

**John Darling Public School
School Council Minutes
January 20 2013
7:10pm**

In Attendance: Jenn Fleet, Janice Mitchell, Colleen Brandes, Kim Schmidt, Lori Williams, Jen Hulett, Marti-Anne Hachey; Marnie Wuensch, Susie Gutri, , Jackie Teixeira, , Gillian McKenzie, Jessie White, Any Shannon, Mandy Dahmer, Heather Quiring.

Regrets: Helen Byers, Amanda Pope, Danielle Morales

Getting Started

- A motion was made to approve the minutes from November 2012. Motion: Lori Williams Second: Susie. Motion carried.

Rink Committee Report

- Rink is due to open Wednesday
- Discussion ensued around the possible transmittal of head lice from school helmets. Suggested ideas included spraying a disinfectant in them or leaving them outside in the cold. Gillian recommends that students wear a tuque underneath them. CSA helmets are recommended but other helmets are acceptable.

WRAPSC – Janice Mitchell, WRAPSC rep

- A police school resource officer was a guest at last meeting.
- School admin can ask them to come to their school
- The main issue for K to grade 8 is social media/facebook issues. They also deal with threats, weapons and F&CS issues. In the later grades they deal with drugs and healthy relationships. Their goal is to train students to be good citizens at school and on-line.
- A School Trustee spoke about the Accessible Standards Act
- There was representation from the Special Ed Advisory Committee. They advocate for special needs groups, not for individuals. Their message was to ensure families make use of their resources if needed.

Fundraising Report: Lori Williams

- Lori suggested we have a spring fundraiser with Vessey bulbs this year. The profit is at 50% and the prices and quality are reportedly good.
- Gillian noted that she has committed to Wyatt Helmuth's family to have the school support Epilepsy Awareness week this year - the week of March 26th. Wyatt's mom will be bringing in a collection container for this. Discussion ensued around whether both events should occur at the same time or not.
- Lori made a motion to have a Spring fundraiser this year with Vessey bulbs and to have a portion of the monies raised to go toward the Epilepsy Awareness. Seconded by Colleen. The fundraising letter will state this intent.

- There was discussion around the prices that we sold our pointsettias for compared with another school. Colleen volunteered to get hold of the other school's price list so we can compare.

Darlingfest report: Jessie White

- The committee has decided to run with sub-committees rather than co-chairs this year
- The date of Thursday June 6th has been chosen.
- Due to the current labour dispute, planning will not include teacher participation, but the teachers will be approached in May to see whether they want to volunteer at that time.
- The committee aims to add more new games this year and is open to new ideas and suggestions.

Discussion on Council Meeting Start Time

- Meetings will begin at 6:30pm going forward in hopes of ending earlier as well.

Treasurer's Report – Mandy Dahmer

- All Council monies have been transferred from BMO to the BAS account.
- Currently, there is approximately \$9,242 in the account, although not all Scientists in the School have been paid for, nor have buses or Spiritwear.
- Gillian has purchased some iPad covers and adapter cables. Mandy will give Gillian exact figures from the technology budget so that we don't go over the amount.
- Our account consists of the following budget lines: Darlingfest, general school council, teachers' wish list, fundraising, grants, technology, student activities, school greening, arts.
- Mandy will be able to get a report of all the accounts for each meeting going forward.
- The HST rebate amount has already been deposited into our account.

Principal/Teacher Report: Gillian McKenzie

- Before and After School Daycare is moving to Driftwood (due to low enrolment)
- Mr. Siegfried will begin Paternity leave on Feb 1st
- Mr. England will be teaching grade 4 from Feb 1st
- Mrs. Duley will teach a 0.2 assignment in Grade 6 starting Feb 1st
- Full Day (everyday) Kindergarten will be offered at JD in Sept 2013
- Kindergarten registration is February 5th/6th
- We anticipate 2 Kindergarten classes.
- No renovations will be needed
- Labour Dispute: A new contract is imposed. Teachers are no longer in a position to strike. Day of protest presented many challenges for our families. There were mixed responses to the last-minute cancellation of school closures. With the new Liberal Leader, we wait to hear what the next steps are from the union leaders. At JD, staff continue to deliver engaging, curriculum-based lessons; assess student achievement and report progress to parents.
- Extra-curricular/voluntary activities: Teachers have been advised by their union to make personal choices. The Christmas door decorating was a huge success. We exceeded our goal for the penny drive. A ski trip is not planned this winter. One teacher wants to run an

awareness activity. For Labour Relations Updates, the Board website has a link to information. Go to www.wrdsb.ca.

- Data Projectors Purchases: Thank you for your support. With your help, we purchased 3 data projectors. Each class has a data projector.
- 20 ipads are on the way (in addition to 12 ipads currently being used by teachers); plus 4 data projector adapters and 4 ipad adapters. 3 Neos have been ordered as well.
- \$500 Parent Involvement Grant – a suggestion could be to have a parent information night on a relevant topic (eg. Ron Morrish or a facebook 101 speaker)
- WRDSB has announced that pre-registered Kindergarten students will be able to access the school library this year.
- The Book Fair is Feb 25/26th – thank you to our volunteers. The library clerk is no longer allowed to run the book fair during school hours. Marnie reported that we will need some volunteers before and after school and also at nutrition break. She will send out an email to school council indicating the time slots needed to be filled.
- Gillian asked for feedback with respect to the plan to relocate the main entrance to the front of the school to secure the parking lot doors. The discussion brought general agreement. The change will be implemented after March break.
- The Principal profile was given to council co-chairs to review.
- Gillian presented a Powerpoint presentation explaining last year's EQAO results and interpretation. The conclusion was that overall John Darling is holding its own, but the goal is to figure out how to break through this stable state, especially with respect to math.

Meeting adjourned

2012/13 Meeting Dates:

February 25

April 22

May 13

June 10