

John Darling Public School
School Council Minutes
February 10, 2014
6:35 p.m.

In Attendance: Jenn Fleet, Kim Schmidt, Lori Williams, Jackie Teixeira, Colleen Brandes, Helen Byers, Jim LeClair, Beth Skilling, Amy Knechtel-Shannon, Tom Herr, Heather Dubrick, Katie Hoedl, Mandy Dahmer, Michelle Martin, Jessie White, Amanda Bourassa, Gillian McKenzie

Regrets: Tara McPherson, Heather Quiring, Jen Hulett, Marti-Anne Hachey, Katie Hoedl, Rachel Coleman

Getting Started: Michelle Martin

- A motion was made to approve the meeting agenda. Motion: Colleen Brandes
Second: Kim Schmidt Motion Carried
- A motion was made to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2014 meeting.
Motion: Beth Skilling Second: Tom Herr Motion Carried

Committee Updates

Health and Wellness: Helen Byers

- The event was well attended (+/- 200 attendees)
- The teaching staff asked Gillian to pass on their thanks for the event.
- Discussions are ongoing about subject matters for an April event as well as the potential for childcare.
- It was noted that Council must be careful at this point calling the event an “annual” event as funding etc. has not been decided not has grant money been attained for next year.
- +/- \$1 300.00 was spent for the fair. Gillian needs receipts and how the money was spent to receive the grant money approved.
- All the food was donated by Dutchies. Helen will send them a thank you note.

Darlingfest: Jessie White

- Darlingfest is set for June 5, 2014.
- Tom discussed pizza providers. Toppers supplied the pies last year. He has been looking into a supplier of better quality and competitive pricing. He has approached Magic Pizza. For them to compete with Toppers \$7 price they felt they'd have to sacrifice quality. They have proposed being able to supply the pizza at \$8 per and 60 pies every 45 minutes.
- There is a plan for children with allergies to find a substitute meal. Gillian has a list of who these families are.
- There will not be a rock climbing wall this year but there will be Game Asylum. This reduces costs by \$500.00.

- There are quite a few impressive items in for the draws. Heather was in charge of this.
- Different games and a photo booth are items being pursued.

WRAPSC: Helen Byers

- There was no update provided as Helen was unable to attend the last meeting.
- She offered to have the minutes forwarded &/or summarize them at the next meeting.
- Saturday, April 12, 2014 is a PIC Event workshop entitled “Supporting Your Child in School”. Childcare is available. The event will be held at Bluevale and is free.

Rink: Michelle Martin

- This has been a very successful year for the ice rink. It has been well used by the students and community.
- All the volunteer slots for shoveling and flooding have been filled.
- Discussion was held about how the last tarp was purchased and where (Stratford). The online price for a new tarp is \$840.00. Gillian instructed that the school should be invoiced for the purchase and that she can facilitate this once a price has been secured and purchase approved by council. There was consensus that there would not be need for delivery as there were a number of volunteers available to fetch it.
- Gillian mentioned issues with people parking on the school property overnight and on weekends. The vehicles have decreased the ability of the snow plows to do their work and for the special ed. bus to drop off students. The bylaw officer has been contacted. The snow piles have been made out of bounds to the students when playing outside. Gillian is to check into having some of the snow hauled away.

Treasurer’s Report: Mandy Dahmer

- There was minimal movement on the account. There are a few items (expenses) still coming in from the Health and Wellness Fair.
- Gillian showed council the Snuggle Up books that had been purchased. They still need to be stamped and catalogued before being put into circulation. There was just under \$1 000.00 spent.
- Gillian has booked a musical percussion performance, Victory Quest. They will be performing in May 2014 for the K-6 classes.
- Game Asylum has requested to have a cheque in hand 15 days prior to Darlingfest. Tom has the invoice and will forward it to Mandy.

Movie Night

- Discussion was had whether we wanted to have a movie night, when and what movie. Last year we had a free movie night that was very successful. The overall consensus was to have another movie night this year. May 2, 2014 was suggested; May because it is between the next Health and Wellness (April) and

Darlingfest (June) and the 2nd because it is before the long weekend and Mother's Day. 6:30 p.m. was the agreed upon time.

- Discussion was had regarding popcorn, whether to charge for it (decided not to) but to prepackage it and limit to one package per child.
- Last year there were two movies, one held in the gym, the other in the library. It was agreed that there would only be one movie this year, in the gymnasium. It was also decided that there would be fewer set up and more on the floor seating.
- Fliers will need to be sent out. Colleen is to ask her friend if she would be able to make them up again. There would be minimal change to the fliers from last year (the date) and Jenn volunteered to print them. Colleen will also ask if she can do the Darlingfest fliers. It was agreed that she could offer an honorarium for the services, taken from the Health and Wellness budget.
- Donations to the Food Bank will be accepted in lieu of admission.
- Please bring movie suggestions to the next meeting. The movie must be produced from a name on the list Gillian circulated.

CSA Helmut Requirement: WRDSB Mandate

- CSA hockey helmets are now required for any students and staff taking part in a WRDSB skating event. They are recommended for parent volunteers.
- When surveyed, about 50% of JD students had hockey helmets but only 2 staff members. At this point, for school skating events, those who have helmets may participate and those without do something special at school.
- Lingering questions include: How do we get everyone to go? Should we not sign up to go to Activa in the future? At the school they can trade helmets but then this rink is weather dependant. What about lice? Would wearing a toque inside the helmet and spraying the helmets prevent this? Do helmets have an expiry date? Should council invest in a set of class helmets? What sizes? What is WRDSB going to do?
- It was decided that conversation regarding this issue needs to resume in the fall (October 2014) regarding purchasing of helmets and if there is going to be any skating outside of school or as gym classes. Council members were asked to remind parents that there are sales of hockey helmets on now for them to take advantage of.

Lunch Lady: Michelle Martin

- Lunch Lady has been reduced to every 2nd week from its beginning when it was once per week. It was agreed that students felt the quality of the meals had decreased while cost had increased thereby losing its appeal.
- It was noted that \$95.00 appeared on the Treasurer's Report coming into council funds but it was unclear what time period this was for.
- Are there other options? Healthy Hunger.ca had sent council information. It is an online management system to organize lunch days. Lunches are ordered and paid through the website. There were many questions, such as how is the food delivered to the students? If there is a problem, who deals with it? Jenn Fleet volunteered to look into this offering more.

Principal Update: Gillian McKenzie

- Gillian thanked Council for the Health and Wellness fair and for the Snuggle Up books. She noted that it was a good agenda for School Council to do parent involvement events.
- There will be an upcoming staffing change. Cheryl Lee joined the staff but has not been well. Ellsesse Schoppel took over the position for Cheryl, who has decided to retire. The position now has to be posted and Ellsesse is not eligible to apply, therefore, there will be a new staff member hired.
- Kindergarten registration is this week for JK students born in 2010 (students have to be 4 years old by December of this year to register) and SK students born in 2009. Selected sites have evening registration. At this point there are more students than last year registered.
- Notices are going home regarding before and after school programs. Feedback has been that the programs are expensive but rich in content and beneficial to students. The programs cover Christmas and March Break but do not run during the summer. Conestoga College does offer a program during the summer at Driftwood PS.
- Tutors in the Classroom: a postsecondary student (Eric Burrell) will be working on a project building basic math fact skills for grade 3 and 6. The program is 100 hours from now to the end of May.
- Holly Burrell has organized for 4 students (2 from Mrs. Burrell's class, 2 from Mrs. Pollock's) to attend the Skills Canada Lego Competition, Lego Mechanix. They will work together and solve problems. It will be on Thursday, February 20, 2014.
- Olympic fun at JD details are on the website. There are 40 flags hidden all over the school. A torch relay has happened and a cultural day is being planned and closing ceremonies.
- Extracurricular activities are in full swing. Craft club (EA initiated) has 70-80 kids participating. Leadership group, connected with the craft club, are selling "Love Buttons" as a fundraiser. This money will go to purchase bricks to build a schoolhouse in Africa. Green Team is stepping up environmental awareness and activity. Being an ecoschool commits us to meeting certain markers/goals.
- Intramurals and team basketball are happening.
- WRDSB and school initiatives are looking at math strengths and needs, encouraging students to become independent learners and assess "Does this answer make sense?", "Is it reasonable?"
- Safe Welcome Program: The goal is for schools to be locked during the school day. WRDSB is looking at how this will look at all schools. Contractors have been at JD assessing where the buzzer etc. will be located with the next step being equipping the school. An access card will be installed for the kindergarten door as well as the portable door. The office reconfiguration is on hold due to finances (WRDSB has to find \$4 million in its budget).
- This is the last week for Chess with the tournament being held this week.
- Scientists in Classroom: There has been a great response to this program; especially that everyone gets to participate. Gillian noted that there are other

science program options as she gets calls from other groups and wanted council to be aware of their options.

- The John Howard Anti-Bullying program is in progress. Building empathy has been the focus. Grade 3 and 6 students did a pre program survey and will do a post program survey to measure what they have learned.
- Report cards went home today.
- 25th Anniversary: There is going to be a staff reunion social at Boston Pizza. On April 16 the time capsule will be opened. On May 22 there will be an open house after school sharing the contents of the capsule. New items will be collected for a new time capsule.
- Christmas/Seasonal Concerts: There had been a request for Gillian to approach the teaching staff regarding a possible evening performance of the concert. She reported that there was unanimous response from the staff that there would not be an evening option. Strong disappointment was expressed regarding this decision, especially in light of the efforts made by the school community to support the school and staff. It was asked if there might be a first thing in the morning and /or at the end of the day time option.

Next Meeting

- March 3, 2014 had tentatively been scheduled for the next council meeting. The Darlingfest Committee will meet before that date. Jenn will have a Healthy Hunger update. A decision on which movie needs to be made for the Movie Night. There will be an updated Principal's Report. Because of all of these items, it was decided to keep the meeting on March 3 in the schedule.

Grade 6 Camp: Gillian McKenzie

- Gillian requested that she be able to speak about grade 6 camp for this year and going forward.
- Last year there was quite a bit of concern voiced about how things unfolded last year with camp being offered to grades 4, 5 and 6. Grade 6 camp has been a tradition at JD but is dependant on a teacher being available to go. There are families who have challenges funding camp. Each year the availability of grade 6 camp will be evaluated by the circumstances of that year. This year Jen Heuchert, Jan Harrison and Gillian have volunteered to supervise at this event. In addition, there needs to be parent volunteers and police checks plus a substantial amount of paperwork to make camp happen. Gillian stressed that there is more involved with camp than the desire to go and that it cannot be assumed that it is a given year to year.

Meeting Adjourned 8:25 p.m.