

**John Darling Public School
School Council Minutes
April 13, 2015 6:30 pm.**

In Attendance: Katie Hoedl, Jessie White, Heather Dubrick, Amy Knechtel-Shannon, Amy Lee, Andra Assaf, Gillian McKenzie, Mandy Dahmer, Jenn Fleet, Kim Schmidt, Lori Williams, Beth Skilling, Michelle Martin, Heather Quiring, Coleen Brandes, Jackie Teixeira

1. Getting started

A **motion** was made by Kim to approve the agenda, seconded by Lori. **Motion carried.**

A **motion** was made by Kim to approve the minutes from March 2015 meeting, seconded by Jessie. **Motion carried.**

2. Principal/ Teacher Report

- A reminder the principal profile is due; it was emailed to Gillian by the co-chairs.
- Friday April 17, is a PD day, and the focus will be on the school success plan and mathematics.
- Wish list items were purchased, 4 wireless keyboards that connect to the iPads
- The teachers showed preference to purchasing more chrome books and iPad mini's as they are really used in classrooms
- Class building time of the year, the process will start in May
- Have been in contact with Matt N. regarding the greening project, discussion where to place the sand troughs and installation date
- Appreciation tea for volunteers occurs on April 14, 2015
- Discussion at staff meeting on preparing a PanAM day, a play day to mirror the PanAM games. The school board allocated funds for each school, \$200/school
- EQAO – grade 6 will go first, (May 25-29) grade 3 (June 1-5)
- When reviewing the data from last year's EQAO, it identified that students were struggling with multiple choice questions. For example, students approached the multiple choice questions, as if the answer would stand out right away, and if it didn't they would circle "any" answer
 - It was also identified, that without teacher prompts, kids were less likely to figure out the multiple questions on their own
 - Teachers are practicing multiple choice question strategies in the classroom
- Another item identified in last year's EQAO data, was that EQAO didn't provide all the information to solve a problem, where students would have to fill in the gaps on their own. There is a struggle with identifying the implied message
- Gillian suggests to visit <http://www.eqao.com/>, choose English and browse through the videos available, assessment booklets from last few years and sample individual student reports
- Q: are the tests stressed by the teachers?
- A: No, EQAO are intended to measure the students' learning ability and provide a meaningful picture of the students' overall learning.

3. WRAPSC Update

- Meeting last Tuesday April 7, 2015
- Parent reaching out grant- application deadline is May 19 (*Request Completed)
- Parent involvement grant – we have the funds and they are used for Darlingfest
- <http://211.ca/> a general resource website was promoted at the meeting
- Safe caring and inclusive schools just got approved to start a website
- <http://talkwithourkidsaboutmoney.com/> is another website that was talked about
- <http://www.peopleforeducation.ca/> - you can sign up to receive a newsletter
- PIC (Parent Involvement Committee) event is on April 18, they need volunteers
- Talked about the WRDSB School Council handbook and looking to revise/update it by September
- 'Our Place' is starting a new initiative , where the focus is on kids from Gr. 6-8
 - Provide more support to parents
 - Strengthening relationships between parents and their peers
- Board Mental Health Strategy, the focus is on social/emotional learning
 - Promoting prevention strategies
 - Teaching kids to deal with stress, i.e. assignment deadlines, tests etc.

4. Committee Updates

Fundraising Committee

- Pizza kits did well, sold #206 and raised \$1030, they will be in on Monday and require a few more volunteers to help with distribution
- Q: Compared to last spring fundraiser, how did we do this year ?
- A: It's mostly in line with last year, however will look it up and send the data around
- Q: We wanted to organize a fun activity for the kids with the profit from spring fundraiser, what are our options?
- **Option 1: Hands-on Exotics** - Kangaroo and exotic animals, where they bring the animals in the gym, allow the kids to touch and teach them about the different types of animals. Approximately \$600
- **Option 2: Ned's** – 45 minute assemblies, main messages “never give up” and “do your best”. The messages are reinforced in a fun/ memorable way. Does require the option to sell Yo-Yo's at the end of the assembly. We could purchase a yo-yo for each student, however the cheapest yo-yo is approx. \$8 and we have 270 students, the cost for the yo-yo alone would be \$2160 which is above our fundraised budget of \$1030. Jenniffer Fleet will call to negotiate the cost of the yo-yo if one is purchased for each student, would there be a discount involved?
- A **motion** was made by Jenn Fleet to use the spring fundraiser money of \$1030 for **Option 1: Hands-on Exotics** (Safari animals) and use the remainder of the funds to provide healthy snacks for the PanAM play day, seconded by Michele Martin. All voted in favor, **motion carried**

Health and Wellness Committee

- Game night on April 16, 2015

- 30 parents and 30 kids have registered for the night
- Students must be accompanied by parents

Darlingfest Committee

- Canadian Tire money collection will be going out shortly
- Darlingfest 2015 Facebook page was created
- Donation Sheet going to parents for class baskets
- Boston Pizza night is scheduled for April 22 and 27

Rink Committee

- Hard to get volunteers to fold up the liner, coordinating dates is tough
- Would like to provide gift card to volunteers
- 15 volunteers, \$10 per volunteer = \$150
- \$200 rink budget has not been processed yet from school board, therefore take the funds for the gift card from the council and once the money (\$200) from school board arrives, reimburse the council

Hot Lunch Committee – no update

Movie Night Committee

- Takes place on May 8
- Is there a budget for movie night? Last year there was a mix up with the popcorn and we got it for free, that's why no cost involved. This year popcorn cost is \$17.60 x 9 boxes = \$158.40
- Everyone gets one bag free, any additional bag will cost \$1
- Foodbank donations at entry
- A **motion** was made by Jessie White to use miscellaneous expenses funds for the popcorn cost, seconded by Lori. All voted in favor, **motion carried**

5. Treasurer Report

- \$4412.06 + Pizza Kit Profits; to be allocated
- Darlingfest requires a float
- Photocopying – printing is an area where money is being spent, therefore we need to keep that in mind when discussing how to spend money
- Photocopying cost allocation is for printing outside the school
- Jenn Fleet can assist with printing if provided with advance notice

6. Guidebook Discussion – updates with Katie Hoedl

Meeting adjourned at 8:30
Next meeting May 4, 2015