

John Darling Public School
School Council Minutes
January 13, 2014
6:30 pm

In Attendance: Marti-Anne Hachey, Jenn Fleet, Kim Schmidt, Lori Williams, Colleen Brandes, Jackie Teixeira, Rachel Coleman, Heather Dubrick, Amy Knechtel-Shannon, Katie Hoedl, Mandy Dahmer, Beth Skilling, Heather Quiring, Jessie White, Michelle Martin, Gillian McKenzie, Marnie Wuensch

Regrets: Tom Herr, Jim LeClair, Helen Byers, Jen Hulett

Getting Started:

- A motion was made to approve the agenda for the evening. The Aussie X presentation was removed from the agenda as he has not returned communication. Motion: Colleen Brandes Second: Kim Schmidt Motion Carried
- A motion was made to approve the November 2013 minutes. Motion: Heather Quiring Second: Beth Skilling Motion Carried

Presentation: Mobile Devices in the School, Sue Watts, WRDSB

- WRDSB is trying to reflect the changes in society at the board office and then at the classroom level.
- How can technology support the good teaching that is happening in the classroom?
- The rate of change with technology is not slowing down, so what we just learned is not going to be the same in 6 months time.
- Technology is not just the hardware but is also changing our language and spelling. We are fooling ourselves if we think we can hang onto what we used to do. e.g. “collaboration and problem solving” is now priority compared to the past “mind your own business” type learning
- The goal of the WRDSB is for there to be a number of iPads per class for use among other tools because it can do things that traditional tools cannot.
- Another new development is educators embracing social media for education e.g. connect with authors, marine biologists, astronauts
- The newest device the WRDSB is acquiring is the Chrome Book which can only access the web.
- Within the board there is a move to paperless and to Google docs. For students, computers are moving into the classroom rather than in computer labs. Sharing of mobile and classroom devices enhance anywhere/anytime devices and collaborative learning.
- Technology in the classroom is being used in two ways. 1. Apps: selected by the WRDSB that challenge critical thinking 2. Access things on the web e.g. blogs, twitter

- Learning what the devices are able to do enhances what you can do on your own device at home
- Bringing a device into the classroom is very dependant on the teacher and the learning that is happening in the classroom.
- The devices are not to be used for playing games in the school which is why there needs to be a GUIDELINE in place. The GUIDELINE and use of bringing devices to school needs to be school and teacher driven (individually). This, for JDPS, is at the discussion level as a proactive plan to have in place when there is a teacher who wishes to use these devices more extensively in class.
- The directions to the website for the list of apps on the school iPads is: Google search wrdsbipads (this site is to be updated in early February). The “workshops” link offers the course notes that the WRDSB us to teach teachers how to use the iPads.
- Gillian noted there is almost 100% participation in learning and sharing of iPad knowledge at JDPS among the teachers. Also, the teachers are using the students to learn an app and then teach what they have learned to the classroom.
- Concern was raised re: safe keeping of the devices during break times. This will be an individualized decision as to whether the teacher wants to take on the responsibility just as the initiative to bring a device to school is teacher driven.

Committee Updates

Health and Wellness: Katie Hoedl

- The event date is February 7. The committee has one more meeting before then.
- Activities include: drum fit, yoga, make your own snack, vegetable seed planting, allergy awareness (anaphylactic information and a possible cookbook), Healthy U smoothies, a quiet room with colouring pages and bubble therapy, skating
- The sessions will be at specific times (yoga, drum fit, bubble therapy)
- The bullying prevention speaker is to be cancelled for this night because this is such a big topic. Perhaps this could be for another night if there are multiple health and wellness nights.
- This event needs to be greatly promoted in the next few weeks.
- Scheduling for relief of the event workers will happen via email. Please reply to “all”. There is also set up and take down. The event runs from 6-8 p.m.
- Discussion was held regarding the budget for this event. There is already \$1 000.00 in place from the Parent Engagement Grant. A motion was made on setting a budget for the Health and Wellness Event as the \$1 000 from the Parent Engagement Grant and an additional \$1 000 from the Vessey Bulb fundraiser.
Motion: Colleen Brandes Second: Katie Hoedl Motion Carried

Treasurer’s Report: Mandy Dahmer

- Mandy allocated numbers to chess, buses and science based on last year’s numbers
- It has been suggested to teachers that they use the paid bus for a trip that charges admission to decrease the costs

- Snuggle Up Book money has not been used up yet.

Spending Plan

- The fundraising profit was \$8 197.02.
- The Giving Tree has no costs that need to be recovered.
- Darlingfest requires \$4 500 to cover operating costs.
- Greening has had a small amount held in account for expenses such as mulch. One of the greening trees was lost in 2013 plus 5 trees were damaged during the ice storm. The cost for a tree is +/- \$200 Purchasing flowers for the gardens was suggested.
- A motion was made to Add \$1 000.00 to the Greening budget to cover trees, mulch, planting and flowers. Motion: Colleen Brandes Second: Michelle Martin Motion Carried
- A small climbing structure for the kindergarten students has been discussed in the past. The cost for such a structure exceeds \$10 000 which would have to become a multi-year plan to achieve. There is a list of approved items that the WRDSB has tendered on which can be purchases at a more reasonable price. The school is going to purchase outdoor play equipment from this list. Gillian asked if council would be interested in supporting this or if council would prefer to stay the course with purchasing a play structure, or do a combination. The consensus from the kindergarten teaching staff is that play equipment is of higher priority.
- A motion was made to allocate \$3 000.00 to kindergarten outdoor play equipment. Motion: Jenn Fleet Second: Colleen Brandes Motion Carried
- Gillian suggested considering changing the budget item titled “technology and music” to “arts funding” which would encompass a broader spectrum of uses. The cost for one performance is +/- \$700 Motion: Marti-Anne Hachey Second: Kim Schmidt Motion Carried
- The tarp that is currently being used for the ice rink will need to be replaced at the end of this season. The city provides \$200 and WRDSB provides \$200 towards a tarp this year, plus the \$200 + \$200 that was unused from last year (less the money used to purchase gifts for the volunteers from last year). This is a future expense. It needs to be determined if we are currently using the 2nd half of the tarp. There were volunteers who offered to pick up the tarp from Stratford to save the shipping costs.
- Fund allocation to miscellaneous expenses was discussed. This would help to track decisions that were made in the past and the amounts. A motion was made for the leftover monies to be put in a miscellaneous fund. Motion: Mandy Dahmer Second: Heather Quiring Motion Carried
- A motion was made that a \$250 donation be made in honour at the death of a current student, staff member or parent. Motion: Heather Quiring Second: Kim Schmidt Motion Carried
- A motion was made that when there is a departing staff member that a children’s book for the library, of their choice, will be purchased. Motion: Colleen Brandes Second: Jenn Fleet Motion Carried

Rink Report: Michelle Martin

- The rink is a puddle right now but should be usable again by Wednesday with the next freeze. It has been used a lot this year.

WRAPSC

- There was no WRAPSC report as the meeting was cancelled due to weather.

Darlingfest: Jessie White

- The Darlingfest Committee has not met yet. The first meeting is tomorrow night at Jessie's home at 6:30 pm.
- It was decided that Darlingfest profits would be allocated to "Community Engagement and the Arts" which would include things like Health/Wellness Events, Movie Nights etc.

Principal's Report: Gillian McKenzie

- Winter Holiday concerts went well and were well attended. Gillian is to pass on to the teaching staff that there was a request for an evening performance.
- PD day on Friday. The focus is on assessment and report cards.
- Report cards go home February 10.
- \$350 has been spent on the purchase of play equipment for grade 1-6. Equipment includes mini sticks, coloured balls, foam Frisbees, flag football set.
- A purchase list for the Kindergartens is being compiled.
- Grade 6 camp is a go, thanks to Jen Heuchert who will be back from her maternity leave at the end of April.
- Skating at Aactiva has been scheduled. The first event had to be rescheduled because of the snow day. Donations of skates and helmets would be appreciated.
- John Howard Society will begin their anti-bullying program for K-6 on January 20.
- Chess continues. The junior chess club is finished, the primary is starting.
- Kindergarten registration begins on February 11 (morning) and February 12 (afternoon). Call Maria for an appointment.
- Heart and Stroke is donating defibrillators to all schools in WRDSB. Community and teacher training January 23.
- Jump Rope for Heart is being led by Mrs. Vines. The kick off is February 21 with the event happening March 6.
- Gillian applied for the Tutors in the Classroom grant. The grant is for a post-secondary student to work on a project supporting student learning (100 hours, +/- \$1 000) the student will be working on building basic math fact skills for grades 3 and 6.
- The Parent Involvement Grant of \$500 has been used to support Darlingfest and movie night in the past. There is money to spend this year again. If we are going to do another movie night a date needs to be set.
- School Day Program where parents can pay online. Gillian and Maria had a tutorial about the program. Although the program had many capabilities it was decided that it wouldn't be implemented at this time but will be looked at again in the future.

- The WEFI grant worth \$500 has been applied for. It would be used for playground equipment and enhancement, updating tarmac painting and adding games.
- OTIP and OTF awards for teachers in their first five years of teaching. Go to the teachingawards.ca website.
- The Bookfair has been postponed. The Bookfair needs volunteers to run as librarians are no longer able to run. It could possibly be rescheduled for the spring with volunteers. A location will need to be determined as the library needs to be open and available. A sustainable plan needs to be developed that can be maintained for this event.
- The newsletter had a tear-off portion for those requesting a paper copy. It will be only on the website in the future.
- Bring Your Own Device GUIDELINES are being worked on.
- The 25th Anniversary Committee is meeting on January 20th. There is an open house planned for May 22nd.

Meeting Adjourned