

John Darling Public School
School Council Meeting
Tuesday November 14th, 2023

In Attendance: Cassandra Muhlbock, Shannon Hoy, Meaghan Pitcher, Jen Antonowicz, Holly Fuhr, Michal Sinai: Sophie Zivku, Danielle Vines, Carol Ann Fleming, Upasna Mukhija, Laurie

With Regrets: Nancy Barbosa

Getting Started:

- Cassandra began the meeting with a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting – Michal and Meaghan approved.
- Cassandra proposed a motion to approve minutes from the October meeting – Shannon and Jen approved.

Principal's Report:

Parent Involvement Grant:

- \$500 has been put into a special line account. There are restrictions on how it can be used.
- There is a proposal from staff to run a Literacy Night for parents to share information about teaching our students to read.

Playground Update:

- Outdoor play equipment report - swings, condition of other equipment
- A parent has offered to support the purchase of outdoor play equipment (through their work). Their child is attending JD next year.

Movie Night Information:

- Minimum cost is \$300 if under 40 people, more than 40 people, costs go up. Must have a license for any public viewing, cannot show movies from streaming services like Disney, Netflix, Google Play, Crave TV, Amazon Prime or iTunes.

EQAO results

Primary Assessment Data

- Grade 3 - 18 students, 15 completed all components, in Reading 100% of 15 students performed at Level 3 or higher, in Writing 86.7%
- performed at Level 3 or higher, in Math 66.7% performed at Level 3 or higher (26.7% are at Level 2)

Junior Assessment Data

- Grade 6 - 21 students, 19 participating, 17 completed Language and Math
- In Reading, 94.7% performed at Level 3 or higher, in Writing 100% performed at Level 3 or higher, and in Math 47.1% performed at Level 3 or higher (52.9% performed at Level 2)

- Other areas assessed - Technology Accessibility, Technology Savviness, Sense of Belonging, Interest/Confidence in Reading/Writing/Math, Self-Directed Learning, Growth Mindset, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, sense of Belonging, Collaboration, Confidence in Reading/Writing and Mathematics
- Challenges with the test:
- Math is read to the students and it is a multiple choice format which does not foster critical thinking. Students cannot be told to use paper to do the “rough work”.
- For younger students, when answering the attitudinal questions, they tend to respond based “in that moment of the day” and not reflect on the experience of the entire year. Students are not motivated to review their answers or edit their work.

Interim Report Card Distribution

- Monday November 20th - Progress Report not achievement report

Holiday Market

- Staff not able to commit to this at this time of the year.

Seasonal Assembly:

- Rehearsal December 13th, community presentation December 14th

PD Day November 13th:

- Language Curriculum changes, more intensive focus on reading strategies and how the brain works in learning how to read.

Admin change

- November 23rd - December 22nd (Principal change)

School Council Action Items from Principal’s Report:

- ACTION ITEM: Motion to approve using the Parent Involvement Grant (\$500) for a parent information literacy night in January on the new reading curriculum (Science of Reading) Request funds for speaker and materials fees. Motion approved by school council. Full details of the grant are attached.
- ACTION ITEM: Motion to use school council funds for 2024-2025 for playground updates and/or a new playground. Motion approved by school council. Cassandra will work on communicating this going forward to the school community.
- ACTION ITEM: Laurie will take lead on a subcommittee for grants and corporate/community sponsorships in support of fundraising.

School Council Initiatives

Fundraising Initiatives:

Movie Night:

- As discussed in the principal's report, \$300 is the base cost for the movie licensing.
- Cassandra will look at the approved list of movies.
- Concerns were raised about when to host the event with Darlingfest in the Spring and March Break/Easter.
- This event will require a staff sponsor, and that may be difficult for this year given the new curriculum mandates and available time.

Holiday Market:

- As discussed in the principal report, after careful consideration, the council has decided not to move forward with the holiday market.
- We do not have staff sponsor support or parent support to run this effectively. Will try again next year.

Rheo Thompson:

- School council voted to run a Rheo Thompson mint smoothie fundraiser. Will sell them online through School Day with pickup options at the Poinsettia pickup (December 7) and the winter concert (December 14) in the library.
- The pickup for the mint smoothies is in Stratford. Cassandra and Meaghan will drive to pick up the order.
- JD will receive 200 in a box.
- Cost for each mint smoothie is \$1.65.
- Council will sell each mint smoothie for: 1 for \$3, 2 for \$5 and 4 for \$10.
- Council will make the mint smoothies available for cash purchase, location dependent. Concern raised about cash purchases after the winter concert as the halls can be quite busy with parents and students.

Poinsettias:

- Orders close Thursday November 16th. Sonya will provide numbers for noon Friday November 17th and the order will be placed. So far 38 have been sold.
- There is a 100-plant minimum to qualify for free delivery. Cost to deliver is \$100.
- School council will support pickup: Thursday December 7th.

Misc Fundraising Ideas:

- Sophie suggested Maebly's Labels and Factory Show for fundraising as they both offer yearlong school give back campaigns. Simple to set up and no start up fees. May be worthwhile to look into running these in the background as many parents order labels and shoes for back to school.
- Laurie suggested Dirt Cheap as another option for the spring.
- Shannon suggested running an online auction, but may require a permit and WRDSB may not support auctions due to their tie to gambling. Further research needed to decide on this item.

Darlingfest:

- Subcommittee planning will commence early 2024.
- Proposed date of Thursday June 6th (John Darling's birthday).

Other Items**Tree planting near the Kindergarten area to create more shade:**

- Sophie contact Reep Green Solutions
- The organization would love to plant trees for JD but will need permission from the City of Kitchener as their program is funded by the city and the funds are for residents.
- Have not yet heard back from Reep regarding city permission.
- Other schools have approached Reep for tree support as WRDSB is not planning to plant trees this year.

Teacher's Report:

- Senior classes are enjoying several clubs this fall.
- No junior clubs are available this term.
- Students learn about these clubs via the morning announcements.
- Remembrance Day Celebration: JD had an assembly and in-class activities. Students are learning about respect and peace. Was a beautiful day for everyone involved.

Treasurer's Report

- Current Balance: \$13,046.23
- Plus the \$500 Parent Involvement Grant

Next Meeting:

- Motion to cancel the December meeting due to the holidays, and interim principal. Will resume once Carol Anne returns to keep initiatives moving forward. Council approves.
- Council will meet again on Tuesday January 9 at 6:30 PM (virtual)

Meeting Adjourned: 8:04 PM