

**John Darling Public School  
School Council Minutes  
October 21, 2013 - 6:30pm**

**In Attendance:** Jen Hulett; Mandy Dahmer; Beth Skilling; Colleen Brandes; Michelle Martin; Jackie Teixeira; Katie Hoedl; Heather Quiring; Rachel Coleman; Tara McPherson; Tom Herr; Kim Schmidt; Helen Byers; Jessie White.  
Teacher/ECE Representative: Heather Dubrick  
Principal: Gillian McKenzie

Regrets: Marnie Wuensch; Jennifer Fleet; Lori Williams

### **1. Getting Started**

A motion was made by Colleen to approve the agenda; seconded by Helen.

A motion was made by Heather to approve the minutes of September 16<sup>th</sup> seconded by Kim.

### **2. Guest Speaker Presentation**

Rajesh Bhandari presented his proposal to set up a program to teach yoga to all the kids of John Darling on a weekly basis for ½ hour or longer. He presented verbal and written information about the many benefits of yoga as well as demonstrated some of the breathing and body exercises. Group discussion after the presentation focused on the impression that Rajesh didn't have much of a "fun factor" in his presentation which would be needed to draw the kids in more.

The Aussie X group did not arrive to make their presentation. Gillian reported that their program has different levels ranging from \$2154 to \$3704 + HST. These include 2 days of instruction at the school for football, cricket and net ball, as well as other features depending upon which package you choose. YouTube has their YouTube excerpt.

Some other ideas were gathered at the Health and Wellness Fair which will be presented to the Health and Wellness Committee at their upcoming meeting – which was subsequently scheduled for Tues Nov 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm – place to be determined.

### **3. Fundraising Update (Kim Schmidt)**

Only 10 children have not yet returned their items. So far, we sold 180 Treasure Books (we make \$10.00 per book and due to our sales numbers we will only have to pay for 170 books). The Catalogue sales will be bringing in over \$4000) for a total estimated profit of \$6700-6800.

A few advisements were made:

1. That we ensure that the chocolates remain bagged and handed out only at the end of the day to avoid contact with children who have allergies to the contents.
2. When unsold products are returned we could have a better storage system for them in the office.
3. In future years we will plan for the money to be deposited on the same day and not to remain in the school overnight.

### **Health and Wellness Event Night**

Michelle reported that her drum fit contacts charge \$550 for an evening, or they can provide a day of instruction for \$950 + another \$300 for an evening session. Gillian reported that we can reserve a drum kit from the board for free and that our own staff might be able to lead it for free. Also we have a certified fitness trainer on staff who could coordinate a session on nutrition and also lead a fitness class. There is also a small conflict with the Youth Development program during our time schedule – which should be easy enough to work around.

**Christmas Family Support Group** – will meet Tuesday October 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm – place to be determined. Gillian reported that Equitable Life will be supporting 4 of our families this year who have been chosen by staff. So our group will not have to be responsible for these families.

### **4. School Playground Discussion**

Gillian reported that we are not allowed by the Board to have corporate sponsors with their names credited on the equipment. Businesses may donate to WEFI (Waterloo Education Foundation Inc) in the name of our school and will receive a tax receipt for this. Our school would receive every dollar that was donated in our name.

The suggestion was made that we post this WEFI info on our website so more people will become aware of this.

Another option is to borrow money for up to 3 years and pay it back with interest.

Gillian is looking in to catalogues from 3 companies: Henderson, Little Tykes and one other. A suggestion was made that we could also consider a sensory oriented natural park as a school in Cambridge has done recently. Gillian recommended that we choose what we are buying first and then figure out the fundraising. Tom has drafted a letter to send to corporations and he will run it by Gillian for her input as well.

### **5. 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Update**

The walk to school day was advertised in advance except for the route which was decided at the last hour.

The water bottles, shirts, shorts and carry bags commemorating this anniversary were presented.

### **6. Treasurer's report**

At the beginning of the year we had over \$11,000 in the account (some of which is still to be allocated).

Last year's Darlingfest profit of \$2697 is to be allocated to Snuggle Books (\$1000 was suggested for Snuggle books), Technology and Music.

We still have money left from the Vessey bulbs which is dedicated to performing arts and Epilepsy.

The question was raised as to where the Health and Wellness money is to come from.

Some ideas for things to spend our money on were:

- Outdoor sand toys
- A music experience (eg. Symphony quartet, a sing-a-long or caroling)
- Xylophones

Gillian advised that the A8 class cannot really manage to participate in the chess activity so we should look at providing them with an alternative. Last year they ran over budget on transportation. Gillian will check with the class teaching staff with respect to what they might want or need help with.

**7. Gillian's Presentation of EQAO results (Please see attachment for Principal's Report)**

Level 3 is the target for the provincial standard. Level 2 and 1 are considered to also be on target. Below level one indicates that a child needs supports. When you receive your child's results you can talk to your child's teacher about it.

John Darling's grade 3 results:

Reading: 59%

Writing: 66%

Math: 56%

32 students wrote the test, but 3-4 were exempted.

John Darling's grade 6 results:

Reading: 72%

Writing: 67%

Math: 49%

43 students wrote the test, but 2 were exempted.

Scores had dropped slightly from the previous year. Math scores were the lowest from the past 5 years.

The grade 6 scores were compared with their previous scores from grade 3 as follows:

Reading – previously 59% now at 72%

Writing – previously at 59% now at 67%

Math – previously 72% now at 49%

66% of grade 3's said they like math; 40% of grade 6 said they like math

JD kids were typically at level 2 with levels 3 and 4 as well.

There is a school plan with a teacher team looking in to student work and best practices. Our next step is to teach the kids to read the questions and do the work more independently.

The EQAO website can be accessed to obtain more info pertaining to our school.

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Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm

**2013/14 Meeting Dates:**

Nov 11<sup>th</sup>; January 13<sup>th</sup>; Feb 10<sup>th</sup>; March 3<sup>rd</sup> (tentative); Apr 7<sup>th</sup>; May 12<sup>th</sup>; June 9<sup>th</sup>.

