

**John Darling Public School
School Cancel Minutes
December 1, 2014 – 6:30 p.m.**

In Attendance: Marti-Anne Hachey, Jessie White, Katie Hoedl, Beth Skilling, Heather Dubrick, Kim Schmidt, Lori Williams, Heather Quiring, Mandy Dahmer, Jackie Teixeira, Amy Knechtel-Shannon, Colleen Brandes, Sean Collins, Gillian McKenzie, Amanda Bourassa, Amy Lee, Michelle Martin.

I. Getting Started

A motion was made by Lori to approve the minutes from November 3rd, seconded by Colleen. Motion carried.

2. Teacher Tech Presentation

Teacher Sean Collins gave a presentation regarding the use of some technology used in some classes within our school:

- Sean showed us his class's website that students and parents have access to
- It uses the **Google Apps for Education (G.A.F.E.)**
- Board can access it, but not the "outside world" making it safe for students
- Presented the "Terry Fox" document his class worked on
- Aids in group work, where students can access their projects online and not need to be with each other to work on them
- Provides instant feedback from the teacher and shows when revisions are completed
- Apps for G.A.F.E. are available on the ipads as well
- Many teachers at J.D. are striving towards the use of this technology

3. Greening/Playground Discussion

Discussion centred around winter accessibility to new structures....Will we be able to use it? We discussed the issue of classroom versus playground usage, and it was agreed that teachers preferred the idea of playground use instead of an outdoor classroom.

Gillian will look into the costs of "troughs" for sand for students to use for digging in. This seems to be the biggest request/need right now. Discussion also centred around starting with "bits and pieces" of the playground as to be able to analyze costs and see just where the needs lie. Motion was made to do "bits and pieces" of the outdoor activities by Lori, and seconded by Colleen. Motion was passed.

4. Parental Survey

Jessie and Katie informed us of the Survey they took on behalf of the parents of John Darling. It was a very broad survey, wanting to know "how we as parents wanted to know about the curriculum" and "who we want our kids learning from" just to give an example.

5. Review Agenda Format

As meetings have been lengthy as of late, it seems as though the Principal's message is rushed or even at times cut short. Due to the importance of the message, Jessie made a motion to move the Principal's message to the beginning of the meeting. This motion was seconded by Mandy. Motion was passed.

6. Principal/Teacher Report

- Gillian showed us the Board's website where J.D. was the school of the day regarding the school's new song.
- Kindergarten Registration is from February 2- 6. 2015.
- The book fair will be on February 9 and 10, 2015.
- Feedback from the SCIS survey will be looked at next week. Feedback was asked for regarding the walking routes to school and any other issues people may have regarding safety at school. There are no promises that all can be fixed, but if there seems to be some commonality, then it will be looked into.
- A survey will be sent out to the junior students to see where they play at nutrition breaks during the winter to determine if there may be a better placement for the rink. Will review the survey in the new year.
- Gillian attended a workshop regarding anti – bullying called W.I.T.S. (Walkaway, Ignore, Talk it out, Seek help) due to the fact the our school already uses the tools for life program and the John Howard Society visits, Gillian did not see the program as something very different from what is already in place in our school.
- John Howard Society will be visiting the school again in the new year to provide students with workshops on anti – bullying and cyberbullying for the 5 and 6s.
- J.D. choir will be performing at Winston Park
- Gillian informed everyone of a book the teachers have been reading called "Mind sets in the Classrooms" by Mary Kay Ricci. The book talks about positive self talk and how that translates into a positive mind set.
- We watched a video with John Hattie as the speaker and how he views "teachers as change." Teachers should never meet the needs of a student, but feels that teachers fundamental mindset should be to exceed students' expectations and always have them strive for more.

Gillian reviewed the severe weather plan. A note was sent home to families regarding the plan and where to listen or watch for school closures.

7. There was no WRAPSC update.

8. Committee Updates.

Fundraising

- Poinsettias had a good run. Roughly \$1300.00
- More chocolates were ordered too. Around \$600.00
- Poinsettia pick up is Monday December 8 from 3-7.
- Will discuss use of profits at a later date.

Health and Wellness

- There was some great positive feedback regarding the Health and Wellness fair.
- Trail mix bar was a great success!
- Committee hopes to make it an annual thing
- Not sure of final numbers of the actual attendance
- Less than 80 families, more than 40
- Discussion surrounded changing up the parent and kids nights
- Felt more advertising was needed
- It was suggested that the committee choose a month and stick with it (ie. Darlingfest is always in June.)
- Do we change the times, call it something different to suit the event a bit better
- Make it more interactive for the kids to get their buy in
- Not best place for parent info sessions

Rink Update

- Nothing to update
- Tarp plan date dependent upon the weather
- All flooding shifts are covered this year
- Michelle will let the flooders know when to start

Hot Lunch Program

- Survey was tallied
- Subway more popular than Boston Pizza
- Michelle made a motion to keep this program until June. Seconded by Mandy . Motion was passed.

Our pizza volunteer is retiring, so there will be a need for someone to do the counting of money on Tuesday mornings. Jan Harrison will do this in the interim until we can find someone else.

J.D. Giving Tree

- There are 2 families in need this year.
- Needs were classified as high, medium and low
- Colleen will send out an email once she assess where the needs and what needs are highest.

- Lots of things came in for the backpack program.
- Colleen will co-ordinate a wrapping night later in December

9.Treasurer's Report

- There still seems to be alot of money in the account. Mandy will go through ledgers again to verify.
- Money still needs to be paid out for the chocolates and the poinsettias
- Mandy made a motion to re-evaluate confirmation of allocation of amounts to each source. Seconded by Colleen. Motion carried.
- Paperwork is needed for teachers when it comes to having money spent on buses or on discounted trip fees.
- Can teachers make parents aware whether or not they need to pay for trips on the forms
- Money left over will be allocated at a later date.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Next meeting Monday January 12, 2015