

**John Darling Public School  
School Council Minutes  
April 7th 2014 - 6:30pm**

**In Attendance:** Jen Hulett; Mandy Dahmer; Beth Skilling; Michelle Martin; Katie Hoedl; Heather Quiring; Jennifer Fleet; Jessie White; Tom Herr; Kim Schmidt; Amy Knechtel-Shannon; Jackie Teixeira; Colleen Brandes; Tara McPherson; Marti-Anne Hachey; Melissa Wells-Cave  
Teacher/ECE Representative: Heather Dubrick  
Principal: Gillian McKenzie

**Regrets:** Marnie Wuensch; Rachel Coleman; Helen Byers; Jim LeClair; Lori Williams

### **1. Getting Started**

A motion was made by Jenn to approve the agenda; seconded by Kim. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Kim to approve the minutes of March 3rd, seconded by Jessie. Motion carried.

### **2. Guest Speaker – Jane and Lori from Elementary School Nutrition Services**

- They provide on-line lunch and snack programs
- We would have the option of amalgamating our milk/pizza/Lunch Lady programs into this program.
- All their vendors are PPM-150 compliant
- Orders are placed by families on-line; paid by credit, debit or cheques
- Their suppliers deliver to the schools and handle distribution
- Parents call the company direct with changes
- Order can be cancelled by 8:00am that day if student is ill.
- If a snow day, everyone gets a full refund.
- The school gets a portion of the commission back as fundraising (we select the selling price)
- Fund-raising events can be organized on-line
- Each product is labeled and individually packaged
- If no access to computer, families can call or make a paper order for a higher charge.
- No service charges, fees or taxes. Their business is HST exempt.
- We can do a 3 month trial. There are no contracts to sign.

Gillian mentioned that the Dev Ed class currently runs the milk program so they would be deciding whether to switch the milk program over or not. Also our pizza program is currently run for free by a volunteer and we get all the profit from it. We might consider the 3 month trial in September instead of Lunch Lady. We will re-visit this idea at our next meeting in May.

### **3. Committee Updates**

#### **Health and Wellness – Katie**

- The Parent event is set for this Friday. 24 parents have registered with 12 kids for the babysitting.

- The survey from the Health and Wellness evening had lots of positive feedback and lots of interest in more events.
- The committee recommends having more parent nights such as the John Howard Society provides a 2 hour evening for parents in conjunction with their school program.
- Gillian has suggested that the Safe School Committee could partner with Health and Wellness around cyber-bullying and mental health issues.
- Chef D from Rogers offered to cook and hold a raffle as another event.
- The committee has requested a budget of \$2500 (including the \$1000 grant we got this year). We can use Darlingfest profits to cover this year's expenses.
- We will re-apply for the grant for next year with the same broad topic of Health and Wellness.

### **Darlingfest**

- Class basket notes will go up last week of April and will be due May 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Remember all notes going out to parents must be approved by Gillian and require a few days buffer
- Game Asylum wants to have a raffle for a \$300 party – with all proceeds going to the school. Tom will check into whether they have/will need a permit and will let them know that they will be solely responsible for running their own raffle at their truck.

### **Movie Night Update**

- The movie will be “Epic” on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Flyers are going out this week

**WRAPSC** – no report

**Fundraising** – nothing new to report

**Rink** – The new tarp is being ordered. The company will be asked if they can cut it in 2 so our volunteers don't have to.

### **4. Committee Process Discussion**

- Gillian recommends creating an outline for council on committee procedures (eg. how to book the school for events, how to distribute letters to families, etc.). She will put this together and then ask for our input.
- There is a detailed handbook on the Board website.
- It was suggested that this would be good info to present to the new committee each September.
- Gillian allots a \$50.00 printing budget for miscellaneous printing – however if we have grant money for something, we should take the printing costs from it.

### **WEFI grant update**

We received official approval for \$500 toward a playground structure. Gillian was able to re-direct this money for Kindergarten outdoor play equipment – but it must be used this year. We have designated \$1500 of our total budget (\$3000) toward the equipment and the rest will be saved to go toward a storage shed for it. We are seeking Board approval and contribution toward a shed.

### **6. Treasurer's report – Mandy**

- The Snuggle-Up balance of \$19.78 will be put in miscellaneous
- \$600 will be taken from miscellaneous to help pay for the tarp

### **7. Staff Wish List**

- 2 bus trips per class
- More ipads (we have 64 plus 20 minis). Chrome pads are being phased in from the board as well.
- Wireless keyboards
- Update the gym mats
- Another Arts presentation in addition to the bullying one

Discussion ensued around the idea of an “Outdoor Classroom”:

- Forest Hill will be the Kitchener school to show case one. Amy will get more information about this.
- Evergreen has a virtual tour and can walk you through what you can do.
- Also NaturalCuriosity.ca has good information about this.
- It was suggested that this kind of project could be combined with our Greening Initiatives

### **8. Book Fair – Kim**

- We need volunteers on Monday and Tuesday (2 people per slot)
- The \$500 prize from Scholastic has been divided up into 12 prizes of \$60.00 (one for each class).
- Parents can preview the fair on Friday night until 7:30pm at the Health and Wellness event.

### **Principal/Teacher Report – Gillian**

- The parent reaching out grant has been submitted
- Amanda Roberts is now permanent – she is doing a primary choir, intramurals and tutoring in language and math
- Jan Harrison's husband is ill and she will be away for a while so there will need to be a long-term fill-in.
- Jen H is coming off maternity leave at the end of April.
- We have a projected enrolment of 260 next year
- Portable and Daycare status is not known at this time.

- We have 62 registered for all-day Kindergarten – which means 2 classes unless the numbers change.
- People can express their interest in Before and After School care on-line
- Mud Puppy run is on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds to Kids Ability and Rotary.
- ECO School – needs a committee with parent reps. There are 4 goals for next year:
  1. Re-useable containers
  2. Turn off lights
  3. Keep outer doors closes
  4. Take home uneaten food
  
- KW counseling will have a 4-week series
- EQAO – May 26<sup>th</sup> – June 6<sup>th</sup> – please avoid absences/appointments during that time.
- 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary Open House – Thurs May 22<sup>nd</sup> – time capsule contents will be on display
- Time capsule will be opened April 16<sup>th</sup> – parents are welcome
- Safe Schools Committee – John Howard Society survey results revealed a huge change in attitude. Observations included:
  1. A significant impact on attitude
  2. A lot was learned
  3. Students were to be more likely to help in a bullying situation.
  4. Students were more comfortable talking to adults about bullying
 Subjective observations included:
  1. a transfer of knowledge
  2. use of common language
  3. improved climate during breaks
  4. guests have commented on the positive climate
 Next steps:  
 Invite them back; write a letter of support for their funding; review results with staff; another performance next year; and partnering with Health and Wellness.
- Someone has offered to have a BBQ at meet the teacher night.
- Gillian played a video about the value of making mistakes and will send out a letter with a similar message.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm**

**Next Meeting Dates:**  
 May 12<sup>th</sup> & June 9<sup>th</sup>.