



EMPIRE

Public School
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Waterloo, Ontario N2L 2M1
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Empire School Council Agenda March 23, 2016

Attendees: Rachel , Karen, Erica, Shannon. Jess (Ms Gilbert), Steph, Jackie, Beth, Kelly

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. Approval of February meeting minutes

- Jackie approved; Beth seconds

3. Finance Report – Wenbin

- No update - coming by email soon

4. Playground Update – Karen & Kelly

- Kelly reviewed and updated the Purchase Order (initially written in wrong amount)
- We need to pick up the Evergreen Grant (Forbes Toyota) - we need to pick up the certificate / photo opportunity
 - **Action: Erica can pick up the certificate, bring kids for photo opportunity**
- Earthscapes called Karen, they would like to move installation up to April
 - **Action: Kelly will email WRDSB to confirm/approve this change in date**
- Donations to playground fund in honour of Jen Murray's late father totalled \$6,000. Consider readding the mud kitchen to our project. Also a buddy bench to be purchased, named for Jen Murray's father
 - **Action: Karen to inquire about i) cost of mud kitchen ii) buddy bench and iii) scheduled date of completion with an April start date**

5. Fundraising

a. Move--a--thon Results – Karen

- Results unknown at this time. Wenbin to update this week. Estimate a minimum \$1500.
- Jess indicated the DJ was great and used only half the gym which worked well to allow more room for classes that needed to have gym.

- Student feedback - no chance for students to make requests, each class could choose a song ahead of time to request.
- DJ feedback - requests that we minimize the age gap with classes at the same time. E.g. grade 1 and grade 6. Hard to engage the variety of ages.
- Teacher feedback - 30 minutes is too short

b. Spirit Wear – Beth

- Beth indicated the vendor will have art mock-ups, sample sizes, etc for book fair. Order form to follow a couple weeks after the book fair
- Order form has extra \$1 over cost - this is the fundraising amount that goes to Empire

c. Science Night – Kelly

- Kelly working on planning with ESQ, choosing room numbers etc. This event (April 7th) will be an inspiration for kids to another upcoming event:
 - Non-competitive student science fair night coming - Thursday, April 21st (night before April 22 PD day)

d. Book Fair – Rachel

- Still need volunteers for Thursday April 7th for book night. Shannon signed up for
- Mrs Gilbert and Beth are assisting with promotion.
- Lisa will provide the cash float to volunteers. Kelly or Karen (Mrs Moore) will be here to lock up the money.
- Rachel will not able to attend the April council meeting so will be updating the group in May on results
- **Action: Rachel will write a promotional blurb to be read over the morning announcements**

e. Fun Fair / Silent Auction (Tues June 14th)

- Discussed a significant lack of interest to volunteer/chair the Funfair, discussion about cancelling it without more parents volunteering. Last year Beth had to buy 20 cakes because there was not a lot of volunteers. Jess (Ms Gilbert) indicated teacher fatigue on the baskets in each classroom
- Discussion about goal for this year. We do not need a fundraiser, celebrate the end of the year/meeting playground goals, community engagement (ok that goal can go back to fundraising another year)
- Discussed a shift in focus, removing volunteer-heavy activities (serving pizza, small games in classrooms) - instead doing a playground grand opening. Some parents felt that students would be “devastated” if cancelled
- All agreed on replacing this year’s FunFair with an outdoor party: 3-4 food trucks (Erica’s friend owns Schmuck Truck), cake walk, Tumble Bus, DJ
 - **Action: Beth/Steph will draft a written communication to family indicating that Fun Fair event has been cancelled due to a lack of volunteers. To be sent out week of April 4th.** Something along the lines: this year a year end

party will take place to celebrate the year and meeting the playground fundraising goal/grand opening the playground. Note: Should people react/complain and wish to volunteer to run it, let them do so

f. Staff Appreciation

- Staff will be here on Friday April 22 on the PD day; cater lunch for staff (approximately 50)
 - **Action: Determine what available funds for this**
 - **Action: Beth will inquire about what some restaurants cost for catering**
 - **Action: Lindsay/Beth/Steph will come in to make a video of students giving their appreciation. Get staff list first so no one is left out.**
- Parents can leave gifts here on Thursday April 21
- Karen shared a story from her school, parents volunteered to make a video of students feeling about their teaches. All liked the idea.

6. Principal & Vice Principal Reports

- Student science night April 21st
- Group of staff are planning a late fall math night (October). Parent Reaching Out grant application to go toward this night. Kelly will ask for formal support
- Jess (Mrs Gilbert) - brought back teacher feedback about what they want. Technology, gym equipment, mounting data projectors to the ceiling (Mary Johnson school has done this); recess bin (sidewalk chalk, bin of balls -though Kelly suggested worn gym equipment can go to this too, a couple of teachers responsible for this), presenters for classroom curriculum (e.g. zumba, drumfit). Note: funding for school trips were not on the radar.
- Candy Grams raised nearly \$900. Food Bank is coming March 24th to pick up the cheque and meet the club and pick up the cheque. Over \$2000 meals have been purchased.
- Me to We giving a presentation to students and 45 min mentorship with the club.
- Assembly coming up (April 20). Jump Rope for Heart happening this year.
- March 31st Kelly has to enter numbers into system for registration, gives her budget for next year. Asked council to reminder their neighbours, if people are moving. Wants March numbers as accurate as possible.

7. Parent questions & concerns

- None

8. Adjournment

- Steph motioned to adjourn; Shannon seconded

Next meeting:

Wednesday, April 13th @ 7pm