

**John Darling Public School  
School Council Meeting Minutes  
April 4, 2016**

**In Attendance:** Mandy Dahmer, Katie Hoedl, Beth Skilling, Jessie White, Marti-Anne Hachey, Kim Schmidt, Andra Assaf, Jenn Fleet, Jackie Teixeira, Darlene Shantz, Lori Williams, Aimee Tyrrell, Gillian McKenzie

**1. Getting Started (6:30PM)**

A motion was made by Jackie to approve the agenda, seconded by Lori. Motion Carried. A motion was made to approve the minutes from March's meeting by Marti-Ann, seconded by Jesse. Motion was passed.

**2. Principal/Teacher Report**

- Staff Update: Amy Lee is on leave of absence and Kaitlyn Graham is in her position.
- School Initiatives: **Safe, Caring and Inclusive Schools Survey—for Parents**: was sent home this past week. The online portal is open until May 13, 2016.
- Camp Information night will be held on May 11th at 5:30pm
- Bullying Prevention Focus: John Howard Society delivered booster sessions - reviewed consistent messages. Power pledge to encourage kids to own the fact that they can make a difference in preventing bullying.
- Student Resource Officer: Friday April 8th, 2016 - Benjamin Mikols our student resource officer (SRO) will be in the building to help students see that police officers are there to help people. He will be presenting to grades 5 and 6 with a focus on bullying prevention and an emphasis on responsible use of social media.
- Sand Troughs: A request has been made to have one trough topped up with soil and the other with sand.
- Front Garden: Gardening committee will be growing plants.
- Book Room Project: Small Group Instruction involves the teacher sitting at a horseshoe shaped table with students (grouped by reading levels) sitting around. The teacher chooses books from the book room, which come in a set. Our current book room has some outdated material. Staff have been weeding out old material and reorganizing current material as well as doing a gap analysis to purchase new. Materials have been donated to home reading. Motion to give home reading \$600 towards the purchase of new books. Motioned by Marti-Anne, seconded by Katie. All in favour. Motion Passed.
- Musical Performance Mozart on April 14th has been cancelled. Instead, Peter and the Wolf will be coming on Friday April 8th at 1:45.
- Kindergarten Registration Continues. Please let anyone know who may still need to register.
- Scientists in the School - have been in the school and kids are loving the experience.
- Jump Rope for Heart Demonstration will be held on April 20th, 2016
- EQAO Dates: Primary and Junior students will be tested between May 25th-June 8th. Grade 6 students will be tested first, Grade 3 second. Please do not book appointments etc during this time.
- PD Day - April 22, 2016 organized by the various union groups.
- Public Health Immunization process is underway. Please follow up with proper procedures if you have been contacted and have not completed the appropriate forms/ procedures.

**3. Family Math Night:** Family Math Night: Will be held on May 11th, 2016 from 6:30-7:30 and will include all grades. The evening will consist of 15 minute rotations. The focus of the event is to expose parents to practical and fun applications to the various math strands. Unfortunately, it will not address each grade level, but will have a variety of focus points including problem solving pieces, an area to play chess, computer lab for kids to show parents apps and programs and more. Should be a fun and interactive evening for parents and children. There will also be graffiti walls for parents to add comments and feedback around the school.

#### **4. Boston Pizza Night**

Looking into booking the week after May 24. Suggested Dates: Monday, May 25th and May 30th. Dates will be confirmed.

#### **5. PRO Grant**

(Parents Reaching Out) School Council has agreed upon an art focus for the next school year. Ideas include having an art gallery where children can contribute art pieces they have created in school or at home and have them displayed for the evening. Council would look at potentially bringing in a guest artist, offering experiences during the evening (art creations, charcoals, photography, pastels, canvas etc). Art Therapy may be added as a focus. Potential date: First week of May 2017.

#### **6. Team Building Open Discussion:**

Question: Thinking about our committee and the diverse group of parents here, what do you feel the positive aspects would be if Council members switched committee's every other year?

Feedback from council included these key points:

- Committee members switching up each year would offer 'fresh life'
- Council members should not be forced to switch committees each year, time commitments can definitely affect what committee a parent is able to be an active member on.
- Knowledge should be transferred to new members every so often
- Expecting council members to join a new committee would depend on the committee itself and the overall number of council members that year.
- As a new member of council, it would be easy since everything is new. What about encouraging a member to only stay on a council for two years maximum, but always have at least one senior on a committee for knowledge transferring. Offer a rotation system, chair steps down and a lower level member becomes chair.
- If the same members stay on the same committees while their children attend John Darling, what happens when the students move on to the next school? The parents move on as well.
- Even if you're not on a committee, you are allowed to go and sit in on a meeting. Go sit and see. Let committee chair know and they will update you as to when the meetings are being held.

#### **7. Committee updates:**

**Fundraising:** No Update

**DarlingFest:** Committee is getting together on Wednesday, April 6, 2016. Currently they have booked an adventure room type experience, face painting, reptile room, duck race, snow cones, golf, basketball, plinko, working on CTV, Rogers, Councillor attending.

**Movie Night:** Is currently in need for a staff member to be on duty for the evening. Movie decision needs to be made closer to the date. Food bank donations will be requested.

#### **8. Treasurer's Report**

- Report does not currently display all buses to date. Marian Shantz may be holding them to process all at a later date.

**Next Meeting May 2nd, 2016**

Adjourn Meeting (8:00 PM)