

HELEN DETWILER PUBLIC SCHOOL

School Council Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2018 – 6:00p.m.
School Library

In attendance: Mrs. White, K Francis, N Radojevic, Heather, Mrs. Evelyn, Amanda, Allison, Kim and Sukhi

Regrets: Nhu Vu, Christine Taylor, Scott Smith, Cara Healy & Ellen

- Land Acknowledgement with the Wumpum belt was done by Sukhi.
- Approval of October Minutes: Kim went through the clarifications to the minutes. Mindful areas/mind-up curriculum- details should be shared by individual teachers in their class newsletters, and extraordinary projects can be shared in the school newsletter.

- Principal's Report by N Radojevic:

(i) Council Executive Roles & Responsibilities- Once Nancy, Karen and Co-chairs review and approve the minutes, they will be sent to the secretary for any modifications and then shared with the council via email. The Treasurer will meet with Nancy, and then Mrs. Orgar, and have the report prepared for the council meeting.

(ii) Defining & Establishing our Council Quorum- council needs to know the number of dedicated members who will attend our meetings. Quorum is 50% of council +1. If we need to vote, our quorum needs to be met. Potential meeting dates for the year were shared (see below) and will be shared online.

ACTION ITEM: email council members who were absent with our dates, find out their commitment and send quorum number to the group/by next meeting.

(iii) Sharing Council School Improvement Priorities- Karen discussed focusing our priorities for the year. It helps having a goal to work towards for fundraising. Priorities in the past years have been for the kindergarten play area but no investments have been made.

First Priority: Members looked at circulating sheet and agree that the play ground area needs to be upgraded. Mrs. Evelyn feels the kindergarten play area upgrade requires a separate subcommittee, but the entire play area for all students should be included. Members all agree. This would be a long term goal for the school. Ideas circulating included: Canada Post and TD Bank who provide grants for playgrounds; we should also look into contacting the Board of Ed for guidance or other schools who have gone through the process. The student voice should be included in the decision making as well- we can look into developing a survey (ie. survey monkey).

ACTION ITEM: write up a call for parents to sit on the Playground Upgrade subcommittee for the next Council Corner in January. Mrs. White will bring information regarding the play areas for the next meeting.

Second Priority: Negative Behaviour in the school. Karen discussed how different children come with their own circumstances, so children learn differently but also deal with negative behaviour differently. Members voiced concerns over not having consequences for negative behaviour. N.Radojevic and K.Francis discussed that our focus as council members should be on improving the well being of the school and school environment. The Board of Ed has a Positive Culture and Well Being department who may be able to guide us- we can reach out to them. K.Francis provided some examples of negative behaviour in the school and how they are dealt with by administration. We should promote positive relations and help students understand that the

consequences are different for all students involved. Parent council should aim to help the school environment. Perhaps have an evening event similar to the Jump 2 Math night. K.Francis and N.Radojevic discussed the caring adult model and how it has already impacted positively on children right now.

ACTION ITEM: reach out to the Board of Education's Positive Culture and Well Being department for any guidance.

Third Priority: Members discussed the library as a priority. Perhaps having a book drive for newer library books. Consider Indigo Book funding, Value Village books, or Once Upon a Child for books.

ACTION ITEM: Members to submit ideas for a book drive via email.

Fourth Priority: Math was a final priority for council members. Perhaps McMaster students could come in to do a science/art day. For any Lego club, a teacher needs to be present.

Mrs. Evelyn wants to start recycling crayons. It is an easy task to do and will take the lead on it, utilizing the recycling club students.

ACTION ITEM: Mrs. Evelyn will initiate the crayon recycling program.

(iv) 2018/19 Fundraising Plan/Options- many options to choose from. Chocolates for Valentines Day, perhaps sell chocolates at the Holiday concert, or Purdy's chocolates for Easter.

ACTION ITEM: Amanda will report pricing back to the committee, but members have given her permission to contact and order chocolate to sell at the Holiday concert.

(v) Pita Pit/Toonies for Tummies Fundraisers- \$197.50 raised from Pita Pit, and \$626 from Toonies for Tots brought in. All money will go towards the school nutrition program.

(vi) School Improvement Purchases- Nancy discussed how funds have been used recently: tricycles and caterpillars purchased for kindergartens, 30 netbooks purchased for the junior division classes. Two years ago, 30 netbooks were purchased for middle school children. This year, funds went to subsidize for bus transportation (Puddicomb farm, Movie day)

(vii) Character Education Focus- November is courage (for Remembrance Day). December is caring and the "Just Give It" donations

(viii) P.A. Day- a board wide focus on Math.

(ix) Onsite Construction- the Umbrella family day care will go through renovations/expansion by early spring. It could potentially be relocated as well.

(x) PIC Representative- Fundraising Process- Nancy would like to invite PIC to our January meeting. All members agree to have PIC come in sooner for their assistance.

● Staff Representative Report

(a) Mrs. White discussed December dates (Pita Pit day, Movie day for grades 1-8, Dec.14 Ugly Sweater Day, Dec.20 Holiday Concert, Dec.21 KG Puddicomb Farms). Mrs. Evelyn discussed future spirit days which need to be run by Nancy first.

(b) Mrs. Evelyn: basketball has begun for both junior and senior boys and girls. We have a junior swim team, had a floorball team as well as a fit club.

- Treasurer's Report - Heather discussed the financial report. In 2017/2018 we had two fundraisers and four expenses. School council has \$1242.30 in the account. As of now, we have not fundraised and our balance is the same. Debates about which councils manage pizza days and pita pit days. Pizza is run by both parents and staff. We can add these to the fundraising for the year at the next council meeting (popcorn, Pita Pit, and mabel labels). N.Radojevic reassured members that regardless of which council is in charge, the end result is that the money goes towards the children's education. Parents would like to be provided transparent information on where fundraising money is utilized. Perhaps put it in the newsletter as well as communicate with council members. Mrs.Evelyn mentioned that Mabel's Labels generated ~\$50.

ACTION ITEM: N.Radojevic will communicate funds collected and where they are spent in the newsletter and with council members.

- General Information/New Business
 - Kindergarten Roundabout- an issue with safety again. Look into a by-law officer, call facilities to look into the design of the roundabout, reach out to our trustee and city councillor as well. Information in our newsletters isn't being read. All council members are encouraged to send roundabout concerns to Nancy by December 14. She will organize the information and send it out via newsletter, synervoice and a flyer at the Holiday concert.

ACTION ITEM: Council members are to send roundabout concerns to N.Radojevic by December 14.

- Agenda Items for Next Meeting
 - PIC Representative from the Board
 - Where council would like to spend the fundraising money
 - Potential fundraising options: Mabel's Labels, Pita Pit, Popcorn.
- Set next meeting dates
 - January 31 6pm; February 28 6pm; March 28 6pm; April 25 6pm; May 30 6pm.
- Adjournment at 8:16pm