

**John Darling Public School
School Council Minutes
November 11, 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; Mandy Dahmer, Marti-Ann Hachey

1. Getting Started

A motion was made by Kim to approve the agenda; seconded by Beth.

A motion was made by Heather to approve the minutes of October 21st, seconded by Kim.

2. Election of Co-Chair

Michelle Martin has come forward to act as co-chair on council. Jackie moved to elect her and Beth seconded it.

3. Committee Updates

Christmas Giving: Is called “The Christmas Tree”. Only one family has asked for support thus far. Adopt a Family has already taken care of the other families we had in need. Donations have been requested emphasizing gift certificates/cards for food. The next letter will specify what is still needed. Gifts will be distributed on December 17th. The school also has a Christmas backpack program that collects items to be donated in the community. Gillian suggested that if we have excess gifts, we can consider giving them to this program.

Health and Wellness Night: February 7th 6:00-8:00pm. Different rooms will be set up featuring snack/meal ideas, allergy and food sensitivity info, mental wellness and Bubble therapy, yoga video, colouring time and music. Louise Friesen will be contacted to include the fitness piece that she would like to offer. Discussion ensued around whether we want to pay for the Drum Fit. Michelle reported that there is a possible discount of \$100 which she will pursue. We do have a grant of \$1000 to put toward this. We will advertise the date before Christmas so people can save the date on their calendars.

Fundraising: Treasures Books made \$2070.00 profit. Dielman’s made 6,765.17 profit (\$4,280.90 from catalogue; \$220 from magazine; \$220 from internet sales). The chocolate sold really well.

Recommendations: When families have enquiries, please direct them to the chair people directly. Also, people should check that their items are intact and in good condition upon receipt in case anything needs to be exchanged.

WRAPSC – See attachment. Helen reported that the Board is now permitted to have movie nights and charge admission. There was some discussion as to whether we will have a movie

again. Popcorn could be sold this time if we can find it at a good price. This will be put on the agenda for next meeting.

Treasurer’s report – attached. Mandy was not present to present the report. The council would like a detailed breakdown of how much money is allotted within the following categories: “Technology, Music, Health & Wellness” and also “Chess, Scientists in the School, buses, health and wellness”. Our plan is to devise a spending plan at the next meeting in January.

Treasurer’s Report: November 11, 2013

Balance to date: \$24348.57

Expenditures

Date	Source	Amount
Oct.18/13	Dieleman Fundraising deposit	\$1875.00

Pending Expenditures:

\$20.95 – Lori Williams (postage for fundraising)

\$2009.38 – Dieleman Fundraising balance

\$4300.00 – Treasures Fundraising balance

Deposits

Oct.18/13	Fall Fundraising – Dieleman/Treasures	\$14282.00
Oct.23/13	Fall Fundraising – Dieleman/Treasures	\$171.00
Oct.23/13	Fall Fundraising – Dieleman/Treasures	\$512.00

Allocated Amounts

Source	Allocated	Spent	Available
Darlingfest Float	\$4500		\$4500
Snuggle-up Books	\$1000		\$1000
Greening Initiative	\$500		\$500
Technology, Music, Health & Wellness	\$1700		\$1700
Home Reading	\$500		\$500
Chess, Scientists in the school, Buses, Health & Wellness	\$6596.05		\$6596.05

Approximate leftover to be allocated - \$2817.67

Principal’s Report - attached

It was noted that parents are welcome to attend school assemblies as long as any other children that are brought along are well-behaved.

Kindergarten outdoor play times will be separated from the rest of the school to allow more focus on safety, improve the flow of their day and to enhance their play-based learning instruction.

Our school is considering using “School Day” program, an on-line system to give parents access to pay for school trips, manage consent forms, organize parent-teacher interviews, etc. Gillian is also striving to eliminate the paper newsletter by then end of the year unless requested by individual families.

The proposed “Personal Devices Responsible Use Policy” was presented. Concerns were raised by council members as to whether this will create an unfair balance within classrooms between those who have these devices to bring in and those who don’t. Concerns were also raised that children will feel pressured to either have their families purchase more devices and also to pressure their parents to let them bring them into school. Gillian suggested that council dialogues with other parents about this and we can discuss it again at a later date.

WRAPSC UPDATE NOVEMBER 4TH 2013.

- Helen’s not sure if this has been told to the council yet but The board has a permit/license now that allows schools to have movie nights and charge admission for fundraising.
- Boards financial situation – there is a projected deficit of \$4.6 million in the year 2013/2014 – due to decrease in enrollment and changes in Provincial funding
- Talk of 25 areas to reduce their deficit, they’ve already saved \$100,000 in courier services. They tried not to keep the 25 areas in view for very long, in order to keep with the meetings timeline!
- Still researching the areas and lots of pending decisions – this is all still new to everyone working within this area.
- Helen’s view – wondering why and how the board can afford new renovations at the board office with many expensive updates including 90” TV’s in meeting rooms etc.
- Bell time presentation – The board spends \$1 million more than they receive (spends \$15.6M on student transportation and only receives \$14.6M).
- The online surveys went out on October 28th, deadline is November 14th, 2,687 responses so far.
- It costs the board \$37,000 per bus per year. That’s \$111,000 for 3 buses per year.
- An example was given that if you had schools A,B and C with separate buses. If school A’s bell times were 10 minutes earlier. School B’s was 10 minutes later and school C’s was 20 minutes later, you would only need 1 bus for those 3 schools it would be a savings of \$56, 700.
- Points that were made – The Catholic school board would HAVE to be on board for this to work. Before and After school care costs will increase and decrease depending on the new bell times.
- 92 schools will change by 10 minutes or less, 45 schools wont be affected.
- There was a talk of a new 34 credit threshold in high schools.

- There is reduced funding from the government for students who have reached 34 credits in high school and wish to return for extra credits. Students with IEP's, ESL and other needs are exempt.
- There's an estimated loss of \$1/2 million due to returning students after 34 credits. The board is now advising grade 9 students of this new policy.
- EQAO reps came in to talk about the EQAO results, mostly what Gillian covered at our last meetings.

November 2013

Principal's Report: Gillian McKenzie

Staffing update

Student Teacher: Victoria Morrell at JD until mid Dec.

Safe, Caring & Inclusive Schools Conference

Ministry mandate that all schools have a SCIS committee: Parents are Colleen Brandes and Jen Huggins

Focus: Promoting a Positive School Climate

Reviewed results from the on-line survey last spring. (limited participation made results less reliable)

UnLearn posters

Students

Read-In week was very successful,

25th Anniversary Assembly was an energetic celebration. Guest speaker and slideshow

Progress reports went home on Nov. 4 & Parent-teacher interviews are underway

Mrs Pletz is having a meet the teacher night tonight and will be available tomorrow to meet the parents of the newly formed Kindergarten class.

Gr. 5 and 6 participated in the choral music concert at Forest Heights. It was very rewarding for both the students and Mrs. Harrison. They performed 1 selection during our

Remembrance Day assembly and will share others with us during our upcoming assemblies.

I will be meeting with Pat Doyle to explore having some new games painted on our tarmac in the spring.

Skating at the arena is booked. Gr. 1-6 will be going twice each.

Playground expectations review: Focus on Drake's Motto & Tools for Life resource

Kindergarten Outdoor Play: play-based learning & the flow of the day

Holiday Celebrations

Dec. 11 (Dress Rehearsal) & Dec. 12 "Opening Night"

Both concerts begin at 1:45pm. Parents are welcome to attend either.

Funding Allocations

We plan to use some of the Tech funds to update the iPads we purchased with the WRDSB menu of apps.

We are looking for a musical experience for our students

Kindergarten outdoor equipment

Gr. 1-6 Outdoor equipment: e.g. Removable nets, Flag football set, soft Frisbees

Aussie X- rescheduled to January

Anniversary Celebrations

Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/#!/johndarling25>

Website updates <http://jdp.wrdsb.ca>

Upcoming event: May 22nd, 25th Anniversary Open House

John Howard Society: Bullying Prevention School wide program

Community Partner: Assisting with their Program review

Staff and students are survey to assess their understandings and attitudes before and after experiencing the program

Parent consent forms for student surveys to be used in their study will be going home at the end of November

Bring Your Own Device Policy

Share draft policy with council

Consulted and gathered feedback

Will review with staff and continue to investigate policies and practices at other schools.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm

2013/14 Meeting Dates:

January 13th; Feb 10th; March 3rd (tentative); Apr 7th; May 12th; June 9th.