



chool
Street,
Ontario
8375

Success **O**wnership **A**ttitude **R**espect

Empire School Council Minutes October 11, 2017. 7:00 PM

1) Welcome and Introductions

- Tricia, Louise Jess, Ms. Krista Mohr, Lindsey, Janet, Paul, Rochelle, Kim Jane Justin, Steph, Andrea, Rachel, Bryan, Shannon, Shelley, Mary Lou, Liz, Amy, Karen, Mrs. Hughes
- Regrets: Erica Hind

2) Approval of June and September Minutes

- Minutes **Approved** for June and September

3) Internal communications guidelines

- Bryan and Krista don't need to be copied on every detail. Mostly the minutes and larger things that involve the school.
- We will use **email voting** when absolutely necessary for passing a motion when meetings are missed and we need quorum quickly.

4) Council Positions to fill

- **Communications Coordinator** is needed but the duties could be many.
- Task communications related are emailing, posters, managing Twitter
- We would like someone to provide more details about the events and activities to make them sound more interesting or exciting when announcing them?
- Anyone want to do a school council newsletter? (No volunteers)
- Justin is responsible for emailing
- **Mary Lou** would like to volunteer to write announcements. Mary Lou suggested there be a schedule created so we can efficiently get these announcements out.
- We can schedule announcements to be presented with the school system so you don't have to worry about delivering announcements everyday.

5) Finance Report

- Money from the school board **WEFI** account needs to be transferred to the empire WEFI account then to our account and that takes time.
- We have **\$1000** reserved for the **natural playground maintenance**.
- We should **put in writing somewhere that that money is only to be used for playground maintenance**.
- We don't need to budget for photocopying.
- **Recess kits** were delivered and turned away this summer so we are trying to get them back from Calgary. We have funding to purchase recess kit bags.
- We have **\$3000** that we donated to a **technology purchase**.
- We received **\$1000 grant for a science night**. It comes with specific requirements to be included in the evening.
- Bottom line is we have **\$281 to start the year**.
- We will add a **Charitable Works** account for unexpected costs like our new families from last year.
- **Home reading books have been purchased**. We get 1000 books and still have \$250 remaining. Thank you Mrs. Hughes

6) School Council Objectives for 2017/18

- We discussed the brackets and cost of the **brackets**. We should know by next month how much the brackets and the essential technology that goes with it, will cost so we can make an educated decision on how to proceed.
- We decided we would like to **continue with the same program of last year** where we call in food trucks etc. so we can enjoy the events with our families.

7) Update on Council School Lunch Program

- What should we do with the donation money from ESNS so we can best use it to feed kids in need? The Problems mentioned are getting food that doesn't get eaten by the kids or serving food that is culturally different.

Motion to continue with ESNS till January YES

- **We will also look into more nutritious options.**
- **Organic kids catering** – Shelley will look into it.
- Justin is looking into **Nutrition for learning**.

8) Proposed Council Activities for 2017/18

- **Move-a-thon** – Karen

- **School Lunches** - Steph
- **Holiday Fundraiser** - Karen and Louise
- **Fit Fest** – Amy and Janet
- **Dining out Nights** - Lindsey
- **ESQ** – Amy and Andrea
- **Book Fair** - Tricia, Rochelle and Andrea
- **Nutrition Support** – Jane
- **Year-end Picnic**- do we go back to the original plan with the one vender (pizza) and make more money and maybe we sell tickets so we know how much pizza we need so they don't run out.
- **Teacher Appreciation** - Steph will order the food.
- **Spirit Wear** - A company from Ayr did a nice job and is local but they were difficult to communicate with. Quality may not have been great. - Janet
- **Lovable Labels** – Shelley - talk to Rachel about getting started
- **OTHER**
- **Regional refugee day**- one month of events – could we host an event or have classrooms talk about the topic and provide activities – It takes place June 2018, the community starts planning in November 2017. Mayors will come if invited

Motion to continue with the same events as last year YES

Motion to give Amy \$500 for Fit Fest Night YES

9) Principal / Vice-principal Reports

Activities/Events

- October is Gratitude Month- assembly last week introducing concept, as well as Gratitude Tree
- Intramurals- nutrition break and after school - dodgeball, kitten ball and more
- Swim to Survive- Gr 3 program at Forest Heights Pool
- Gr 5 to Laurier Soccer and Swimming at Rec Centre
- Several outdoor Ed Centre trips
- Kindergarten to Shantz Family Farm- Oct 17 and 18
- Students singing O Canada at Laurier Hockey game- Saturday at 7pm, Rec Centre
- Costumes and/or black & orange day- Oct 31
- Spirit Assembly - Nov 3- "Compassion"
- Progress Reports (Gr 1-6) and Initial Observations (K) go home Nov 13

Staffing

- Still in process for Gr 4/5 class- contract job posted and closing Friday
- Portable 10 is awaiting inspection and asphalt and then will be ready for occupancy.
- Hiring for Gr 4/5 and 5 - English half of FI, Ms. Cartledge got a contract at Laurelwood
- We have a settlement worker through the YMCA who is working here one day per week to support the families of newcomers
- Info session for our ELL parents/students at 3pm on Thursday - "A Day at Empire", hosted by our ESL Team and Settlement worker Thana Khatib

School Day Update

- We are now at just over 50% enrollment
- Payments in the new finance system are cash or school day (online) only
- Next pizza order- hopefully the option of school day for ordering and payment
- Staff training is coming next month to support this implementation
- Toasty toes program Oct 10-Nov 10
- Everyone should double check that they are in fact enrolled to school day. Some people are not still enrolled from last year.

10) **Parent Questions and Concerns** (5 min)

- none

11) **December Meeting** (5 min)

- **Motion to cancel December meeting YES**

12) **Adjournment**

Next Meeting: November 8, 2017