

John Darling Public School  
School Council Minutes  
November 3, 2014  
6:30 p.m.

**In Attendance:** Michelle Martin, Colleen Brandes , Heather Quiring, Amy Lee  
Marti-Anne Hachey, Lori Williams , Heather Dubrick , Amanda Bourassa, Beth Skilling , , Jackie  
Teixeira, Jenn Fleet , Amy Knechtel-Shannon , Bayze Wigmore, Kim Schmidt ,

Mandy Dahmer – Treasurer  
Katie Hoedl – Co-Chair  
Jessie White - Co-Chair  
Andra Assaf – Secretary  
Gillian McKenzie- Principal

Guests: Driftwood School

## 1. Getting Started (6:30pm)

### Approval of agenda

**Motion:** Jessie White to approve minutes for October 2014

1<sup>st</sup> Marti Anne and 2<sup>nd</sup> Heather approve minutes

**Motion passed**

## 2. School Ground Greening Presentation (30 min. plus 10 min. for Questions)

**Guests: Glynis Logue- – Evergreen School Ground Design Consultant 4 Visitors – Driftwood P.S.**

- Workshop series to set school up for greening
- Evergreen foundation is nonprofit – across Canada – design based on commitments of the board – connection is working with school and board – umbrella support system- Toyota is the main granting associated with the work – however there is also home depot grants
- **Presentation**
  - Connecting nature and outdoor schoolyard
  - Active and healthy kids
  - Greening goals
    - Connecting children to nature
    - Well-being and health
    - Exercise
    - Get them outside to learn
  - Greening benefits
  - Greening impacts
  - establish your committee
  - Identify your goals
  - Assess your site

- Create your wish list
- Prioritize your plan
- Prepare design
  - \$50,000 limit, if under it's a 3 quote project if over it's a complicate tendering
- Common design features
  - Curving paths, comfortable seating, sensory gardens, reading rooms, gathering spaces , incremental challenges
- Evergreen design consultant
- Sample projects: Stanley park school & Moffat creek wetland

[www.evergreen.ca](http://www.evergreen.ca) – there is a workshop just on fundraising,

November 14 is the deadline for Evergreen

### **Discussion on greening:**

- What initiated this greening project, is we don't have a dedicated place for kids to dig
- Sand troughs and evergreen contacts
- Grants – TD and Toyota available
- Walk around our school yard with someone that has landscaping experience to look at what we currently have
- Have to decide the size of the project
- We have to think through on the cost, and impacts of fundraising, reassess the first phase
- Want to talk to, one of our personal contacts to review
- One of us attending the workshops to get more information on what is required
- Ball diamond – by parking lot could be an area of interest for a greening project
- Decision from council :
  - What is the purpose of the greening project? Who will teach the outdoor classes?
  - Undecided – sand pits are an area of interest – school can support \$10,000 + school council
  - Would like to see some examples of school set ups, Gillian to email other principals from other schools that have done greening projects and get some pictures to share

### **3. Communication Considerations**

- Schedule a September meeting going forward
- communicate one on one whenever possible; email isn't the best way sometime where context can be missed, misunderstanding and confusion
- Council initiatives should be discussed at council meetings

### **4. Voting Process**

- Decisions are made on 50% + 1 voting done in the past
- Voting by email not ok, 2 years ago , only in emergencies
- Revisit the email option each year, as there are new members
- On time sensitive items, you can make a judgment call, however if you have control over timing and warrants discussion, it can be brought to council for discussion and voting
- Anytime there are any questions, individual contacts principal and then co- chairs, where decided to move forward or on next agenda
  - **Motion:** Jessie White : 50% +1 votes recorded for and against and present at a meeting
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Michele 2<sup>nd</sup> Andra
  - **Motion** : Passed

#### **5. Committee Budgets: Consultation regarding Expenditures**

- committee has been given leeway to make decisions
- should be able to spend the money within the committee and are accountable for the spending
- concern : October 2014 meeting discussion on the commitment of funds spent when budget amount was in question
- Last year – decided the \$2500 budget including the grant for health and wellness, however some members believed this was not in minutes
- Message – committees get to make decisions on money they are allocated, if over and above it needs to be brought to committee for discussion
- Once given a budget, work within parameters, if funds leftover then council can make decisions to redistribute to committee that need it
- Forecast allocated funds based on previous years

#### **6. Staff Appreciation Breakfast**

- **Motion:** Katie Hoedl : Staff appreciation Event
- All in favor **Motion** : Passed
- **Option** : if cannot attend, have our picture available for staff
- **Committee** : Andra, Beth, Katie, Jessie, Marty- Anne

#### **7. Chess Program**

#### **8. WRAPSC Rep: Tuesday, November 4th, 2014 at 7pm @ Forest Heights Collegiate**

- Opportunity to share with other schools and exposure
- Mandy Dahmer interested however cannot attend tomorrow

#### **9. Committee Updates:**

#### **Fundraising**

- Dealeman's in
- 55% if our sales increase from last year
- Chocolates are doing better

- Total profit was \$3345.43
- \$2700 chocolates
- Next year order basis only
- Poinsettias – have to be picked up December 8<sup>th</sup>

### **Health & Wellness**

- Fliers go out tomorrow
- Handouts from dietitian
  - Meal planner
  - Recipe books
- liter less lunch table
- Volunteers needed
- Interactive presentation i.e. kids with parents in kitchen

### **Rink Update**

- Liner got delivered in shed
- Feels better than the one last year, hoping
- Emailing last year's volunteers for flood slots
- Once it gets cold enough we will flood the rink and open gates
- Session at the city – \$400 funding from school board and city, always thought we had to spend it, past used it for gift certificates , talked to city and we can bank \$400
- Moving forward we will have a bit more money
- Gave good ideas on getting benches, snow blowers, however there is liability with a snow blower and custodian supervisor did not allow for one

### **Hot Lunch Program**

- Receiving orders every Thursday
- Subway is a popular one in Kindergarten
- This is a trial run, send out a survey to parents and deliberate on December meeting

### **Other committees:**

- JD giving tree
- Staff appreciation event
- Greening Team
- Movie Night
- Darlingfest

### **10. Treasurer's Report**

- Spent over \$4000 this month
- Negative amount in rink should not be a concern, only because we paid for the whole liner

## 11. Parent Engagement: School Council bulletin board

- Post upcoming events, success of fundraising , council pictures, where \$ is going, pictures of the events
- Jessie **Motion** : to have a bulletin board **Vote** : all in favor **motion passed**
- **Volunteers to post items are : Heather Q and Heather D**

## 12. Principal/Teacher Report

### WRDSB video:

- Optimizing learning for all students
- Continuous improvement
- Board Goal is Improve ability to communicate their thinking
- Collaboration as an idea to bring out kids communication and their thinking
- Diversity as not a barrier but reason for success
- Collaboration to support growth and learning
  
- Ministry is moving forward to revising health curriculum , want to consult with parents of province through school council
- Survey created and asked principals are to identify a parent rep from school council and complete the survey and provide perspective for school
- Identify what our rep would keep in mind when responding – school council co-chairs, what do we want them to consider when
- How do we balance the degree of information provided
- i.e inappropriate touch, all depending on age
- take the personal view out, and use that filter
- co-chairs will complete
- Staffing: New special education resource teacher is Mrs. Laura Sayer.
- Recognized as Top 5 eco school in school board
- Prizes – water bottle filler or hand dryers
- Safe, caring and inclusive committee attended a conference this week.
- Play: Cinderella and frog prince – funded by school council
- Outdoor Play Storage shed arrived.
- Chess instructor's fees changed, November 18 – 27<sup>th</sup> – go with Sue this year and reevaluate for next year
- Photo retake day is November 10
- Money from pizza is helping with costs of buses, money generated from kids go back to the kids
- Remembrance day assembly is November 11 at 9:50
- Christmas concert December 10 and 11 at 1:45
- WE Day on November 20
- Progress reports came out today, interviews Thursday and Friday

- Board provides PD day for interviewing – evening interview is offered by the teacher because they want to be accessible to parents
- Determine if we need to be buzzed in school for interviews
- \$500 parent involvement grant – expectation to label receipts for audit purposes and keep track on how to spend it
  - Used it for Darlinfest this past year
- Gary raspberry is coming back November 13<sup>th</sup> for follow up session on school song
- John Howard society reserved dates for bullying prevention with kids

### **13. Review Agenda Format – next meeting**

#### **Proposed Meeting Schedule (2014 – 2015): \*1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month**

**December 1, 2014**

**January 12, 2015**

**February 2, 2015**

**March 2, 2015**

**April 6, 2015**

**May 4, 2015**

**\*June 1, 2015 (Potluck TBA)?**

**Adjourn Meeting (8:45pm)**