

**John Darling Public School
School Council Minutes
Monday, October 5, 2015 6:30pm**

In attendance: Mandy Dahmer, Katie Hoedl, Beth Skilling, Kim Schmidt, Lori Williams, Heather Quiring, Darlene Shantz, Kathryn Pettitt, Jessie White, Amy Lee, Aimee Tyrrell, Gillian McKENzie, Andra Assaf

Regrets: Tara McPherson, Marti-Anne Hachey, Jackie Teixeira,

1. Getting Started (6:30 pm)

A **motion** was made by Kim to approve agenda, seconded by Heather Motion Carried. A **motion** was made by Katie to approve the minutes from September seconded by Jessie Motion Carried.

2. Principal/Teacher Report

EcoSchool Presentation - When John Darling was founded, the school was the leader with eco initiatives. Conserving energy, recycling paper and using containers, working hard to reduce the waste. Currently, John Darling has Litter-Less lunch days twice a week and the students and staff have done incredibly well, earning a gold standing in 2014. John Darling has held assemblies, provided demonstrations, encouraged students with awards to encourage waste reduction and has 49 students signed up to participate on the Green Team.

Where do we go from here? The next step is to have students take what they have learned home. It is the intention that students will bring litterless lunches to school every day, empty and wash out containers and use the green bin and recycling bins at home. These are boomerang lunches (students take home whatever they bring). A handout was given: Waste free lunch, which will be going home to all students at some point.

Staffing Update: Custodian Mike is currently on sick leave at home, students have sent cards. Our Pizza volunteer, Pauline Wright has passed away, Terry Fox funds were donated in her memory.

Principal study: People don't generally know what principals do and principals have been encouraged to communicate with community what it is they do.

- liaisons between the board and the schools, collaborating with other principals (participating with a variety of committees),
- student achievement and engagement, instructional leaders
- assess and evaluate data and are knowledgeable in many areas (continuously reading and attending workshops)
- responsible for students safety, ensuring students are supervised,
- PD days, staff meetings, professional leadership and learning of staff,
- managing the facility, managing staff issues (personal and school)
- responding to board directors,
- communicating with parents,
- wear many hats; offer strategies to assist with issues and play a variety of roles (nurse, daycare, doctor, etc.)

Being a principal is a complex job that requires a lot of communication, decision making and continuous care of all children. Principals' roles are incredibly fulfilling, helping students grow up to be the people you want them to be; happy and productive individuals in the community.

If you have a questions about your child first speak with the teachers. If the question/problem has not resolved and you need more support, contact Gillian and she will facilitate with the teacher. If the problem occurs outside of the classroom contact Gillian directly.

Emergency training: Staff members complete a lot of health and safety training. Principals develop an emergency response team who are ready to deal with issues when called upon.

Labour Update:

ETFO is in Phase 4 of work-to-rule. Potential for rotating strikes. Teachers are focused on classroom instruction. There will be no classroom calendar or newsletter for October. Teachers websites are not being updated. Parents can always request to speak to the teacher if there are any issues/questions.

OSSTF Support Staff Union is in Phase1 of Work-to-rule which includes secretaries, custodians, library clerks and supervision monitors. Secretary is no longer responding to door buzzer so please allow extra time if you need to access the school as the principal has taken on this task.

3. Guidebook Review/Completion

Last year a guidebook was started for each committee, and is currently being updated further. Discussion included adding a Committee Chair (point person) to each committee (along with a secondary contact) to keep information together and make it easier to train new members. A motion was made by Katie to approve the added point persons to each committee and had a majority vote.

September's meeting had a form for members to rank which committee's they would like to be involved in. There was a miscommunication in terms of ranking or signing up for each. Members can decide if they would like to remove themselves from any. Please contact appropriate committee member to do so.

Chairs have been assigned for committees and are as follows:

Rink: Michelle Martin

Movie Night: Jessie White as Chair (Darlene Shantz as "Chair-in-training")

Fundraising: Kim Schmidt

JD Giving Tree: Heather Quiring

Hot Lunch: Jennifer Fleet & Kim Schmidt

DarlingFest: Jessie White (chair) with 'chairs in training'

Health & Wellness: Katie Hoedl

4. Team Building

Member recommended the idea of a 'buddy bench' near the playground. The idea is to have a bench that students can sit on if they do not have anyone to play with. Other students are encouraged to ask those children to play.

Council members were asked: During committee updates at council meetings, should it be strictly a time for updates or should there be time for back and forth discussion. Results will be shared at November's meeting.

5. Committee Updates:

Fundraising - N/A

Health & Wellness - N/A

JD Giving Tree - N/A

Darlingfest - N/A

Movie Night - May 6th, 2016

6. Treasurer's Report - \$500 Parent engagement grant was put into account.
Approved for \$900 reaching out grant (Health & Wellness has to spend it then be reimbursed)

Proposed Meeting Schedule (2015 – 2016):

November 2nd, 2015

December 7th, 2015

January 11th, 2016

February 1st, 2016

March 7th, 2016

April 4th, 2016

May 2nd, 2016

June 6th, 2016

Adjourn Meeting (8:15pm)