

Dundas Central School Council Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2019 7:00pm

November Meeting

Attendees: Bethany Foster, Jessica Pletch, Joanne DiMaio, Julia Williams, Majdi Qutob, Courtney Southworth, Laura Lawson, Madeline Van Impe, Aaron Vanderwal, Liz Nabi, Chrissy McComb, Laura Bartkiw, Ryan Swackhammer, Julia Marko, Elizabeth Hutchison

Minutes from October 2nd meeting to be reviewed and passed at the December meeting. They are on the School Council website but were only posted this morning. **Action Item:** October and November minutes both to be reviewed at December meeting.

Pizza Day – Elizabeth Hutchison and Jessica Pletch

First Pizza day went well, sold about 156 slices of pizza. So in the first week we raised about \$78 (it is approximately \$0.50/profit per slice). Bethany asked everyone if funds should go to the Assistance piece of our fundraising goals, which was done last year, people seemed to agree to that. It was discussed whether we need to do any additional promotional campaigns but Ms. Bartkiw reminded everyone that the students would be our best advertisement with students going home and asking their parents to order.

Eco designation Efforts – Chrissy McComb

- Eco Schools Program started in Ontario, has just broadened to a National Program (and it is also an international program International EcoSchools program)
- The subcommittee (6 parents) met on November 12th to brainstorm. Committee had the idea of surveying the teachers (when the time is right, keeping in mind the current political climate). Committee wants to see if they have support to register the school for this year (Chrissy investigated and parents can do the registration)
- Historically there have been two HWDSB Principals who support the board implementation of the program [Terri Trimble and Aaron Puley], hoping this is something that Central can get involved in.
- The process is that the school registers and completes a preliminary/initial eco review at the end of January and then at end of April submit application to get certified.
- It is a self-assessment as to how the school is implementing eco initiatives...school get points based on answers and based on # of points school accumulates you get a bronze, silver or gold certification...audits are performed (auditor comes in and talks to Staff and Students)
- It would be great to do as a way to raise awareness/have a goal that the kids can work towards. In the subcommittee meeting it became apparent that a lot is already happening we just need to collect the details and understand what is happening in order to submit...eg. lights being turned off, curriculum, field trips etc.
- Perhaps in the New Year/once contract negotiations have been resolved we could get a teacher who would be the teacher champion of this. In order to have an eco-club for the students, a teacher will need to be involved (no formal eco committee/club currently at the school). Ryan Swackhammer mentioned that this could also be a really good initiative for the Student Council to get involved with.

- Majdi Qutob mentioned that at Yorkview there were lots of grants, and they are currently working towards certification (with their Eco Subcommittee)...they have received funds (TD Friends of the Environment).

VOTE It was decided that we should vote as a school council whether to support this initiative? Bethany Foster calls for a vote, Madeline Van Impe seconds and unanimous present voting member

Pro Grant (Pro Parent's Reaching Out) – Jessica Pletch

- Jessica has arranged for a guest speaker to come to the school, Paul Davis, in early May. He will put on 2 presentations, 1 for parents and 1 for students. It is \$1000 cost. We can't pay for it with the Pro Grant as it is no longer available, it has been cancelled.
- Ms. Bartkiw indicated that they have said they are going to be providing funding, not sure what it will look like. She also indicated that there is also a parent engagement fund \$500 (that is already in existence and appears as a line item on the school's budget) so we shouldn't have any trouble paying for this guest speaker.

Website Update - Joanne DiMaio

Website has been updated, news (minutes/updates), calendar,

Financial Update – Joanne DiMaio

Very brief financial update as we haven't raised or spent any money there are not any line items yet. We will start getting pizza cheques monthly

By-law amendments- Bethany Foster

- We do not have any School Council by-laws. Majib has advised us that Yorkview has already gone through the process and we are welcome to "borrow" from them. Ultimately it comes down to an agreement between the School Council and the School Principal
- Bethany and Laura Bartkiw will draft the by-laws together based on the precedents available and prescribed forms.

HWDSB NEWS –Bethany Foster

- Workshop coming up re: unfiltered facts about Vaping by HWDSB
- Panel on Bullying working on a report regarding how to respond to bullying
- Phase 1 work to rule starting November 26, 2019 for elementary. Parents should get all of their updates from the HWDSB's website and/or twitter.

Spirit Wear – Courtney Southworth

Courtney is going to spearhead this. **Action:** Courtney next meeting to come with information about possible vendors/costs etc.

Holiday Baskets – Bethany Foster

- Money raised has historically gone to gift cards for families. Andy Johnson has agreed to spearhead.

- Ms. Bartkiw's indicated when doing a raffle in the school you need to get a gaming license or we can't do it

Action: Bethany to investigate what it entails to get a licence.

Home & School – Bethany Foster

- Should we keep it running?
- We need two executive members to stay viable, Aaron Vanderwal is going to be the treasurer, and we need one more. Andy Johnson as Past-President?
- A Home & School has to exist, in order to be able to continue to make decisions/spend the money that we currently have in the account. Easier to keep open than to reopen one...there is some money set aside for the playground maintenance fund, but we haven't received any receipts. Big fundraiser from last year was meant to be spent on the "Sandbox" but we never got any bills for that.
- Ms. Bartkiw advised that the board's suggestion was to take a look at what the Home & School was doing and what their line items were and to write a cheque to the School Council who would then have the same line item in the budget...she reminded everyone that as a School Council you need to have the spent by the end of each year. We can carry over if we know the project is underway, or if not we can carry over 10% but really need to spend the line items each year.

Action: Bethany to speak to Andy about sending an email out to the existing Home & School committee to ask who, if anyone, wants to stay active and hold a Home & School meeting. Then we will file and pay fees with the Central Home & School (OFSA)

-Need to identify what goals we have/where we need money, what should our goals be?

Principal's Report –Laura Bartkiw

Use of School Generated Funds

- Can't raise money for items funded through provincial grants (eg. textbooks, learning materials/facility updates/professional development)
- The money really needs to go back to the students and all spending needs to be transparent
- Need to identify where something like local families in need would fit into "Acceptable Uses of Fundraising Proceeds" ... these are examples.
 - supplementing student needs (metro gift cards)
- School council can't pay for "capital" eg. not asphalt but can pay for the paint that is going on the asphalt. For example, new desks, chairs, roofs are the school's jurisdiction.
- Majdi mentioned that it seems somewhat discretionary as Yorkview wasn't allowed to buy bike racks.
- Focus is on it being for "Student Use"
- Are novel sets ok? The money raised from Scholastic goes to novels so not necessary for Parent Council to spend it. Math manipulatives are ok but not math textbooks

Bullying and Safe School

Ms. Bartkiw provided the definition of bullying and the type of behaviour...also Progressive Discipline...not every act is suspend-able, there is a list of what is suspend-able...Ms. Bartkiw wanted to let us all know what the definitions are. We may not always hear about everything that is happening but they are responding. There are also supports available to the students who have been bullied

ACTION post links to these resources on the School Council website with the minutes.

Plant Update

- Renovations are almost complete. Snow removal is posted to the website and Ms. Bartkiw has a map. Water testing results are also available from the Board...
- Popcorn Sales – students were more interested in going back to Kernels over the current vendor (Cons and Kernels) so the program will be switching back to Kernels. TCBY and Kernels are compliant with the nutritional requirements. We go with the basics.

Outdoor Kindergarten Space

Being used by people other than the small students that it was intended for...want to put some signage... “welcome to our early learning playground which is an extension of the classroom...please respect it...” Hoping appropriately worded signage can cause people to respect the space.

Action: need to ensure Umbrella program also respects the space.

Work to rule

Board will communicate information out on the main board website and we are all directed to go there for information (they also tweet). School Council needs to stay very neutral and we need to just maintain our relationships....respect everyone. Seek information where we are asked to seek the information.

Fundraising Goals – Bethany Foster

Following the Principal’s Report, there was a general discussion about what the council’s fundraising goals should be based on the explanations received from Ms. Bartkiw regarding acceptable uses of fundraising proceeds. Below are the notes:

- Physical Learning? Equipment assigned for the DPA (Designated Physical Activity)? Should we use some of the pizza money for that?
- Majdi mentioned that Stationary Bikes were a big success at Yorkview...in the classroom (SK, JK, and Grade 1). The teachers find they are phenomenal. Each little bike costs approximately \$1200/\$1500 for the big ones. Aren’t they disruptive? The teachers find that the calmer students are going on it more.
- Some suggested that we ask the teachers about needs. Ms. Bartkiw indicated that we should consider putting some money for the sensory rooms (very well used)
- Ryan Swackhammer spoke re: money to DPA is great but the kids lose the equipment/it goes really quickly.

- What does Ryan think of the stationary bikes, as a teacher? Ryan indicated that they got them for the gym and they got wrecked fairly quickly...so if you do that, a piece of the fundraising needs to be repaired. If a teacher wants it in their room.
- Can we put money towards lectures? Ms. Bartkiw indicated that we can.
- Keyboards to plug into tablets?
- Courtney Southworth asked if board set up to be able to use Chrome Books? Ms. Bartkiw indicated that all technology needs to be purchased through the Board so that HWDSB technicians will service it.
- Money towards a robotics club? Ms. Bartkiw indicated that there are some robotics in the sandbox...Mrs. Sewak is running a "girls who game" club so there is likely interest.

Action: Ryan Swackhammer to take it to the teachers to see what they want/wish list for the end of the month.

Action: Ms. Bartkiw will work with Bethany Foster to finalize the Annual School Fundraising Plan.

Grace Valley Church Gift Baskets - Ryan Swackhamer

-Last year we committed to \$1000 for 20 families (20 \$50 gift cards) families (from the money raised doing the raffle)...it was very well received by recipients. Could the Council commit to doing it again?

VOTE: Bethany Foster held a contingency vote, does everyone support donating \$1000 to Grace Valley gift baskets for families in need as long as we can get a gaming licence? Unanimous approval by present voting members.

Bethany called the meeting. Madeline Van Impe seconded the motion. Meeting Adjourned.