

Empire School Council Minutes

November 8, 2023 at 6:30pm

Present: Lori Williams Andrea Ahrens, Khaled Sherif, Shilpa Indrakati, Jillian Gilmour

- Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting was made by Andrea Ahrens and seconded by Jillian Gilmour

Principal/VP

- Lori informed school council that Empire has been assigned a VP, but the person is on leave, so Empire is still without a VP
- Lori is in discussion with the Superintendent with regards to the urgent need for a VP

Literacy Night

- Discussed possibility of having a literacy night for parents to attend where 4-5 classrooms would be set up to showcase Lexia, decodable text, UFLI and Hagerty learning literacy programs used at school
- At next meeting we will discuss the need for magnetic alphabet sets for our primary learners to accompany learning with UFLI and Hagerty programs

Updates

- Lori discussed the implementation of pizza days at Empire. Parents have donated some money so that we can find a way for every class to receive pizza. This may be done by draw so that every class will receive a special lunch.
- Jillian discussed the Eagle of the Week. Groups of students and individual students are recognized on a weekly basis for being kind and helping around school. We announce the students during morning announcements, showcase their photo and description of good deed on display in the library. We will encourage teachers to announce Eagles of the Week on their Google Classrooms and correspondence with parents.
- One of our Grade 3 teachers is returning ½ time so there will be a change in staffing.
- Lori is discussing the outdoor soccer field with facilities in order to have the metal poles fixed so that we have two soccer goals.
- Our playground will close soon given the change in weather.
- Progress reports will go home on November 20th

Stem Night

- Khaled has reviewed the information sent from University of Waterloo regarding Stem Night. The event would cost \$1080 for 100 students grades 1-8.
- We would have to organize our own activities for Kindergarten aged students.
- There are 7 activities available for the event including mechanics, engineering and computer based activities. The group needs 30-45 minutes for set up and 2 parking spots on the night of the event.

- Khaled is waiting for additional information from the University of Waterloo before a date can be set. Lori has notes from last year that can be used for future planning and setting up a sub committee for planning the event.

Announce the School Council Members to the School Community

- Khaled has sent a google form for members to complete with their profile, a photo and a bio. Khaled will be the only member with personal contact information.
- Lori will post the information on the school website and announce on school day..
- Lori will send out a reminder to members to complete the information before the new year.
- Lori will also share in the school council folder a list of voting and non voting members.

Questions and Concerns

- Andrea discussed the importance of tying fundraising efforts to planned school events.
 - Lori discussed the possibility of having 2 Arts Nights as last year's event was so successful..
 - Shilpa discussed the idea of a movie and popcorn night, perhaps people could make a donation to attend.
 - Fundraising will be discussed at a future School Council Meeting.
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- Motion for adjournment was made by Khaled Sherif and seconded by Andrea Ahrens.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 13th at 6:30-7:30 (in the library and a live link)