

Edna Staebler P.S. School Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 18, 2018, 6 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Dori Mueller, Teresa Martin, Jody Berringer, Stephanie Willmer, Sanj Sathiyamoorthy, Stephen McCrae, Christine Witmer Lang, Ksenija Rac, Amy Wilson, Tanya Romantsou, Paula Rick, Andrea Gilbrook, Rebecca MacCarthy, Alison Cass, Stephanie Bettiol, Ed Griffith, Mike Nagy, Ashif Kara, Justin Jones, Lohora Kara

Apologies for any names missed or misspelled.

Agenda Items

1. Welcome and Introductions

** thanks to the new parents that attended the first meeting of the school year, largest crowd to date! A positive start to the coming year.

2. Approval of Minutes for June 2018 Meeting (approved by email)

3. Chair Report

- Jody discusses the role of School Council ie: we are an advisory committee, work with principal on pupil achievement and a voice to be heard. Opportunity to address issues unique to Edna Staebler and throughout community.
- Council has transitioned from focus on fundraising to role of education. More to come in advising about ways to support children through the school system.
- Opportunities to connect with Waterloo Regional Police (internet presentation) other presentations with continued focus on bringing more speakers/presentations for families.
- External committees that parents can join as part of being a member of School Council. WRAPSC and PIC.
- Other council positions available to join.
- Students may be involved in some meetings for specific presentations.
- Though fundraising is still an area of focus through running of events, it is secondary to the importance of educational topics as a consistent theme of discussion at council.

4. Childcare Report

- YMCA - toddler/preschool program, Before and After School program ages 4-12
- changes - fees are aligning along with school board fees
- Contact YMCA for updated fee schedule.
- Afternoon and morning snacks included - focus on social environment.

5. Principal /Vice-Principal Report

- Principal overview, Day 1 worked well - teachers involved in overall organization of how Day 1 was planned, result was calm and organized.
- Clubs that students can join, are being presented in announcements or through teachers reading daily announcements in class.
- Website portal suggested by parent to list and display upcoming clubs and teams that the students can join. Parents aren't aware of when or what of these clubs is occurring.
- Newsletter posted through Twitter, should be added to School-Day and school website.
- Add a "What's Happening this Month" notice with clubs, teams, events information.
- Total School Number 670 students - school built for 700. No portables required (for now).
- French Immersion - 15 - 23 students, English - 23 - 26 students
- Why combined classes - numbers and meeting ministry regulated cap sizes.
- Can only have so many classes over capped. Consistent in many schools.
- Many schools going through re-organization in the area due to growth.
- 2-3 weeks prior to start of school year, the teachers are here assisting to get everything organized. Edna has the reputation in the teaching community as the place to be at.
- Numbers will fluctuate through the year.
- Staircases that were in need of repair, have all been repaired.
- Staffing - Long term occasional, secretaries added to office.
- Off Campus trips scheduled - Camp, Cycling Program.
- Where the school is going in a learning focus along with latest school board guidelines.
- Safety - improved facility (latest repairs), overall safety drills (including lock down and bomb drills) - worthwhile to discuss with kids to avoid any anxiety - they are reminded by staff that this is all practice. Allergies that are overall or classroom specific. Speak to a Council member or staff for any questions.
- School Trips - Questions on Grade 8 trips. There are discussions in place regarding what and when. There are formalities in receiving approval for these trips and all trips which are based on categories and levels of risk. It is another extracurricular activity among the many that require staff to plan and oversee. There is increased liability and risk management. It is no easy task to receive approval and manage logistics. It is also not mandatory at any school to have to arrange for this. To be a topic with continued discussion and planning.
- Teachers are looking for a process in how to share and request to spend funds that are raised by School Council to ensure transparency and appropriate curriculum requirements that all involve approval process.
- Currently School Council supports a request by Grade 5-6 Quad teachers to request funds for a day camp trip that will meet curriculum guideline as well. Planned for middle of next month once formally approved.

6. Teacher Report

- Kindergarten - new teacher (Alison Cass) from Edna Staebler (so excited and loves to be here at ES) start up has been great, everything has gone smoothly. Great happy students, lots of learning already and still a lot of learning in the outdoors with the weather. Incredible support by parents.
- Sport teams are intermediate focused and starting up (soccer, choir, writing, woodworking etc.) Division specific. Most competitive teams at Edna are grade 7 & 8. These teams do play other schools. Totally dependent on staff running availability. Also based on school numbers including Track & Field.
- 2 night info night (intermediate) - teachers were able to meet more parents, more organized and spread out for the older kids, parents and teachers were able to focus more with add'l night for intermediate.
- Sept 28th Terry Fox Run.
- Sept 30th Orange Shirt Day - process of reconciliation for native people and residential school survivors. Possibility of becoming a national holiday. Explained to young elementary as "every child matters" Resources are available to the students about this topic.
- Running Clubs are starting up in a week.
- Depending on risk of trips - further approval required (ie Ski Club) waiting on approvals to add more.

7. New membership and election discussion

- Andrea will continue with Pizza Program (which starts on October 5th)
- Ashif is interested in replacing Andrea as Treasurer (discussion to occur)
- Fundraising leads and help needed ie: Book Fair, Boston Pizza Nights, Family Fun Night
- Teacher suggested a flyer to advertise School Council and events to attract help through parents of younger Kindie students.
- Teresa will assist (help needed to lead) Book Fair - week of Nov 19-23. Specific dates to be confirmed.
- Teresa and Melissa have agreed to take on Co-Chair roles.
- Official Voting in, next meeting.
- PIC Committee- WRDSB/PIC websites for more information

8. Feedback on 1st day of school organization

- Parent feedback very positive.
- Map was well detailed, teachers out with signage, guidance of class lists by staff. All great organization and appreciated. Overall the anxiety was lessened for parents and students given the new format of information that was provided from board level directive.

Next Meeting: October 16, 2018 at 6 p.m.

All Meeting Dates for the 2018/2019 School Year

November 20, 2018

December 18, 2018 (potluck get together)

January 15, 2019

February 19, 2019

March 19, 2019

April 16, 2019

May 21, 2019

June 18, 2019 (potluck get together)

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