



Empire School
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S uccess O wnership A ttitude R espect

Empire School Council Minutes

March 7, 2018. 7:00 PM

Present: Rachel, Amy, Justin, Shelley, Lindsay, Jess, Krista, Janet, Andrea, Mary-Lou, Tricia, Paul

1) Welcome and introductions

2) Approval of February minutes

- Justin made some revisions and Shelley will resend. Justin noted that the skating initiative is on hold (given weather) and will come back to council in the fall. Krista noted that lots of skates and helmets have been donated to the school.

3) Finance Report

- Deposit made for the Nimble Bus for the year end celebration.
- Lunch program (ESNS) revenues are still going down. Donations basically nil.
 - Shelley noted that it is harder to find the donations after your initial order.
- Spirit wear purchases on School Day to date have been deposited. Due date extended to March 19th.
- No new purchases on Lovable Labels
- One Book One School finalized at last meeting.
- Last revenues and expenses happened for Fit Fest - now through our books.
- Fundraising: \$11,210.45 raised since the fall:
 - WEFI monies from the tech holiday fundraiser has come in for a total of \$9,941.64
 - Final coffee fundraiser numbers \$746.
 - Final holiday cards fundraiser \$320.
 - Beertown event raised \$120 in commissions. Projected revenue for the third event to \$100.
 - Including the reserve fund (\$4500), \$15,710.45 available for technology, etc.

Planned spending

- We have met our goal to purchase the kindergarten projectors
- There is some need to support grade 6 camp trips – Jess will share what is needed in May
- We will come back to technology goals at the end of the year.

4) Events/Fundraising

a) ESNS (Justin)

- By email council voted on whether or not to continue to sell Menchie's (based on nutrition concern) but it was voted to stay on the menu.

b) Spirit Wear (Janet)

- Christine populated spirit wear into School Day for ease of ordering (no paper forms/cash orders will be accepted, except for from staff who do not have access to School Day).
- A print reminder to check School Day to place order will go out this week before March Break.
- After March 19th, order will go in and pick up the stock and distribute

c) Move a Thon (Karen)

- Andrea noted that WEFI option is not included on the Move-a-Thon form this year. Some had hesitation about sending cash to school with their kids.
- Rachel noted that WEFI is the easiest means for the administration
- Reminder to go out to add WEFI option for donation

d) Year end picnic – June 21 (Justin/Amy)

- Tumblebus and School of Rock are booked.
- Amy looked into M&M meats for BBQ – discussion around lots of work/volunteers involved, (working against the goals of easy, relaxed event). All agreed not to pursue BBQ option.
- Discussed the need for Halal option
- Discussed pizza as an inexpensive option but hard to make estimates
- Agreed on only offering snacks, desserts for sale (vs dinner options due to pricing, nutrition, lack of halal or vegetarian options)
- Bring your own food/community picnic to be emphasized in the flyer.

e) Fit Fest (Amy)

- Event went well and kids really like it

f) Teacher Appreciation Lunch (Justin)

- April 13th PD day – unsure if the EA team will be onsite
- Steph will organize the food; \$715 budgeted
- Discussed creative ideas to show appreciation (e.g. videos of students from 2015, 2016) – if any members have ideas, share them with the council

5) School Council By-laws (Justin)

- i) Proposal to write and revise by-laws**

- Justin proposed forming a small subcommittee (especially looking for people with experience on boards) to discuss and write/revise by-laws to add some clarity on voting and membership
- All agreed in principle to explore this, suggestion to call them Guidelines vs By-laws
- Shelley offered to participate and Mary-Lou and Andrea offered to share some resources

ii) Motion to reduce quorum

- Given attendance data on past 3 school years (which was shared), Justin proposed removing the by-law requirement that “the quorum for council will be more than ten of the voting members or, when there are fewer than 20 members on the Council in a given year, 50 percent plus 1”. He proposed, that for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year, that all (3) meetings be allowed to proceed, regardless of number of attendees present, nothing that weather-related cancellations may only be made by the School Board. All agreed on proposed suggestion.
- Note: quorum from current by-laws was achieved in this meeting, all agreed appropriate to have a vote.
- Proposed guidelines for 2018-2019 school year will be forthcoming and will include wording to describe conditions of membership and voting

6) Principal / Vice Principal Reports

- School Day and Twitter is the preferred communication
- Hope/Optimism is our theme this month (March)
- Many classes are participating in the Kindness Project as well as the Walls of Hope
- Basketball- hosted and participated in several games/tournaments with Junior students
- Field trips- Gr 5/6 to Sugar Shack March 27, several other Sugar Shack trips to come this spring
- ABLE Field Trip to Mountsberg Conservation Area Raptor Centre
- Spirit Wear on School Day- until March 19
- Soccer League- to start this week for Junior students at NB-
- Lots of clubs- art, yoga, sign language, girls club,
- March 21- World Down Syndrome Day- wear fun socks and dance!
- April 6- Spirit Assembly- Perseverance
- May 2 - Kindie Information Night- **table for School Council would be great** - 6:30-7:30 pm in gym
- Kodaly Choir- May 9 at CITS, areas rehearsal was this past week
- May 22- 25 - EQAO for Primary Students (Gr 3)
- May 23- Junior Track Meet
- May 28-31- Junior EQAO (Gr 6)

Staffing Updates

- Bryan away on a leave since Feb 12. To return the week of March 26
- Julie Lobsinger as half time VP for the remainder of this week.
- Christina Knischewsky is returning to Gr 5/6 FI after her parental leave replacing LTO Yvonne LeClerc-Humphrey
- Melissa Gomes-Fernandes - on mat leave and had a baby boy last week!
- Kelly Burdess doing Extended Day AM in K4 replacing Ms. Gomes-Fernandes
- Posting for Christine Needler's Core Day DECE job in K2 went out today - her mat leave starts April 23.

World Refugee Day

- Mary Lou (Community Coalition of Refugee and Immigrant Concerns, works on "World Refugee Day") has made arrangements that that Empire students can contribute artwork (this year's theme is "being neighbours"). Artwork (various mediums) can be exhibited as for the full month of June at The Museum (Downtown Kitchener); parental permission will be required.

7) Parent questions and concerns

- None submitted

8) Adjournment

Next meeting: April 11