

School Council Minutes Monday October 30, 2023

Attendance:

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

Call to order: 18:00

Approve September Minutes and October: fixed switched lines in minutes. Passed unanimously

Financial Summary:

- 16k in pizza account (estimate based on gross from Pizza and ballpark of expenses)
- Money left from danceathon (pre-COVID)
- Total 18923.32
- Have 2 months more pizza this year than last, so will have more money this year than last. Probably in the range of 8-10k from just pizza.
- Transactions approved at last meeting are pending at 4227.31 Have 2 months more pizza this year than last, so will have more money this year than last. Probably in the range of 8-10k from just pizza.
- Question: why is old money still referred to as such? Where do expenses come from? Dance-a-thon account vs pizza account? Are certain accounts designated for certain things? **Chantal to follow-up with Shannon about if the money can all be rolled into one account to simplify.**

Welcome to EZ event: Lauren

- School still wants to do the event. MLL teacher will be involved to have various community organizations involved (welcome centre)
 - MLL teacher at EZ just a couple of days a week, make sure is scheduled for one of her days.
 - New families registering regularly, most of which are from non-English speaking countries, so need to have community organizations there for proper access to resources
- Class is still in the library, waiting on portable inspections from city to vacate, by end of November should be able to hold event in the library
- **Lauren to follow-up once library is free.**
- Request small budget for refreshment. – **approved for up to \$200** Estimate approximately 40 families (will request RSVP to know how many people are coming.)

- Intended as a largely social event so no other resources should be needed.
- Money can come from Pro grant – intended for parent engagement.
- Lincoln Heights parent council has previously tried doing something to get new families engaged, doing a free winter clothing swap as a lot of families arrive without
 - We did have an outdoor gear drive last year, will try to connect with organizer from last year to get notes on how to do it
 - Leftovers can be kept for new families
 - If right after school Amy can help in person
 - **Christine to help in person, Antoinette depending on work, Lauren can help organize but cannot show up in person. Hilory to make stickers to distribute**
 - Amy to take leftovers if packaged up
 - Place a bin outside the gym door during the day for people who have coats to donate but cannot come
 - Need to sort donations because some gear was in “well it still has some use in it” condition rather than appropriate to donate condition
 - Notice from last year is good, just change the date & add notice about the bin
 - November 7th, stickers to go out on the 6th, bin on 3rd and 6th

Outdoor Cleanup Day:

- Board came in and assessed what needs doing
- Originally thinking Sat Nov 4th, but need more lead time for bins. 11th is non ideal as it is late, possibly rainy and cold, will have less attendance due to Remembrance day. Need to plan equipment and figure out what should be done.

From board:

- Kindergarten forest & one in front of school planted by previous council. Need to clear growth from these that have gotten too close to the school – many invasive species , need to clear stepping stones
- Gardens are at end of life – wood is rotten, aren’t laid out properly for maintenance between the beds, haven’t been used for the last few years
 - If going to re-do it 4 beds should be enough
 - Should be spaced to fit mower between
 - If beds are removed, the board will probably re-seed
 - Current location is non-ideal as a new portable needs to go there.
- **Cleanup will be put off until the spring, shelved until January to discuss then.**

Pizza Update & Possible December Food Day:

- Sign-up for student pizza volunteers being done.
 - Volunteers will have name tags with their name and who they’re getting pizza for – including volunteers staying inside for the first half of break to deliver to kindergarten classes.
- Still need 3 adult volunteers per day. Starts Thursday
- **Harveys selected for special order day in December.**

- Do not need police check for volunteering for food days, as will not be alone with kids
- **Hilory to ask Shannon for appropriate day**, will be week of the 11th rather than waiting until the last week.
- Question: is this a fundraiser or a spirit event? Should charge a bit more at least to cover School Day fees. Can select which dishes we want to offer to the students. Keep it simple to distribute.

Vice Principal/Principal report:

- New class is 3/4 core class, waiting for the portable inspections to move them out of the library.
- School now has 495 students – had some students leaving as well as arriving, so more than 5 since the last report.
- PALS programme up and running doing games during nutrition break.
- 30 Trailblazers this year, training went well. Trailblazers know they're not responsible for other kids – just report any incidents to the school
- City Council and school board trying to get crosswalk across Weber for students crossing. Not enough crossings to justify it under standard metric, but need to take into account that some families are driving across due to safety
- October 19 was picture day, re-take day on November 15th. Composite photo for class photo instead of traditional one – allows for students who miss the picture day to be in the picture.
- Spiritwear went well – lots of kids wearing the gear.
- Microforest is in planted by Sustainable Waterloo (didn't want kids planting due to liability issues). Many different species of trees. 90 new trees in 12 species. Each class is 'adopting' a species of tree and learning about them. School is responsible for the watering, hoping some local families will help with watering over the summer. Don't need to start watering until the Spring.
- Will be sharing EQAO results next meeting once results have been analysed.
- No significant requests for new things for the school. More personal whiteboards for students. Need some resources laminated. **Additional \$800 approved.**

Adjourned: 19:10