

E.K School Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday November 29, 2022

1. Welcome by Kait Kenel
2. Review & approval of Agenda. Presenter: Kait Kenel.
Motion to approve the minutes & agenda approved by Cindy Stranak, Seconded by Jenn.
Clarification by Lisa Donegan Baetz that we did not make \$8,000 at the book fair. We have \$3,213 available to use, \$8,213 is the total funds raised as of October (\$4,946.87 was left over from 2020-2021 school year).
3. Principal's report presenter: David Thorne
E.K has been asked to be a pilot school in the fall for Daily School Route (DSR). DSR is an active transportation system for children and families and the goal is to get more students walking and/or biking to school as it has been shown to improve their day emotionally, cognitively and physically. Families were asked to complete a short survey. Daniel is coming to the next meeting to answer questions. Jenn: Will this go further than the previous things? It seems they do an assessment and then it dies off. Dave: We have had multiple councillors come & public health over the year's but Daniel is from a different group at the city.
Staff are participating in Movember this month, wrapping up tomorrow.
EQAO hand out provided to explain EQAO results (attached separately). 65 out of 76 participated. Now scored as a number (not at benchmark) not a zero if students don't participate.
Lori Prevec: EQAO is not a static test anymore. The test is done on ipads, goes in different directions depending on the answers given. All ESL students wrote the test. Standard test to show competence in reading/math. Math is in French from Grade 3 on for FI students. Reports go home to each student. In the past, funding & development was issued as a result of the testing.
Laurie McNab has been assigned to Lisgar School as Principal, we will have a new VP coming to Earl Kitchener, Stacey Johnson.
4. Staff Update: Monisha Smith
Picture retake day – it is exciting to have class photo's taken again.
Scholastic – Most staff have sent in their orders.
Move for November – Had a Dance party with Mr Popek in the gym. Blended K-5 groups in the gym.
Spirit days this month – Wear red & white to support Canadian Soccer team & Cozy day on December 23rd
PD Day – Theme is 'Move Kids Forward'
We are currently collecting for Wesley house
December 6th – Teachers will wear clothing to show their support against violence on women. Staff are trying to find ways to bring kids together internally. People struggled with the two pivot days.
Mr Popek had John Angus come in September before Remembrance Day so students could ask questions not related to Remembrance Day. Then he also came for the Remembrance Day assembly. This was the first full school assembly.
There will be no holiday concerts this year. Instead we are working on kindness assemblies,

building community, recognizing all the people in the school of 500+ students. Gym can only hold 200. It takes days to hold the 3 concerts and weeks of preparation in class. The concerts are not equitable, some students find the concerts traumatic. We need events where parents can participate, how do we brainstorm other types of events?

Many families cannot make it during the day, what will these events look like? How? When? We don't want to rush into it, it needs to be meaningful. The Pandemic had a big effect on students ability to communicate, be in a group and so on.

5. Parent / Teacher discussion:

Lisa – Communication to families is important, please communicate regarding Spirit days

Mme Prevec – The spirit day was not school wide, it was only the classes that wanted to watch the soccer game in the gym.

Mr Thorne – This day was not planned in advance.

Lisa – Spirit days should be inclusive, if it is for sport, it should be all sports?? I was surprised we did not do a Soccer spirit day earlier.

I wrote a letter about the Holiday Concerts, parents have had a tough time the last few years & look forward to seeing their kids. The concerts make moments and form a connection to the teacher. We can see the effort put in and it means so much. The choir performing on the back playground last year was very touching.

Parent Teacher Interviews – Why are they gone? These are opportunities for parents to connect with Teachers, it is so important to connect.

Remembrance day – Did all parents get to see the assemble, was the video shared? The Highway of Heroes performance is online, beautiful video, such a moment. If parents did not see the video, they did not get the connection.

We have felt isolated from the community these last few years. We need to market our teachers.

Mr Thorne – I don't disagree with Lisa, we are working with the teachers. Parent Teacher interviews are dictated by the Ministry of Education. They have not assigned time for this to happen (no PA day). Teachers should be available to parents if parents request an interview.

Kait – Is that communicated to the Teachers? The School Board should change it back to have interviews again.

Meaghan – Many schools now have Instagram to communicate with families, run by teachers. It shows exciting happenings and provides updates.

Mr. Thorne – It depends on the technical ability of the teachers. Corporate communication takes over School communication & websites.

Cindy – If we look at teaching religions of the world, there are some families that don't celebrate Christmas

Lisa – Many teachers did non-denominational songs.

Mr. Thorne – We are doing Winter celebrations, not necessarily Christmas celebrations.

Ms. Smith – We are being mindful about teaching more than crafts & food when teaching about the world.

6. Mme Prevec – The musical, Wizard of Oz, has started preparation. Currently planning performances for the week before May 24th, on the Wednesday & Thursday night. Students will stay after School until 9pm and we will feed them Pizza for dinner. Volunteers will be needed on performance days. Right now we are working on the bigger numbers in the musical, we will put

out word when we need volunteers.

Lisa – Please make sure to get the message out that all families are welcome to come to the performances. Find ways to get the younger grades involved so they have an interest in coming to see the musical.

7. PIC Update – Cindy Stranak. Developed content for the newsletter & talked about how we use the Pro Grant and how we do Parent Engagement. 300 people volunteer to be on the PIC committee and they only pick 25, they want to include more people in the future.

Mr. Thorne – The Newsletter was received today, I will pass it around for you to view.