acclaimed

### Future meeting dates:

- Had previously been checked against religious/cultural holidays and no conflicts noticed.
- Some concern over October being right before Hallowe'en, but not likely to be an issue.
- No other issues identified. Meeting dates accepted.

### Committees and event planning:

- Account balance is \$10003.54 (less \$1067 outstanding). About the amount expected for the end of last year.
- Registration is higher than it was, so will have more needs. Fundraising will be needed.
- Pizza is the biggest fundraiser.
  - Monday through Wednesday are the best days from Poonam's end. From a logistical viewpoint Thursdays are by far the best for the school because Mondays and Fridays have more absences and there are staffing pressures on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Mondays could work if need be. Hilory will talk to Poonam about Thursdays
  - To ease the work on council the school can put a call for pizza day volunteers on School-Day.
  - Student volunteers to bring the pizzas to classes will be organized rather than just whoever happens to show up.
- Harvey's has approached the school, as had Pita Pit.
  - Harvey's does have a veggie burger option for vegetarian/halal/kosher kids. Price difference would need to be looked at.
  - Inclusivity issue with having too many fundraising meals as a lot of families can't afford the \$5/week. Amount of work for secretaries is also an issue. Going to test it out as special extra orders for before Christmas break, before March break, before May long weekend.
- Discussed possibility of doing a 50-50 draw (or 40-40-20 – 40 for the school, 40 for the winner, 20 for winner's choice of charity.) Would need a lottery licence for any kind of draw that people buy tickets for now.
- A fundraising end of year carnival is a possibility – games, food trucks, etc. Last year the carnival was well received, but was a totally free event, for community building, not fundraising. Probably better to continue that.
- If the school wants to another end-of-year thing grant application should go out in December.

Vice-Principal/Principal Report:

- We need some parents to take on outdoor work
  - The raised beds need to be repaired & weeded.
  - Some stuff at the front is overgrown.
  - Had been an outdoor committee 2 years ago, nothing happening this year.
  - No more materials needed, but some labour.
  - Things that are already there can just be repaired by parents, no need to go through the board.
  - A call to the school community for volunteers can be put on School-Day
  - Needed tasks are repairing the beds, weeding so they can be planted, spreading mulch
  - The school has a gift card from Home Depot if more lumber is needed
- Board will be planting a micro-forest in the yard. Different trees will be planted by the butterfly waystation. School is responsible for watering, etc. for the trees.
- Staff loved the lunch in June & send thanks.
- School has grown. June 468 students, now 490. 25 new to Canada students who don't speak English.

- 7 class in English stream, 4 Kindergarten classes (one is half class). 9 FI classes. 1 grade 5/6 enrichment class, 3 ACE classes.
  - Need to find ways to make sure that enrichment and ACE students are welcomed and feel part of the community.
- Families appreciated playdough, letters and books for kindergarteners at end of last year.
- Classes really benefitted from the field trip money last year.
- Some asks for funding from council
  - Looking for mini-whiteboards for students to use. Blank on one side, lines for writing on the other.
  - Considering adding some school spirit things – e.g. tiger mural in the gym (for E.Z. Tigers), decals for the wall (more durable than current signs) for activities during body breaks. Cost unknown
  - Some students with communication would benefit from PECS boards (similar to AAC). Can get a communication board for the playground so non-verbal students can point to the pictures to communicate with other students. Cost unknown.
  - Council doesn't have budget for all things.
  - **Unanimous vote to provide \$5000 for various structured literacy and math supports**
  - Council will consider others asks at a later date once we have a better idea of monies coming in from pizza fundraising and considering what the school community has the greatest need for.
  - Look for pricing on the vinyl signs for hallway and PECS board so council has fundraising targets.
- Staff would like to have a literacy night for families to talk about what structured literacy looks like, how to support at home, have a guest speaker talk about it.
  - To do it well can't be earlier than January.
- Event to get new families involved should happen sooner rather than later.
  - Question: what have other schools done for this goal? Lauren to check with King Edward school council – they have strong parental involvement in council.
  - Need to make sure the event has ways to overcome language barriers.
  - Can we provide information on how schooling in Canada works – parents from other countries have observed that schooling is different here. How do we communicate the differences (especially as we don't know what the schooling is like elsewhere)?
  - Send a direct invitation to the families in question – not a general “newcomers” invitation blast.
  - Include other non-kindergarten new to the school students, not just new to Canada.
  - Should be after Thanksgiving but before end of October.
  - Lauren & Hilory to work on plans.
  - New government legislation requires that school share PD Day plans before PD Day.

Adjourned 19:29