

Spring Valley Elementary School Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday, March 27th 2025

Meeting Information

- March 27th, 2025-7:00pm
- Learning Commons -Spring Valley Elementary School
- Attendees: Principal-Barbra Mcvittie, Teacher-Jason Manson,
- Leslie Montreuil, Tina Verbinnen, Christine Ho, Adam Kappheim, Mark Busser, Lisa Veloce, Alla Rovner Bida, Ileana Ibbett
- Online-Jelena Urosevic

Meeting Notes

1. Welcome & Chairs report: Tina Verbinnen

- **Attendance and Agenda**
Distribution of agendas and attendance sheets, ensuring all participants sign in.
- **Introductions**
Participants introduced themselves, including their roles and affiliations with the school.
- **Land Acknowledgment**
Reading of the land acknowledgment by the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board.
- **Review of Minutes**
Review of previous meeting minutes, noting completed tasks and ongoing projects.
- **Child Care for Meetings**
Discussion on the need for childcare during meetings, which was deemed unnecessary.
- **Enhanced Communications**
Discussion on virtual meeting options and updating the school website for better communication.
- **Fundraising Committee**
Formation of a fundraising committee to streamline discussions and updates.
- **Surplus Funds and iPads**

Discussion on the use of surplus funds and the status of ordered iPads.

- **Parent Involvement**

Discussion on increasing parent involvement and feedback to the board.

Conclusion

1. All previous tasks have been completed.
2. Childcare is not currently needed for meetings.
3. Fundraising Sub Committee formed with Tina, Leslie and Alex.
4. iPads ordered; 4 received, 20 on back order with an upgrade promised.

2. School Community Engagement and Fundraising

- **Parent and Family Engagement**

The meeting discussed opportunities for parents and families to engage with school boards and committees, emphasizing open communication with trustees and participation in meetings.

- **Pro-Grant and Online Safety Presentation**

The school received a \$900 Pro-Grant, which will be used to fund an online safety presentation by Paul Davis on June 23rd. The presentation targets parents to provide guidance on managing children's device use during summer.

- **Anxiety in Children Presentation**

A social worker, Vince Martorelli, will conduct a free presentation on anxiety in children, its impact on school performance, and social interactions. The date is yet to be decided.

- **Fundraising Activities**

Ongoing and upcoming fundraising activities include pizza, TCBY, popcorn, Subway sales, a bake sale on April 10th, and a big yellow bag fundraiser. Planning for a picnic and barbecue on May 29th is underway.

Conclusion

1. Parents and families are encouraged to participate in school board activities and communicate with trustees.
2. The event will be funded by the Pro-Grant and additional funds provided by school council, with potential collaboration with other schools.
3. The presentation will be exclusive to the school community to address specific concerns.
4. Fundraising efforts are ongoing, with plans for future activities and volunteer recruitment.

3. School Event Planning and Budget Management

- **Scholastic Book Fair and Open House**

Discussion on organizing the Scholastic Book Fair and Open House, including volunteer recruitment and scheduling to avoid congestion.

- **Budget and Purchases**

Review of the budget report, including unallocated funds and pending purchases. Discussion on iPads and other items.

- **Kindergarten Playground and Zen Den**
Update on the kindergarten playground and Zen Den projects, including shipping and assembly plans.
- **Exploration Trailer Project**
Details on the exploration trailer project for grades 7 and 8, involving woodworking and design activities.
- **Canopy and Jersey Purchases**
Voting on purchasing canopies with the school logo and jerseys for sports teams. **Council Vote Approved \$3385.45 for Canopy's, and \$4813.78 For sports Jerseys.**
- **Grade 8 Graduation**
Discussion on the budget for the grade 8 graduation event, including venue and decorations. **Council Vote Approved 3500 for graduation costs. If more is needed, we will come back for second vote or E-Vote**
- **Gym Sound System**
Plans to obtain a quote for a new sound system for the gym, including speakers and microphones.

Conclusion

1. Plan to hold the book fair at a different time from the open house to reduce pressure.
2. Approximately \$45,000 unallocated, potentially reduced to \$21,000 after pending votes.
3. Caretakers will assemble items to save money and expedite the process of kindergarten area.
4. Trailer construction (bench around out tree) scheduled for May 28-29, coinciding with the picnic and barbecue event.
5. Approved purchase of canopies and jerseys, with specific costs outlined.

4. School Budgeting and Extracurricular Activities

- **Badminton Equipment**
Discussion on the purchase of badminton equipment, including goggles and net posts. Goggles have been purchased using school budget money, and new posts and nets were found.
- **Bus Subsidy for Field Trips**
Consideration of using funds for bus subsidies for field trips. Options include per-child subsidy or covering bus/entry costs for trips. Teachers usually book trips by the end of April.
- **Classroom Supplies and Musical Instruments**
Discussion on classroom supplies and the need for more musical instruments, specifically saxophones and mouthpieces. Potential for donations and partnerships with music stores was considered.

- **Budget and Financial Planning**
Review of budget allocations, including a projected balance of \$9,000 after certain expenses. Consideration of funding for robotics club and other activities.
- **Anti-Semitism and Human Rights Education**
Update on anti-Semitism situation, with improvements noted due to staff training and board involvement. Focus on promoting tolerance and human rights education.
- **Healthy Action Council Certification**
Introduction of the Healthy Action Council initiative, aiming for school certification by improving student well-being through sports and clubs.
- **EQAO Preparation**
Preparation for EQAO assessments for Grade 3 and Grade 6 students. Discussion on school performance and use of results to guide teaching strategies.
- **Sports and Extracurricular Activities**
Update on sports activities, including basketball, swimming, and an upcoming hockey tournament. Discussion on dance teams and robotics club activities.
- **Flag Football Program**
Introduction of a flag football program through an NFL package. Plans to incorporate it into gym classes once approved.
- **School Bell Schedule and Busing Issues**
Discussion on school bell schedule and busing issues, with concerns about bus reliability and scheduling conflicts.

Conclusion

1. Goggles purchased, new posts and nets found.
2. Need for saxophones and mouthpieces identified; potential donations discussed.
3. Projected balance of \$9,000; potential allocation for robotics club or Bus subsidies.
4. Situation improved with staff training and focus on human rights.
5. First year of Healthy Action Council involvement; certification process underway.
6. Preparation for EQAO assessments underway; school scores above provincial average.
7. Various sports and extracurricular activities are ongoing; hockey tournament on May 14th.
8. Flag football program introduced; awaiting approval for implementation.
9. No plans to change bell schedule; ongoing busing issues noted.

5. School Start Times and Community Concerns

- **School Start Times**

Discussion on the current school start times, with a focus on the inconvenience caused to parents and the suggestion to swap start times with high schools. Concerns were raised about the impact on parents' work schedules and the need for pre-care for younger children.

- **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for April 24th at 7 p.m. Details will be posted on the website and sent to those on the mailing list.

Next Arrangements

[] A letter from the director will be sent on Monday for school councils to provide feedback on the board's strategic action plan.

[] Schedule and organize the online safety presentation with Paul Davis on June 23rd.

[] Decide on a date for Vince Martorelli's presentation on anxiety in children.

[] Plan and recruit volunteers for the bake sale on April 10th.

[] Organize the picnic and barbecue scheduled for May 29th.

[] Book fair to be scheduled separately from the open house.

[] Exploration trailer (bench construction around tree) event on May 28-29.

[] Grade 8 graduation budget set at \$3,500, pending further review.

[] Hockey tournament on May 14th

[] EQAO preparation for Grade 3 and Grade 6

[] Flag football program awaiting approval

[] Next meeting on April 24th at 7 p.m.