

New Dundee Public School - School Council Meeting October 8, 2019

Attendance: Noel J (chair), Rebecca B (minutes), Mike H, Ms. Witze, Ms. Wilson, Ms. Hagey-Nichols
Regrets: Claire B, Brittany L, Darlene R, Terry Y (Community Rep)

1. Welcome & Introductions

- The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm.

2. Election of School Council positions (See: [School Councils in Ontario](#) and [WRDSB School Councils](#))

- Mike Hallman offered to serve as Chair.
 - Rebecca moved to approve. Noel seconded.
- Noel Jull offered to serve as Secretary.
 - Rebecca moved to approve. Mike seconded.

3. Principal's report

- WE Day on Sept 19th went well – 9 kids from Grade 5 and 6 attended in Toronto with Mrs. Urquhart.
- At the PD Day on Oct 25 staff will work on the School Improvement Plan – the focus will be on Math this year.
- Students are welcome to dress-up in costumes for Hallowe'en on Oct 31st but it is optional.
- Photo Day went well. Retake day is Oct 30th.
- Spirit Days are being planned by Grade 6 leadership team. About one Friday per month, students can dress-up according to the theme.
- Report Cards will go home on November 11.
- The school will host a Remembrance Day assembly on Nov 11th at 10am
- EQAO test results from 2018-19 were strong – [NDPS Report](#)
 - Grade 3: Reading 85%, Writing 95%, Math 80% at or above the provincial standard.
 - Grade 6: Reading 100%, Writing 100%, Math 68% at or above the provincial standard.
 - These outcomes are better than Board-wide and Province-wide results.
 - Individual reports were sent home with students.
 - Staff will be reviewing results at the PD Day.
- Ms. Hagey-Nichols was invited to give a presentation at the September Optimists meeting.
- At the September PD Day, staff came up the following wish list items for school council funds:
 - Kodaly choir – \$250
 - French books – \$250
 - 6 special 'fidget' chairs – \$275
 - A class set of ukuleles - \$1,500
 - New recess balls – \$240
 - Room 3 white board – \$300

- Kindie doll house items – \$500
- Outdoor field line marker – \$150

4. School Council financial report

- No banking activity in September.
- Current account balance (including WEFI account): \$8,545.75
- At this point, there was full support for the following spending decisions (after which, there will be ~\$4,500 in accounts):
 - Kodaly choir – \$250
 - French books – \$250
 - 6 special ‘fidget’ chairs – \$275
 - Ukuleles – \$1,000
 - New recess balls – \$240
 - Technology (already committed) – \$2,000
 - Noel moved to approve. Rebecca seconded.
- New basketball nets will be considered later this year as Ms. Hagey-Nichols is still exploring costs. This will be a more significant investment.
- Council will continue to cover bussing costs for class field trips (1/class).
- Grant opportunities
 - Not discussed.
 - Rebecca shared with Bonnie a current listing of potential grant programs.

5. 2019/20 school year activity planning

- **Parent/community engagement events:**
 - Agreed to host a movie night on Friday, November 8, 2019. Toy Story 4 was selected as the most appropriate new release.
 - Admission is free and we will sell popcorn and candy as usual. People can also bring their own snacks. Encourage people to bring refillable water bottles to avoid water bottle sales.
 - Can also sell the leftover Treasures cards we have at a big discount.
 - Will need to have at least 4 volunteers to organize/purchase the movie snacks, commit to help set-up, sell treats, and clean-up.
 - There is interest in hosting UW’s [STEM night](#) in the first part of 2020. Aside from the cost (\$900), it would not need much time or effort to run. There are a few available dates in February and April (Thursday evenings). **Rebecca will get additional details on what would be required of the school/council to organize this event.**
 - It was noted that in order to run either movie night or STEM night, we will need to have volunteers agree to coordinate and help out at the events.
 - **Rebecca will include this info/request with distribution of the meeting minutes.**
 - Other activities and ideas to be discussed at future meetings with more in attendance.

- **Fundraising**

- There is interest in running these fundraising activities if there is sufficient volunteer support to organize them.
 - Poinsettia sales for Christmas – To explore Greenway and Warrens nurseries. Would require someone to coordinate and additional volunteers to help with distribution when they come in.
 - [FlipGive](#) (get % cash back on purchases made through online portal at over 100 popular retail brands – can also buy gift cards to use in store). This fundraiser would provide funds through the year through purchases at stores they regular shop at. Would just require someone to set up the account, share the information to the school community, and engage Ms. Boshart’s support on the financial side of things.
 - **Rebecca will include this info/request with distribution of the meeting minutes.**

- Other ideas raised at the September meeting are tabled for future discussion when there is participation from more people:

- Fundraisers: Box of greeting cards, hanging baskets, gifts from kid’s artwork, food sales.
- Dance-A-Thon for Valentine’s Day
- Bag-2-School collection
- And any other ideas.

6. 2019/20 School Council meeting dates

- Tuesday’s are the best option for the principal and chair.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12th at 7pm.
- Will schedule other meetings when more people are present.

7. Other items – open floor

- **Treasures cards:** There are ~65 Treasures savings club cards left over. Plan to get rid of them: sell them for \$5-10 each at movie night and give away the remaining cards to school staff, volunteers, bus-drivers, crossing guard.
- **Debrief on Meet the Teacher night:** Everyone agreed the evening went well this year. The food samples from hot lunch vendors were plentiful and well-received. Families didn’t seem to miss the pizza sales. Hot lunch providers were happy with it as well. There was agreement that this format is worth repeating next year but we should consider having additional volunteer support if vendors aren’t able to provide staff to serve food.
- **Spirit Wear:** Ms. Hagey-Nichols and Ms. Boshart are investigating options for school spirit wear sales. They hope to have order forms and samples available by movie night.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm