



Empire School  
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**S uccess O wnership A ttitude R espect**

## **Empire School Council Minutes May 16, 2018. 7:00 PM**

### **1) Welcome and Introductions**

Justin, Jess, Krista, Rachel, Shelley, Andrea, and Micheline.

**Regrets:** Paul, Louise, Erica, Eric, Mary Lou, Rochelle, Janet, Lindsay and Trisha.

### **2) Guest Speaker – Mount Zion Lutheran Church**

Guest speaker did not show up.

### **3) Approval of April Minutes**

April minutes were Approved with corrections requested by Shelley.

### **4) Finance Report**

### **5) Playground Mulch/Maintenance**

We have \$2000 to put towards Mulch/woodchips for the playground. Krista is getting quotes. Shelley also offered to try to get a good quote. It is recommended that we reevaluate the set amount reserved for playground maintenance.

### **6) School Improvement Plan Highlights**

Krista presented a wonderful School improvement slide show. The link is below to view the slide show.

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/10X5XwdS256Hf61KTGy9l4lbsQzyqJOgHeXs\\_9VfZPMM/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/10X5XwdS256Hf61KTGy9l4lbsQzyqJOgHeXs_9VfZPMM/edit?usp=sharing)

### **7) Events / Fundraising**

- a. Dining out update – Lindsay is waiting to hear about another dining out night before the end of the year.
- b. Year-end gifts and cupcakes – We have budgeted \$100 for the grade 6 year end party. Monday June 25, 2018. We need the cupcakes here by noon and we need 75. Lindsay has agreed to take care of this.  
Rachel will bring in cards for the exiting teachers that need to be signed by the school cancel before they are given out the last week of school.
- c. Meet the teacher night – went to e-vote

- d. It was discussed that we skip ESQ night next year and find something else to do like a Math and Science night instead.

## **8) Principal / Vice-principal Reports**

### **Updates - May School Council**

- Volunteer Appreciation Invitations- handout
- June 2, 1-3 The Museum- World Refugee Day Launch
- Track and Field (Jr.) next week
- National Gymnastics Championships at Rec Centre next week ( $\frac{4}{5}$ )
- Primary EQAO - next week
- Junior EQAO- May 28- June 2
- Staffing Season- no major staffing changes as of now, some staff are returning from leaves
- Megan Chadwick- last day is Friday- Kelly Kirkham coming back to 3F and kindie planning time
- June 1st PD Day
- Trait this month is Integrity - assembly was 2 weeks ago featuring skits, songs and a story
- Girls' Club Talent Show- June 7, gym
- Various year end activities and field trips are being planned
- Ramadan begins tomorrow- many students fasting and being supervised in library during eating time (optional)

## **9) PRO Grant**

We will apply for the PRO GRANT again this year. Jess has volunteered to write the grant. We will aim for a Math and Science night instead of ESQ.

## **10) School council Membership guidelines**

There is some concern about School Council being able to make decisions when attendance is low. We believe that school council has not made it clear enough to its members that we need quorum to make decisions about financial issues etc. Going forward we discussed some thoughts about how to eliminate this problem in the future.

Voting school council members need to commit to attending the majority of meetings.

We can reduce the number of meeting from 10 to 6 meeting a year.

We can accept non-voting members all year long to help with committee assignments and providing input and opinions.

Having a co-chair might also take some stress and work load from the Chair.

## **11) Parent Questions and Concerns**

Issues that could not be decided do to low numbers at the school council meeting were decided by e-vote. The results were as follows:

There were 14 members who responded to the online voting.

Q1 Motion to increase the 'staff appreciation' budget by \$100

Yes = 11

No = 1

Abstain = 2

**Passed**

Q2 Motion to allocate \$600 of previously budgeted monies to support grade 6 students going to camp.

Yes = 14

**Passed**

Q3 Motion to increase the 'Administrative Professionals Day and Custodial Appreciation' budget by \$40

Yes = 14

**Passed**

Q4 Motion to apply for a PRO Grant for 2018/19 to provide funding for a family math night at Empire PS.

Yes = 14

**Passed**

Q5 Motion to reduce ESNS lunches to one day per week with rotating food options.

Yes = 11

No = 1

Abstain = 2

**Passed**

Q6 Food preference for the Meet-the-teacher event

Food trucks = 3

Picnic (BYO) = 3

No social = 5

Abstain = 2

Other = 1 - Bring your own food and school council sell whole pizzas only in the hour or so before the meet the teacher opens.

I am not sure what to make of this response. While more respondents chose 'no event' over any specific option, the majority of respondents (7 of 12) prefer to have something. I think that the answer of whether we need to book food trucks is 'no'. The discussion of what we do instead will have to wait.

## **12) Adjournment**

Next Meeting: Cancelled due to lack of school council attendance to make decisions. Justin will be away in June. Eric Gerlach has agreed to handle any e-vote's till the end of the year. Trish Orchard has agreed to help with any outstanding issues regarding the Year End Celebration. Lindsay has agreed to bring in