

MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE SCHOOL COUNCIL OF
SIR WILLIAM OSLER
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
HELD AT 330 GOVERNOR'S ROAD,
DUNDAS, ONTARIO

Nov. 15, 2017

Council Members Present: Mathew Gibson, Katherine Spencer, Phil Moruzi, Dara Coulter, Heather Phillips, Sarah VanGeffen, Isabella Piatek, Angela Harrison, Sara Flynn, Jetta Turkstra, Jane Nash

Parents/Teachers Present: Lisa Neale, Jackie Kurtz, Mme. Kucic, Chan Moruzi, Simone Rose

Regrets: Nadine Sayliss, Alyson Kowalchyk, Corinne Wallace, Catherine Roberts

Absent: Martha Aimola

1. Call to Order

Mathew Gibson called the meeting to order at 630pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was as follows:

- Introductions
- Requests for New Business
- Review of minutes of previous meeting
- Election of new member
- Chair's report
- Principal's report
- Teacher's report
- Spending Goals
- Parent Activity Committee/Movie night
- Treasurer's report
- Sports uniforms
- Meeting Schedule

3. Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

4. Requests for New Business

Topics Introduced by Chan Moruzi

Chan discussed an issue she and other parents have seen evolving. There seems to be a shift in focus for projects to the "presentation" - how good the finished product looks, as opposed to the content of the project - what the student learned. There are two concerns: 1) grades should reflect learning, not how fabulous the project looks.

Although, a teacher will say it is about the content, it is difficult to not be influenced by the extras. This was raised last year by a few parents. 2) It is a social justice issue as some parents cannot afford the extras, possibly putting their child at a disadvantage. Chair requested that all council members seek input from their network and look to have the issue discussed further at the January meeting.

Chan attended a ReserchEd - research education conference. The focus was on brining evidence-based pedagogy to the classroom this weekend – some great topics, she would be happy to share.

Chan offered to help submit Student Voice Grants that are available to students gr 7-12. Apply online. Parents & teachers can assist. Up to \$2500.

5. Review of minutes of previous meeting

Katherine moved to approve the minutes as is, Dara seconded the motion – unanimously passed.

6. Election of new member

Jetta was out of the country at the time of nominations and the 1st meeting and has requested that she can take the remaining position on council.

Matty moved, Heather seconded – unanimously approved

Nadine has had to step down as treasurer and voting member so we need to appoint a new treasurer.

7. Chair's report

1. Communication with the principal subsequent to the October 6 council regarding e-texts elicited the following clarifications:

- Teacher uses an e-Text license for teaching and learning currently in the grade 7 & 8 Math Makes Sense (Cheneliere Mathematiques) on the smartboard (Mme. Kucic)

- Students have a choice access either the e-texts on the class provisioned iPads; class e-Text licenses will be available for in class use only
- Textbooks are in the classroom for access daily and students wishing to access a math textbook for home practice must sign it out and return next day
- The e-text is offered as an optional supplement purchase for home use for 9.50

The textbook (whether in book or e-version) is not the only resource accessed to deliver the math program.

In the math, many resources are accessed in the program alongside with a textbook.

Eg. https://www.amazon.ca/Number-Talks-Whole-Computation-Grades/dp/1935099655/ref=pd_lpo_sbs_14_img_0?encoding=UTF8&psc=1&refRID=5YA3VQM44GAF7A11GQGQ

Eg. https://www.amazon.ca/Number-Talks-Fractions-Decimals-Percentages/dp/1935099752/ref=pd_lpo_sbs_14_img_1?encoding=UTF8&psc=1&refRID=5YA3VQM44GAF7A11GQGQ

Eg. <http://www.nelson.com/pl4u/featured-authors/dr-marian-small/>

2. Discussion among council members over email resulted in a decision to delay hosting a movie night at the school or engaging in other fund raising of financial commitments until the audit process for the school's budget was complete and the balance of the council account was verified.

8. Vice Principal's Report

Continuous Learning and Improvement Process & School Annual Plan Areas of Focus: Positive Culture and Well-Being, Reading and Mathematics

We continue to focus on PSC (Positive School Climate) & Well-Being with many initiatives such as the Healthy Action Team (grades 3 and up), Go Girls (7 and 8), Nutrition Break Activities (board games, yoga, tabata, just dance- open to various grades depending on the activity).

Reading by the end of grade 1 with Reading Specialist supporting our JSK & Grade 1 Program.

Improvement in math with a continued focus on conceptual understanding and procedural fluency.

Moving into Cycle 2 and determining a focus on Positive School Culture and Well-Being. Our next PA Day for staff learning is Dec. 1st and there will be a math focus.

Reading Specialist & Good Work

We have a reading specialist assigned to SWO 2 days a week. She works with the Kindergarten and grade 1 teams to support our board's goal of 75% of students reading at a level 3 (B) by the end of grade 1. Welcome Jamie Grochot. There was a Literacy Table at PD Day sharing resources for home.

Fundraising Plan has been finalized and was shared in the SWO News & Updates on the website on Nov. 8/17.

Anti-Bullying Awareness & Prevention Week - November 20 to 24

Kick off Assembly on Monday November 20th for all students.

Choose Kind: What does kindness look like at SWO? Featuring videos, Happy Just Dance, Glee Song, Kindness Tree

Educational Excursion - Wonder Movie Experience

Grades 5-8 students have been invited to go to the movies to see Wonder as an extension of the curriculum. The trip will take place on November 29th. The buses will leave SWO at 9:30 and return at approximately 12:30. This is an exciting outing for our students with pre and post curriculum connections. The theme is Choose Kind.

Music & Community

December 14th: Glee club has been invited to participate in "Christmas in the City". They have been invited to perform on CBC, for the mayor of Hamilton and in Jackson Square. They will also be performing at a retirement home. Wills bus company has donated a bus to take students around the city. Permission forms will be sent home shortly.

9. Teachers' Report

Good news from sports side – volleyball coaches excited that teams made it to the playoffs

Junior swim team scored at the top in all events

Gr. 8 trip for mindfulness music

FSL performer – Franco-African performer – Jan. 29th for all gr. 6, 7 and 8 students – through French Street Prologue – they will provide materials to use in the classroom as well.

Halloween costumes for middle school – costumes for K-5 have been tied to the parade.

The 6-8 grades celebrate with the dance – part of the reason for no costumes is the challenge of dealing with inappropriate costumes (cultural insensitivity, excessive / inappropriate sexuality, excessive demonstrations of violence/fear, etc.). Dance focussed on a purpose and serving the community through fundraising for families with less opportunities.

10. Spending Goals

The only item on the fundraising plan currently is the Dance-a-thon in February with a goal of raising funds for a hydration station.

School fundraising for Music includes the instruments and stands. A question was raised if the books were to be included. This had not been requested in the teacher request but if needed, would be supported through the school budget.

Ms. Neale also noted that repair costs are quite high and may need support as well.

11. Treasurer's Report

7732.54 in pre-allocated funds. French performer has been booked at the price allocated. The hydration station has been installed. The funds remaining are approximately \$3,000.

Dara raised the point that typically council has donated \$250 for Joy Day and \$1000 for Grad.

Joy Day focuses on Gr. 1-4 who make a holiday decoration with leadership guidance from gr.5. It lasts for 4 periods and the funds go toward purchasing the materials.

Discussion of costs of graduation ceremony at Redeemer. Ticket sales help to cover the cost of approximately \$3000 along with the contribution from council.

Dara moved that council support Joy Day with \$250 and Grad with \$1000. Sarah Van Geffen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

12. Parent Activity Committee / Movie Night

Dance-a-thon – need to book Party Rockers soon if we want to do a Valentine’s Dance again. Ms. Neale will propose Feb. 14th to the staff and let us know if that day works. We will need volunteers to set up the gym starting in the morning before school. Also need volunteers for concessions and then clean up at the end of the school day.

Movie Night – look at planning this for April

It was asked if the Angel Tree was going to run this year again – suggested that if it runs, it should run as a general toy drive rather than try to fulfill specific wishes.

13. Sports Uniforms

Some parents have expressed that they would like to see more fitting uniforms with a wider variety of sizes. Example was expressed of runners with shirts down to their knees. Council has offered support for this in the past. It was noted that uniforms are quite expensive. The uniforms do not represent our school well in poor quality and ill-fitting clothes.

Some uniforms were purchased last year but not enough. 15 more will be purchased for the inter-scholastic team. The largest team requirement would be up to 80 students for cross country running for one day, which would be very expensive to support. May need to look at size distributions. Ms. Neale will go back to staff to investigate further.

As part of the general fundraising discussion that ensued it was raised that there is no male specific leadership group similar to Go Girls. Me2We was brought up as a charitable opportunity. Catherine spoke strongly in favour of We Day activities/events.

14. Meeting Schedule

Next Meeting will be Jan 17

15. Termination

It was agreed to end the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Thanks to those who came tonight.

Chair

Recorder