

School Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Attendees: Amy Telford, Andrea Hitchcock, Krishna Patel, Sophie Weifang Yin, Hongli Liu (Alice), Louise Young, Hillay Nabi-Shaikh, Laura Kelly, Stefan Strecker, Brian Seamans

Welcome and approval of minutes from last meeting (November 22, 2023)

- Approved unanimous.

Principal/VP Report: Brian Seamans & Stefan Strecker

- Introducing Brian Seamans, retired Principal (Feb to Mar 1)
 - Brian is a retired principal who will be here until March 1st. At that time, we will likely have another retired principal cover until the end of the school year as there is a cap on the number of days retired principals can work (50 days cap) and Brian has already worked 24 days at another school this school year.
 - First week has been great, great kids, and had a chance to meet Co-Chair on Pizza Day.

Snow removal

- Weather has been fine but when we did get the large snow. Contractors cleared the snow and made the big mounds, and the kids like to play on the mounds, working with facilities to see if contractors can pile it on the other side.
- Need to make sure pathway is clear part is cities part is with contractors so need to work with both. Working on this, so kids still have space to play and not worry about kids on the mounds.

Angel Fund

- Will be adding an option on School Cash Online where families can add a dollar (or any amount) to donate to the Angel Fund.
- This money will go to certain things for students in need (like pizza for pizza day). It is anonymous.
- It can also go towards granola bars, juice boxes, snacks, etc, for kids who do not have enough to eat in their lunches or did not bring lunch.
- Office Administrator will moderate the snacks.
- Any amount on school cash online.
- Used to do this pre-covid and would like to restart.
- We will put it on Facebook group and the next promo for pizza. Will also ask Eliana if it can just sit there in School Cash Online at all times. Usually, it is on the bottom of pizza or whatever fundraiser we are doing.
- Questions:
 - Krishna -is there any money left from fund pre-covid? Answer: no it was used up
 - Sophie – can teachers add this to their class Instagram's? Answer: not all teachers have this, but each teacher has different communication tool they use, so they could add if they wanted

Ipad Tech Storage

- For the portables, we have ordered 2 iPad storages, holds 16 iPad and keyboards. It's a way of having iPad stored in one area. Ordered 2 (\$398), hoping for 2 more for intermediates and juniors as opposed to bins. Has wheels to wheel from one class to another.
- Keyboards – need more keyboards the staff are using them to help get 7 and 8s ready for high school. Laura – we use them for typing, gets them ready for High School and I have 4 and the kids are always wanting to use them. Hoping to get 20-30 to divide among the older grades.
- Kinders don't need keyboards, but they have asked for storage bins and 6 iPad.

Robotics Club

- The board has started to push for more STEM so we are in the midst of figuring out what we can do.
- Front load this year, to set up Robotics Club, so we could send a team for December 2024.
- A team would be max 10 students. Right now, 5-7 students are interested. Laura says she can think of quite a few students that would be interested.
- The club would be open to Grades 5-8 (5-7's would be part of competitive team as 8's will leave)
- Cost is \$1500 to cover 3 kits (\$500 each) now, and then would need \$1500 start-up fee to create a competitive team in April for the December 2024 competition. \$300 for the new materials each year. To make a larger club and team we would be building a capacity of extra kits at \$500 a kit and \$160 for an expansion kit in future years.
- Questions:
- Louise: Where competitions take place? Answer (Stefan): It's hosted at various secondary schools. Its becoming a much larger interest in elementary schools.
- Amy: So the ask is for money from Council to start the club? Answer (Stefan): We could go half and half but yes, so that's why we are bringing it up now. Teachers and students are interested.
- Stefan will talk to Mary and Jane and follow up and come back to us.
- Brian: Lego is sponsoring it.
- Council is interested and will await further info from Stefan

Teacher's Report: Laura Kelly

- Introduction: Laura Kelly, I teach grade 6 and support Student Council
- Valentine's Day Dance – Feb 14th
- Annual food drive for Ancaster Community Services. Ballot for every 5 items brought in, to be entered in draw for \$30 Indigo gift card.
- Student Council goal will be 2500 to start. If we reach that goal, will make another goal.
- Question (Amy): Are you making a flyer, if so I can post on Facebook page. Answer (Laura): Yes, thanks
- Louise: Use verbiage around new and unopened items only (Ancaster Community Services has this on their flyers)

Treasurer's Report: Sophie Weifang Yin

- Our balance is \$19,972, need to take away 6 weeks of pizza so \$13,372 remaining.
- Question (Hillay): Has the headphones money come out? Answer (Sophie): Only movie licence and iPad cases. Its possible we haven't gotten the information yet. Doesn't look like the \$500 for headphones has come out \$12, 878 left after you take this out.
- Question (Laura) Pizza cost and profit? Answer (Andrea): We make 1\$ per slice.
- Question (Krishna) What about snack shack? Answer (Andrea): Snack shack is Student Council. Grade 8s run it, with teacher's help.

Chair's Report: Andrea and Amy

Coffee Fundraiser:

- March 25-April 5 will run over Easter to hopefully encourage family purchases.
- Once we send in order it takes 2-3 weeks to package and ship to Andrea's house, so will need help to drive boxes over to school (Amy noted she can help).
- When coffee arrives at end of April will need volunteers to separate and pack orders and hand out.
- Coffee beans and grinds - \$19 for coffee
- Pods that only work with Keurig - \$20
- Question (Laura): Do you want Student Council to help with this? Answer (Amy): Yes, the older grades so they can be self sufficient. (Laura noted grades 7 and 8's can help).
- Question (Stefan): Do you want us to ask teachers to put this on their platforms? Answer (Andrea) yes. Amy- we can send flyers as well. Laura - Student Council can help through Canva for flyers.
- Krispy Kreme is coming to Hamilton that's a great fundraiser - \$10 for a box of originals and school gets \$5. Will keep our ears out for this for future.

Pizza:

- Pizza day orders for April 3-June 12 will be open from March 1 to March 26. Parents can order on School Cash online March 1-26. Only one parent missed the cut-off last time which is good progress.
- Last pizza day will be 2 weeks before school end. This will help Eliana wrap up the books. Its also field trip time.
- Fatema, Makarim and Amy have been helping on Pizza Days. Wednesdays 12-2. Will need more volunteers as this is Amy's last year.

Spring Fling – Thursday, May 9th 5pm-6:30pm

- Thursday May 9th will be this year's Spring Fling date. At the end of education week.
- When we coordinate Spring Fling we coordinate with teachers. Need to ensure enough space for everything and that we don't do things teachers planned already.

- Like last year everything will be outside. Washrooms will be open, but classrooms will be locked. Gym might be open.
- Photobooth is probably on the table. Ashley is going to try to apply for 50/50 licence. Laura will connect with her for an update.
- Cake walk – will try it again this year
- Cotton candy – we will do 2 flavours this year (blue and pink)
- Food trucks: Louise – I am looking into if there is a food truck that will give a percentage of profits to school. I was in touch with the church that does the food trucks event. I got confirmation that they are getting a portion back. Now that we have a date confirmed (May 9) I will reach out. Andrea - was that event weekly? Louise – yes. Andrea - that's probably why they agreed to give a portion.
- Laura - what about the Optimist Club they have a fries truck?
- Principal Brian - what about Harveys?
- Amy - We can't give a deposit, so we are limited to vendors who do not require a deposit.
- Stefan will look at food trucks parking plan. Louise – could we have them park in the kiss n ride create a loop. Amy - but that's where the teachers park and may pose a problem for where to line up.
 - o Sophie: Can we create and send a map of where not to park and how its organized.
 - o Andrea: yes we could do that, but it does change. If you want to work on something like that, please let us know:
 - Sophie yes ok
- Could consider selling Jammers and Freezies. Cannot sell bottled water.
- Brian - what about Dominos?
 - o Amy/Andrea: Families would need to buy in advance which isn't ideal.
- Stefan if weather is inclement will need a plan.
 - o Andrea: food trucks would stay outside; we would tell ppl in a blitz to bring umbrellas. Make events through the halls and the gym.
 - o Stefan: gym library, room 109, science room, all could be reworked. Just need to make parents aware that ideally everything outside but plan b would be in place if inclement weather.
- Amy: Parents feedback that we need more activities for the tickets.
 - o Andrea: need a sandwich board to tell ppl what can be used with tickets and what needs for money
 - o Only things that require money are tuck shop and the food trucks
- Andrea: Louise are you comfortable continuing to pursue food trucks?
 - o Louise: yes
 - o Louise will get back to us with a few options
- Amy: I will do ice-cream and cotton candy.
- Stefan: just make sure food meets community needs
 - o Amy yes ice cream truck was nut free.
- Hotdogs would be easy and popular
 - o Stefan will look into the hotdogs (halal) Mr. Butterworth.
- Andrea: cake walk, would like some decorations, like surfboard. Entrance and exit to ensure no kids just join in.

- Volunteers:
 - o A lot of what we can do depends how many people volunteer. Reminder that we do not need police check because parents are with their kids. So, if you know any parents that would like to help please spread the word and let us know. But please keep in mind, if you volunteer it's for the whole night so you won't be with your kids. If you're volunteering at a table, its for the whole event. It's a great opportunity to see the kids and the community.
 - o Krishna, Hillay – willing to volunteer
 - o Volunteers come at 4:30pm. Event ends 6:30pm, tidy up for 30 mins.

Other Questions/Matters Discussed:

- Question (Sophie): Can we rent out school to raise money? Answer (Stefan): No that's through board.
- Laura: I have been maintaining the gardens out front for 2 years, lots of work, so if anyone wants to help please let me know.
 - o Sophie – volunteers
 - o Andrea - do you need a police check?
 - o Stefan - No its your time and you're not around children.
 - o Andrea – then we could post
- Question (Krishna): Any updates on permanent principal? Answer (Andrea and Stefan): No.
 - o Brian: School is in very good hands with Mr. Strecker. You may get a rotation of principals for the rest of the year. Because they don't usually promote VPs to principal mid-year. Also, Strecker might have to leave at end of this year (TBD)
- Question (Sophie): I heard from parents' communities that we are not important that's why we are not getting a permanent principal now. Answer (Andrea): This is a board wide challenge, not related to the school. Stefan – yes this is board wide, there's not enough vice principals in the pool. Principals and vice principals don't choose their schools. VPs they move around so they can gain exposure and aware of different scenarios.
- Brian – our superintendent has retired too, so we have a retired superintendent filling in right now.

Upcoming Meetings:

April 17th

May 22nd