



École Élémentaire Michaëlle Jean

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

2121 Highway # 56
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École Élémentaire Michaëlle Jean
School Council Meeting
February 22nd, 2024

In attendance:

Mark Hopkins – Principal
Jennifer Miles – Program Leader for Umbrella Family Daycare (Before and After School)
Suzanne Hall
Elisha Szafran
Trish Rayner
Jen Omar
Denise Bazeley
Jennifer Valente
Lesley Billingsley
Joanna Seymour
Emanuela Lippa-Crawford
Jaia Borja-Rabago
Christa Jupp
Mike Nafekh
Erin Freeman
Shiny Thomas (joined at 6:52 pm)

Meeting Stated at 6:38 pm

1. Land Acknowledgement – Suzanne did her own land acknowledgement
2. Approval of Minutes
 - **Motion: Motion to approve November School Council minutes**
 - o Second: Jen Omar
 - o For: 10
 - o Against: 0
 - o Abstentions: 0
 - o Motion Carried: yes
 - **Motion: Motion to approve the December School Council minutes**
 - o Second: Christa Jupp
 - o For: 10
 - o Against: 0
 - o Abstentions: 0
 - o Motion Carried: yes



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-Mike didn't get the email with the minutes
-a few of us had issues opening the email attachments – Suzanne as well – she advised people can connect with her and she can send them to her if needed

3. Diversity and Inclusion Planning Updates – Lesley

-Ainara came last week – divided presentation into 2 groups – encouraged reading and strategies for students who don't enjoy reading – did a story time with the young kids to encourage them to love themselves – talked about how she started a culture club in Gr 4 (she's in gr 9 now) – discussed diversity, inclusion and literature – kids wanted selfies and autographs with her after – positive feedback from Ainara after the event
-one student came up and thanked the principal – 2 kids that want to start a culture club
-kids saw her as someone to look up to

-Elisha spoke about Josh coming Feb 28th to do the hip hop street dance – same schedule as last year – can send that in email – today we need to decide on how to pay for him – ½ of cost covered with council funds and the other ½ from another way is the suggestion

-Motion: School council pay for half the funds for Josh from DMD to come (\$450 is the total)

- Second: Mike Nafekh
- For: 10
- Against: 0
- Abstain: 0
- Motion carried: yes

4. Council Bylaw Review

- Jen O, Jen V and Suzanne completed the update and review of the School Council Bylaws
- Were sent to members of school council for review prior to vote
- Principal clarified about the numbers listed – 13 plus the other 5 – student doesn't get a vote?
- We can double check about if the student is able to vote – add 7.7 that clarifies who needs to vote
- Everyone is ok with us making this change and still going ahead with approving the bylaws
- **Motion: Motion to approve January 2024 update and review of the École Élémentaire Michaëlle Jean School Council Bylaws**
 - Second: Trish Rayner
 - For: 11



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- Against: 0
- Abstentions: 0
- Motion Carried: Yes

5. Financial Update

- Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant

- Council was approved for complete \$1000
- Money to be spent by June 28th, 2024
- Parent engagement so has to be something to engage the parents
- Budget was allocated as:
 - Speaker Fees \$500
 - Picnic \$400
 - Refreshments \$100 (Picnic) – only 10% can be used for this

-Ask Paul to start Slack channel re: ideas for speaker for this event

-Principal reviewed finances:

- 379.07 Year end picnic
 - 415.35 candy grams
 - 519 Krispy Kreme
 - 188.06 Poinsettias
 - 37.80 Purchases
- Total: 1538.98

-popcorn – what happened with that Mike asked – not sure, it never materialized

-and also the online option to contribute money through School Cash on line never materialized

-reviewed where we landed on what to do with the money that we raised – Suzanne reviewed from Oct meeting what we had decided

-Trish can connect with the card box place again as she had in the past – can find out if they have the stock – they had told her they sell for \$35 and profit is \$11 for the school – no minimum order is required to order – she has a video that has all the info – Trish will reach out re time line

-Trish mentioned that Tarra is doing an Easter/Spring plant sale – a small profit made off each item but it doesn't cost much – we paid delivery last time and this time would be \$75 delivery so Trish reached out and they said we could pick them up – if stick to



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one fundraiser a month then we could do this in March – orders go in by March 22 because Easter is early this year

-April 22, we have the trees and seas fundraiser that the student spoke to us about before

-discussed why we decided to only do one thing per month – financial strain for some families and trying not to put too much strain on people – discussed the difference between raising money for the school and money that is going to a cause so might be ok if there was more than one thing occurring at the same time

-suggestion to have a chat started on Slack around fundraising

6. French Café – Elisha

- Proposal sent to Mark and a few teachers
- Teachers weren't feeling having it at end of Feb so adjusted to have Josh in Feb instead and looking at March 27 (Wednesday)
- looking at doing it from 2-6 pm which aligns with the aftercare program – this worked best for teachers
- funds to go to Empowerment Squared – spoke to someone who is connected to Empowerment Squared and Tim Horton's and they will cover some food – and we will charge a cover through school cash on line and parents can book a time slot
- Elisha has outlined student and staff involvement as suggestions but we didn't go through all those details in the meeting
- Need volunteers from council and other parents
- With school cash on line have to set an end date for when parents have to pay by in order to place the order with Tim Horton's so that we know how many people to expect
- Thought is that gr 7 and 8 do the serving bc hard for the younger kids to manage this
- Mark advised that this was discussed at his staff meeting – not like an open house expectation so not every class will do something but all class can attend the café for food
- If parents can't come then parent can pay for their student to come? Need to figure this out and how to make this inclusive for all
- Had thought to do a bake sale as well with a “to go portion” that is student run and lead and parents can engage with their children in French and see what they are doing
- Idea is in the gym – hopefully get students to set things up using what the school has
- Some cost to incur like table cloths and napkins and plates so things that can be obtained cheaply and Christa offered to help with table cloths and Trish has some things
- Elisha will send out in an email and post info in Slack so everyone has all the details
- For food – hot chocolate and coffee and croissants



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- The person Elisha needs to connect with is away at the library opening that Empowerment Squared is doing in Liberia so she will be speaking with her when she returns
- Will invite staff from Empowerment Squared to the event – Mark to also connect with someone about the event (sorry I didn't catch the persons name – someone from the Board I believe)
- Volunteers please express interest on Slack so that we can see how many people we have and then we can see if we need to reach out to other parents as well

7. Book Swap

- Mark said it could be during the day with someone to help out but also with parents coming in the evening too so similar time idea to the French Café – can set up a spot to have a rotation for the classes to go through like they did with the bake sale
- Christa suggested tying this into the French Café so that we aren't trying to arrange another time for parents to come to the school – the money could go to Empowerment Squared however the book sale would be cash so this could go to the school
- Can get messaging out to families soon about it coming up so that families can start to plan – through Mark's weekly email - and likely a flyer
- Will ask Paul to start a Slack channel and he said he would chair the committee
- Thoughts around just children's books or all books – Mark's thought is just children's books
- Agenda calls it a swap – but everyone's thoughts was it's a sale
- In terms of prices – it would be general like certain price for hard cover, certain price for soft cover
- With what is left – being donated – we need to include this in our messaging to parents that the books won't be coming back to them as they will be donated
- Discussion re: where the money goes
- Maybe have the books set up separately from the French Café part with the bake sale
- **Motion: All proceeds from the book sale go to Empowerment Squared**
 - o Second: Mike Nafekh
 - o For: 11
 - o Opposed: 0
 - o Abstained: 0
 - o Motion Passed: Yes

8. Principal's Update

- Started digging into school improvement plan today with staff – goal to have every teacher see themselves in the board – look at challenges in classrooms and thinking



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and learning and continuous improvement – 5 goals in the board plan (literacy, math, engagement, wellbeing and sees their future and these are intertwined)

- Yesterday did some work with kids in all classes around racial slurs, homophobic slurs etc – all geared to each age group appropriately – goal of belonging and feeling safe, thinking interdependently – being inclusive within the school, human rights code – everything is from a learning perspective – any slurs are unacceptable – 20 day suspension is allowed and it was found a lot of black kids were being suspended which required some learning and adjusting to how the school was responding – so there is a scale around how to respond (education, progressive discipline, suspension) - Board feels it's important to call out the slurs as unacceptable
- Shiny asked about foul language that is being used at school – what is the policy on this – Mark advised that this would be treated as a learning opportunity – they try to teach and learn around it
- Thinking interdependently is the habit of mind they are focused on right now
- Continuous learning and collective efficacy – sense of collective group thinking, you can make a difference – best way to improve and enhance a school is when everyone believes that what we do makes a difference so we all need to work together
- Progression activities for gr 8 and looking for parent feedback – buried in option sheets, recommending courses and making sure parents are involved and giving options and letting parents and students decide
- Looking at kindergarten to Gr 1 transition so that we know our students better – academic and social part of being prepared for them when they come to the school
- \$630 made from bake sale for MUMC
- Basketball teams giving drills for the gr 1 and 2 during kindness week as well
- Lots of teams and groups being set up – origami and sports – bought 2 3D pens to look at making a club out of this – good student initiative going on

9. Staff Updates

- No staff member here

10. Next Meeting

- Thursday, March 21st, 2024
- In the learning commons

11. Motion to Adjourn:

- **Motion: Motion to Adjourn the Meeting**
 - o Second: Lesley Billingsley
 - o For: 11
 - o Against: 0
 - o Abstentions: 0
 - o Motion Carried: Yes



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Meeting Adjourned at 7:49 pm

curiosity.

creativity.

possibility.

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