

John Darling Public Schools
School Council Minutes
May 13, 2013
7:05 p.m.

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

Regrets: Amanda Bourassa, Marti-Anne Hachey, Jen Hulett, Janice Mitchell,

Getting Started: Jessie White

- A motion was made to approve the agenda. Motion: Colleen Brandes Second: Helen Byers
- A motion was made to approve the April 2013 minutes. Motion: Jenn Fleet Second: Kim Schmidt

Committee Updates

Fundraising: Lori Williams

- There was miscommunication regarding the Vessey Bulb order forms being sent in. This resulted in the order being placed a week alter than it ought to have been. At this point it is unknown when the order will be coming in expect that it will be in May, and hopefully the middle of next week.
- Mandy noted that, as treasurer, she should be approving all cheques. This would also help put another set of eyes on fundraising and ensure orders are sent in.
- The gift card program is still being investigated. Lori requested approval to be able to spend money on fridge magnets when it is decided which program to use. A motion was made to allow fundraising to spend up to \$75.00 on fridge magnets. Motion: Lori Williams Second: Colleen Brandes
- Gillian mentioned that she had some company's information to pass along to the fundraising committee for future consideration.

Darlingfest: Jessie White

- Marti-Anne, who is in charge of volunteers, left a sign-up sheet for council members.
- Planning is on track. There have been 18 lucky loonie prizes donated thus far. There are a number of teachers who have volunteered to man the food tables and for 'pie-in-the-face'. There will be no air-bands at this time as there is no teacher volunteer. Letters regarding class baskets should be coming home soon. There

will be a radio station participating but it is undecided which one. There are fliers available to post to advertise Darlingfest. A condensed version of the flier will go home at neighbouring schools in +/- a week.

Movie Night Wrap Up

- There was a great turnout for the movie night. Donations of food for the Food Bank were significant. Council is considering doing this on an annual basis. There were a couple issues to iron out, such as popcorn dispersement. There may need to be tickets for popcorn to ensure equal portions in the future. Having attendees bring their own beverages worked well with the only downside being that they were unable to enjoy juice etc in the library, which also brings ins to question whether the library should be used in the future, a cleared classroom, or simply only one movie choice.
- Thank you to Mr. Joe and Mrs. Deanna Heer, without who's help managing equipment, the evening would have been impossible for Gillian on her own.

WRAPSC: Janice Mitchell

- As Janice was not in attendance, there was no WRAPSC report.

School Council 2012-14 Direction Discussion

- The Health and Wellness themed grant application has been filled in and submitted. Discussion was held to determine how in depth council wants to go with this idea, for example, do we want this to be a year long theme which gives council a purpose outside of being mostly a fundraising committee and gives council's fundraising a purpose/focus. There were questions if a health and wellness focus would have repercussions on the type of foods served/sold at Darlingfest in the same way concerns regarding selling chocolate as a fundraiser were brought into question in relation to this focus. Teaching moderation was thought to be a strategy useful in these situations. Wheat and gluten free diets were also mentioned as a presentation or blog/recipe exchange.
- Having a focus does not tie council to only this theme. Determining ways to connect families with same/similar health concerns/experiences and hosting specific events such as yoga nights, concerts, Zumba were all discussed. Specific rather than broad focused events seemed to hold more appeal. Also, hosting events winter, spring and fall was a more manageable project than doing monthly events. To begin planning a winter family skating event is manageable now rather than in the winter.
- A motion was made to make the 2013-14 John Darling School Council focus be health and wellness. Motion: Jessie White Second: Jackie Teixeira
- The Ministry of Education wants to know what schools are doing to fulfill their healthy school mandates. Council can help fill in some of those gaps. Deanna suggested that the heath curriculum I Ontario has changes and could provide ideas to council. She suggested "googling" it.

Dress Code: Gillian McKenzie

- Gillian provided council with a copy of the dress code which was reviewed. The most important part of the dress code is the first sentence which reads “Student dress must complement the learning environment and must not offend or distract others.” When a teacher notices inappropriate dress they will ask a student to add a sweater, change or turn the clothing inside out. There is less concern about a 4 or 5 year old wearing spaghetti straps than a 14 year old. Flip-flops are not appropriate footwear as they are a safety concern. Students must have running shoes for play. The dress code was posted in the last newsletter and is in the student planners. The main message of the dress code is that clothing worn at school must be appropriate and safe.

Greening Account

- The question was posed whether there would be annual greening initiatives. The money that is currently in this account was left there as a fund for mulching of the trees and bushes placed by the greening committee. The radius of the mulch circle is supposed to increase with the growth of the tree and the edge of the drip line. It was noted that the gentleman at the school board who helped with the greening plan would be able to tell us if the stakes at the trees needed to be moved along with the fencing. It is the obligation of the council to maintain the trees they have planted.
- It was discussed whether there was a need for council to have a greening committee. This committee had been disbanded when there was a student initiative to provide environmental maintenance. Gillian will discuss with Ms. Vines/Yaschuk/Coles if they would be willing to initiate an environmental maintenance team via green team.
- A motion was made to use the money in the greening account to purchase mulch for the trees/bushes. Motion: Jessie White Second: Jenn Fleet

Treasurer’s Report (attached): Mandy Dahmer

- Mandy explained the paper trails that need to be followed for her to maintain proper accounting. Deposit slips must be filled out as well as forms for refunds with receipts. Please photocopy all cheques that are to be deposited. Questions regarding monies and all money must be directed through Mandy.
- Maria Simmonds requires 2-3 weeks notice to obtain the cash float needed for Darlingfest and, therefore, needs to know the amount requested.
- The Boston Pizza fundraising cheque is to be mailed to the school sent with attention to fundraising.

Principal’s Report: Gillian McKenzie

- Gillian presented samples of grade 3 and grade 6 EQAO assessment questions along with sample answers, what these answers indicated and how they were graded.
- A video clip was presented of Lucy West discussing how to give feedback to students. To do this effectively we must first understand how students think. Also, students must listen to each other's ideas and thought processes. Questions she asked included: Can you articulate why you think the answer you think is right? How well do the adults around the child express their ideas and listen/discuss with each other their ideas and opinions? She noted that the dynamics and conversations in the classroom are a big part of the student's learning. It is difficult to package homework for them to do outside of this environment. Students have to be able to pull from all their knowledge bases.
- Updates: Michelle Logan has been hired as the second JK teacher. There are going to be 3 more fire drills and 1 lock-down drill. Report cards go home June 24/25. May 16/17 is spring photos with siblings. May 31 is a PD day with a focus on assessment and reporting.
- The WRDSB website is inviting parents to provide input for the profile of the director of the board of education (similar to the principal profile).

Next Meeting: June 10th Potluck

- The June 10th potluck will be held at Jessie's home. She informed council members that there is no parking on her street between May 1 and June 30 because of t-ball. She may be able to call the bylaw office for an exemption, otherwise she suggested parking at the school and walking through the path. She will email information to council members along with a sign-up sheet for food items. This meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned 8:35 p.m.