

George L. Armstrong Elementary School Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING held Thursday September 12 2019 6:30 p.m.

1. Attendance:

- Karen Koop (Principal), Aaron Puley (Vice Principal), Jolene Andrews, Kim Clark, Kevin Jackson, Dorothy Kamphuis, Leah Senior, Lisa Mantysaari, Jacqueline Dear Hedley, Michelle Lemieux, Sara De Cloet, Christian De Cloet, Amber Yorke, Paula Wardle (staff)
- Regrets: Candice Romaker, Julie Carr, Kim Jackson

2. Welcome

- Welcome to new members
- Draft bylaws set the maximum number of voting members at 20, so all present can be voting members
- Need minimum 9 members for quorum when voting
- New executive nominated and acclaimed:
 - Chair: Jolene Andrews
 - Treasurer: Julie Carr
 - Secretary: Leah Senior
 - Teacher Representative: Ms. Paula Wardle
 - Community Rep: Currently not filled. Can be anyone from the community, does not have to be a parent or affiliated with the school. Lucy of Today's Family has expressed interest but not available. Jolene to reach out to Al Baker
- Mr. Puley read from draft Constitution & Bylaws - School council is an advisory body - Active participation of parents/guardians– enhance student achievement
- Will forward Constitution & Bylaws to all members – still being finalized - members welcome to join Governance subcommittee

3. Principal's Report – Ms. Karen Koop

- **Ukulele Lessons**
 - Uke teacher has reached out to the school – lessons were very popular last year
 - \$60 for 8 weeks of lessons and the instrument – lessons offered at break – students performed at an assembly
 - Will offer again this year
- **Safety**
 - #1 Priority for Principal and Vice Principal
 - School must do many safety drills with students: Fire (3 in fall, 3 in spring), Lockdown - 2 per year (1 with police officer), Hold & Secure, Shelter in Place, Bomb Threat - In the event of a school evacuation our site is Inch Park Arena
 - Fire Alarm was pulled last week at dismissal – everyone must treat this as an actual alarm – Response was not good. Everyone must vacate the school more quickly and leave the blackout area.

- Council members asked to encourage cooperation if we are present
- **School Cash Online** – Ms. Riddell has set up this option but not yet available for pizza & milk orders
- **EQAQ Testing** – results are in but are not publicly available yet – will be able to discuss at the next meeting

4. Vice Principal's Report – Mr. A. Puley

- Second year at GLA
- **Eco Schools Team** – 50 kids turned up to Ms. Wardle's class for initial meeting
 - This year will encourage recycling, bike to school
 - Last year our team achieved Silver level of certification through Ontario Eco Schools – very impressive for first effort
- **ComKids** – program is being offered at GLA this year
 - For grade 7 students with no/limited access to computers at home – police officers mentor the students and they are gifted a computer at the end of the program – 10 students are eligible

5. Teachers Report: Ms. Paula Wardle

- **Indigo Adopt a School**
 - Thank you to Jolene and Ms. Porterfield
 - \$4000 was raised last year from Coles Limeridge
 - This year we are partnered with Indigo Heritage Green
 - Customers can donate online or in store – anyone can contribute – all Love of Reading funds collected during the campaign go directly to GLA
 - Online Support – ways to contribute to the campaign without spending money (i.e. submitting a story earns a book)
- **Extra Curriculars Startup**
 - Three Pitch Team – Mr. Foreman & Mr. Mitchell
 - Cross Country Running
 - Swim Team – Grade 3-5 October & November, Grade 6-8 in spring
 - Robotics – Last year performed great in tournament – Placed 3rd in Board-wide competition and also won Judge's Award & STEM Research Award
- **Permission Slips** – please return all paperwork promptly (Media Consent & School Rules & Regulations)
- **Medical Information** - Please ensure the school is informed about medical conditions including allergies and that proper documentation is filled out for medications
- **Fundraising** – Staff are looking into fundraising for staff laptops – for classrooms without an existing smart board or laptop
 - Details to follow on cost - School is limited in what we are allowed to purchase – must be board approved
 - Smart boards are not purchased anymore
- **Announcements** are now being done in class by the teachers – not on the PA system – this way timing is flexible and teachers can read only what is pertinent to the class

- Teachers access the announcements on a website – parents can access this from home too – **Mr. Puley to provide link & will be published on school website**
- Mr. Puley & Teachers to work with student groups on video announcements – 1 per week - students will write scripts and play the roles of news reporters
- **New Staff** – Lots of new staff this year – welcome them at open house
 - Ms. McElheron – Junior French
 - Ms. Seamans in teaching Grade 4 half time and library
 - Ms. Pant ESL
 - Ms. Howden
 - Ms. Muir teaching with Ms. Golia -Kindergarten
 - Principal's and Vice Principals offices have relocated
- **Meet the Teacher – Sept 26 5:30 – 6:30**
- **Terry Fox Run – Sept 26th Raindate is Sept 27**

6. Robotics Team - Mr. Scheben

- Robotics Team last year – Placed 3rd in tournament, Judge's award & STEM award
- Initial meeting – Intermediate – 8 kids – club runs all year with Board competition in March
- Want to expand and add Junior Team in the spring
- Students learn community & leadership, do design and promotions for advertising
- Club runs a food drive at Thanksgiving, Hour of Code, STEM day
- Want to expand the club – funding required to purchase another robot kit - fundraising goal of \$600 – possibility of corporate sponsorship
- Council voted to allocated \$500 from council funds to the Robotics Club to assist in their fundraising

7. Treasurers Report – Kim Clark

- Some missing figures - confirmation needed
 - 3 Pita Pit Days - \$295
 - Bake Sales - \$922.05
 - Poinsettias - \$1013
 - Family Fun Night cost \$90.31
 - Samco – \$255.18
 - Cookbook - \$524
 - Community Carnival – Cost 796 – made 2725 – missing photo fees & food truck portion
 - Bag 2 School - \$100
 - \$149 Council Purchases – unclear – popcorn?
- Successful Year - Almost \$5000 raised last year – paid for our year - council was able to subsidize class trips & presentations at end of year - \$2-3 per student subsidy to each class

- Nutrition Program – running and is completely funded – no council funds required – snack bins available every day
 - Some parents would prefer their child opts out – speak directly to the teacher

8. Adopt a School – Indigo

- kids will colour & design bookmarks
- Asking for kids & parents to solicit donations outside of the store
- Sidewalk Sounds Friday September 20 – Jolene has creative ideas to raise support – volunteers appreciated

9. Parent Engagement

- possibility of having a board game night or school social with icebreaker activities, help families get to know each other
- Thursday Sept 26th Meet the Teacher - Council space to be set up in the library for Parent Engagement (Jolene to check with Ms. Seamans) - Coffee, baked goods, signup lists available for Council committees, Newsletter to sum up last year and advise of upcoming events
- Ms. Koop to extend the event permit to 7:30

10. Fundraising

- Pita Pit days to continue – 1 per month – dates confirmed – Jolene will advise of deadlines & post electronic copy of order form – school makes \$1 per pita
- Subway? Will not pursue at this time
 - 460 kids last year, 7&8 graders go out for lunch which impacts fundraising
- Remainder of Fundraising details moved to next meeting due to time constraints - Fundraising Plan will be set at next meeting – bring any ideas
- Fundraising Sub-Committee to form to work out details & dates
- Teachers to advise of specific items needed for classrooms
- Mr. Puley - Eco Team would like to run a fundraiser to sell branded reusable containers – Promote litterless lunch
- School is trying to reduce paper sent home - Encourage parents to visit the school homepage for info instead of relying on physical forms

11. Halloween Family Fun Night

- Council voted to set the date of the Halloween Family Fun Night at October 30 6-8 pm – Bake Sale same day
- Mr. Scheben would like to help again with haunted house if he can find a way to involve his Gr. 4 class
- Subcommittee to be formed to plan event details

12. Meeting Dates

- Next Meeting: October 17
- Nov 21, Dec 12, Jan 9, Feb 20, March 26, April 23, May 21, June 11

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