

**John Darling Public School
School Council Minutes
October 22, 2012
7:03pm**

In Attendance: Jenn Fleet, Janice Mitchell, Colleen Brandes, Kim Schmidt, Lori Williams, Helen Byers, Jen Hulett, Marnie Wuensch, Susie Gutri, Amanda Pope, Jackie Teixeira, Danielle Morales, Gillian McKenzie, Jen Heuchert, Jessie White, Tanya Smith, Amy Knechtel-Shannon, Mandy Dahmer, Heather Quiring.

Regrets: Sandra Schroder, Marti-Anne Hachey

Getting Started: Susi Gutri

- Additions to the existing agenda were to add Jen Hulett as co-chair for the secretary position on council. This motion was made by Susie and Seconded by Amanda Pope.
- A motion was made to approve the minutes from September 17 2012. Motion: Helen Second: Amanda Pope. Motion carried.

Fundraising Report: Lori Williams

- Kim Schmidt will be co-chairing on the fundraising committee along with Lori Williams.
- Although 4 Treasure books have not been returned yet, the fundraising was reported to be very successful as follows:
- \$4,818.33 from the Catalogues
- \$2,460.00 from Treasures books
- \$6,558.33 total minus shipping costs leaves a profit of **\$6,512.31**.
- We gave a 25% deposit for the Fall fundraiser.
- Lori motioned that we have a poinsettia fundraiser in November. Second: Suzie Gutri. Motion passed
- The poinsettia order sheets will go out Mon Oct 29th to Nov 12/13th. Orders must be submitted by Nov 16th.
- Poinsettia pick-up will be on Mon Dec 3rd from 3 – 7pm
- The colours, sizes and costs will be the same as last year: 4.5” = \$7.00; 6” = 13.00; 7” = \$19.00; 10” = \$28.00. Colours are red, white, burgundy and pink.
- Discussion occurred around announcing the costs of the various activities that school council pays for in the newsletter (eg. Scientists in the school = \$2000, buses = \$1400; chess = \$3190). We can also detail how much time the chess instructor spends teaching and we can include quotes from the kids.

Darlingfest report: Suzie Gutri on behalf of the committee chairs - to be named

- The committee will begin meeting in January
- The co-chairs will be decided upon at that time.
- A suggestion was made to consider having the Game Asylum video trailer at Darlingfest

WRAPSC – Janice Mitchell, WRAPSC rep

- WRAPSC is the Waterloo Region Assembly of Public School Councils
- Is represented by councils from High school Middle School and Elementary Schools
- Linda Fabi, director of ed for the Board spoke
- Our Board represents 63,000 students (the 5th largest)
- Of 72 Boards in Ontario, ours is one of 3 that is growing
- The Waterloo region is the 4th largest for new immigrants in Canada
- The Board is currently investing \$2 million in technology
- New schools get a lot of new technology
- You can access WRAPSC minutes on-line which are quite detailed.
- During the Q&A Linda Fabi seemed quite approachable
- There is a new Fundraising Policy guideline coming out by the Ministry
- WRAPSC is planning a themed family event
- The most popular future topics requested were mental health and technology

Greening – Janice Mitchell

- We need to deal with the dead trees and shrubs
- We don't likely have the receipts or any warranties as it's been three years
- Rob Sealy with the Board helped us before
- Amanda Bourrassa's husband is connected with a landscaping co. and has offered to remove them for free. Janice will follow up with Amanda.
- Jessie White has a contact at the Board who thinks Rob Sealy will take them out at no cost and replace them with donated trees (the Board cost is \$425.00 per tree)
- Metal stakes and snow fences must be around all the trees
- Deep fertilization is also recommended for hard school grounds
- Board trees are warranted for one year.
- Gillian will follow up with Rob Sealy about this

Treasurer's Report – Gillian McKenzie on behalf of Sandra Schroder

- July and August books have been settled. Year-end has been settled.
- Last week, Sandra and Gillian got signing power over the account.
- There is one outstanding expense cheque that Gillian will distribute for Darlingfest
- The cheque for the fundraiser deposit of \$1856.62 was issued
- The fundraiser deposit amount was \$15,126.50
- Gillian looked in to the fees for our account. There are no fees if we deposit up to 15 cheques per month. After 15 cheques, we are charged 20 cents per cheque.
- Sandra will be meeting with the bank at the end of the month to see if we can get a break on these charges.
- We can also get an account through CIBC and the school board. The board will do the reconciliations so the treasurer won't have to. Our secretary would write the cheques. Many schools are using this. Some concerns could be that the treasurer would have to

come in to the school more often and might not have the paperwork in time for our meetings. Gillian thinks that the secretary could probably print off statements at any time. We can have the representative come to our meeting to explain it more.

Parents Reaching Our Grant – Susie Gutri

- A previous grant for \$1000 that we were awarded two years ago didn't come in as we missed filing the follow-up paperwork. We have now filed for it.
- Last year we applied again and got approved. We had wanted the grant to subsidize the planners by \$4.00 each. But we didn't know that we were approved in time and so the planners were subsidized by \$1.27 instead (from \$7.00). The Ministry has said that this is ok because our application was a "proposal" and as long as we spend the grant money on communication to families we're ok. In the end, the grant money went toward the total cost of the planners, but not toward the subsidy portion. Next year, we will put in writing that the planners will be subsidized by \$4.00 from school council and we will send it in earlier and we will be sure to do follow-up report.

Principal/Teacher Report: Gillian McKenzie

- Gillian welcomed the council, thanked the executive members for stepping up and congratulated the fundraising committee.
- Bussing costs were researched and are \$109.07 per bus for a 40km trip with 72 bodies. 401 trips require fewer bodies (around 40). Staff greatly appreciate these opportunities for students. Gillian is keeping a list of who has used them (to be brought next meeting). The council has asked that parents are told which trips have been paid for by council fundraising.
- The IT wish-list from staff was presented (in addition to the 20 iPads that are coming from the board – and we already have 4 here): iPad cases, 3 or 4 VGA cables, a power bar with 20 outlets, wipe-able keyboard protectors, data projectors (can be hooked up to a computer - most educational videos are now on-line for this use) and a document camera. The school will be purchasing educational applications for the iPads. Requests were made to share the names of these apps with families for home use in the newsletter. The current smart boards are staying in a classroom for three months and then rotated and the iPads have a 2-week sign-up schedule. It was estimated that the data projectors cost \$300 – 400. We currently have 3 smart boards, 3 data projectors plus one each in the computer lab and library which cannot be moved. There are 12 classrooms in total. The idea of buying 6 more data projectors to equip each classroom was discussed. \$1,389.37 is earmarked for technology from Darlingfest. The question was raised whether the VGA cables need to be bought through the board as they may be cheaper elsewhere.
- The idea of asking teachers to spread the word about fundraising was discussed.
- Chess starts Nov 7th
- Rocks and Rings will not be offered this year as the staff felt that kids were not engaged enough.
- Winter skating will be at Patrick J Doherty arena Dec – March
- Report cards come out Nov 5th. Interviews are in the evening of Nov 8th and morning of Nov 9th.
- Nov 14th We Day: Our region is hosting for the 3rd year on Nov For grades 6 – 12 (we get 20 tickets including 3 supervisors). The speakers are very high profile as well as

powerful youth and philanthropists. Hi energy day with positive messages about having an impact locally and globally.

- Gillian's message about the labour conflict in Ontario: The agreements expired Aug 31st. The bargaining between the board and union continues. John Darling teachers are very caring and put students first. Their focus is on their learning. You can read about Bill 115 on-line at the Ministry website www.etfo.ca. The union is advising and suggesting that members refuse to do fundraising, extra-curricular activities and sports. At John Darling, teachers are doing the Environmental club, milk helpers, library helpers, Terry Fox run, dodge ball, running club, soccer and We Day. There could be more withdrawals but we don't know where and when and we can't predict anything for the end of the year at this time. There will be a resolution and end to this eventually. Gillian is not aware of anyone stepping back at John Darling.
- It was requested that Gillian pass along a thank you to the teachers from council.

Spending Plan – deferred until next meeting.

New Business:

Fundraising Policies – Lori Williams

- The superintendent has indicated that money needs to be counted inside the school from now on. The policy is vague and stipulates that it is done in a timely manner. Marion and Gillian are available to help with this if need be. One compromise being made is to allow the paperwork to leave the school to be dealt with off-site.

School Council Insurance - Gillian

- Is available but we are already covered by the Boards insurance for most things.

Pointsetta Fundraising Money – Lori Williams

- Lori asked what the poinsettia fundraising money should be dedicated to. Helen Byers made a motion that the poinsettia fundraising money will be spent toward purchasing 6 data projectors so that each classroom will benefit from access to all the educational materials available on-line. Second: Amanda Pope. Motion passed.
- A microphone stand was suggested as a possible need.
- A community skating event on our rink with hot chocolate was suggested. This might be best at the end of January when the rink should be well established.

Meeting adjourned: 8:45pm

2012/13 Meeting Dates:

November 19
January 21
February 25
April 22
May 13
June 10

