

## Empire School Council Minutes - Sept 21st

Attendees: Kelly Wilkinson, Louise Finlay, Karen Marsden, Amy Beamer, Andrea Ahrens, Rachel Thompson, Sharron Berkhuizen, Beth Angle, Justin Faulkner, Peter Pettit, Anna Polotskaia, Erica Hind, Steph Hector, Colleen Ridley, Joe Artinger, Lindsay Blashill, Caitlin McGregor

Regrets: Karen Moore

**Action: All members to email [EmpirePSCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:EmpirePSCouncil@gmail.com) with feedback on the meeting and to volunteer for roles on Council**

1. Welcome - roundtable of introductions
2. Role of School Council
  - Kelly reviewed the role of the school council and the Ministry direction. We need to meet a minimum of 6 times in the school year.
  - Kelly provided the 2015-2016 School Council Report (see attachment) and recognized that it was an ambitious year and we celebrated the addition of the Earthscapes playground and the fundraising that was done to do so. Last year end, we discussed a possible goal for 2016-2017 council to focus on community-building versus fundraising
    - Talked about learnings from low-volunteers iterations of events (Parent-teacher night, year end celebrations)
  - Rachel added the parent perspective of being on council - planning activities, building community, making connections, enhancing your kids' school experiences. Recognized the importance of the "doers" and the "thinkers"
3. Election of new council:
  - a) Chair - role of the chair (preps agendas, chair meeting, lead communication with school staff, coordinating member activities)
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  - b) Members -role of members, voting, participating in decision-making, committees
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  - c) Secretary - role: taking minutes and sending them out
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  - d) Treasurer - role is to track finances.
    - Amy offered her husband (accountant)
  - e) Volunteer coordinator - role is to find volunteers to assist with event (events and online) and staff the council email
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  - f) Communications - role to put things on website, twitter, morning announcements, preparing print reminders
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  - g) Fundraising coordinator - role is to oversee certain events of interest

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- h) WRAPSC rep (Waterloo Region Assembly of School Councils) - role is to attend a greater school council body to learn about and discuss board-wide issues

4. Approval of last meeting minutes - Approved

5. Principal update:

- School is still hiring teachers (supply staff covering until they are filled)
- Total enrolment is 560 students
- High numbers in kindergarten, there may be a new class created
- First fire drill took place this week
- Lock down drill scheduled for week of Sept 26
- Standing patrol was cancelled due to lack of student interest

Upcoming dates:

- Sept 22 - Terry Fox Run and "Say Hi" day (Crime Prevention Initiative)
- Sept 23 - PD Day (teachers will be planning for the year and small break out sessions by grades, health and safety training)
- Sept 30th - picture day
- Oct 6th - Global Cardboard Challenge - leave the tech behind and build with cardboard and duct tape (David's Tea Uptown will be donating all their cardboard to us)
- Nov 18 - Parent teacher interview
- Dec 8 - family math night event

6. Fundraising

- Colleen shared that Subway costs have increased and are no longer willing to deliver. She will look around (suggestion of Uptown Waterloo location) to find a better deal.
- Boston Pizza fundraiser, discussion about doing it less frequently so that teachers can pull together "celebrity server"
- Earthscapes has been nominated for an award and are using our playground to showcase their work <http://www.earthscapeplay.com/>

7. Q&A:

a) Does council have a role in sports? Noticed at a track meet that Empire kids did not have school pinnies.

*Yes, have fundraised in the past for balls, pinnies, etc. During the school day, a staff member to be present. After school activities require school grounds rental/insurance. PALS club runs activities outside at recess.*

b) Parent feedback - there is not a lot of awareness among parents for sports activities. Opportunity to enhance communications on that via social media.

*Agreed to discuss each parent goal areas and group together to identify gaps and address them.*

c) Can we get a Facebook page?

*Kelly indicated that there are Board guidelines. Elizabeth Ziegler has had one and Kelly can share those details and will share in October.*

d) Food Drive competition

*Teacher reps will consider ways to create a friendly competition and build community at the same time.*

e) School concerts and plays?

*This revolves on teacher volunteers. Mrs Pettifer runs a choir, there are other initiatives in place. One parent suggested running a performing arts night run like Science Night where kids can do something if they so choose.*

f) Request for list of available activities.

*Kelly can try to put this together.*

#### *October agenda*

1. Welcome
2. Approval of September agenda
3. Communication issues
  - a) Kelly to share Facebook guidelines and EZ experience
4. English and French student integration
5. Fundraising
  - a) Dining out
6. Events
  - b) June event

Parent Council Meeting dates:

Oct 12, Nov 9, Dec 14, Jan 18, Feb 8, Mar 8, Apr 12, May 10, June 14