

Elgin Street Parent Council Meeting – April 12th, 2016

- Council attendance: Erik Husband (treasurer), Randy Reynoso (chair), Shaun Simms, Catherine Pacella, Connie Too, Jim Costello (community representative), Tijen Karatas, Shelley Langlois (teacher representative), MJ Tremblay (secretary), Tara Hogeterp, Pina Vito, Jennifer Simms, Diana Mills, Amanda Potts, Heather Lindsay (community representative), Moya Crangle, Sacha Singh, Eddie Jun, Carmen Rupp
- Others: Malaka Hendela, Maria Bartett-Morris, Judith Lamarche, Debbie Cooper
- Special guest(s): Carol Gage (Principal, Centennial Public School), Dorothy Baker (Superintendent)
- Absent: Angeleen Nayak, Jennifer Stewart, Samanah Lolabar, Alexandra Leonard, Sarah Landry, teacher representative, Matt Cyr, Mei-Lin Chow

The meeting started at 17h37.

1) Information Session on Centennial Public School

Ms Gage outlined some of the basics regarding Centennial (built in 1967, approx. 230 students, currently at 60-70% capacity, high concentration of space used for special needs like physiotherapy). When asked, she and Laura assured the group that they will work together to arrange what classes the Elgin students will move into and merge them into appropriate classes with their friends.

Laura then outlined their joint transition plan, which included Ms Gage's presentation tonight, and the communication that Laura has already sent out. A field trip has been planned for the Elgin students, with them walking over to Centennial for assembly and attending some classes and playing games with the Centennial students. Elgin families were invited to attend Centennial's annual Spring Fling this Saturday (April 16th), and Centennial students will be invited to Elgin's musical.

Ms Adams confirmed that this is still considered a temporary move of students until there is a fulsome accommodation review, at which time there may be movement of students in many of the downtown schools. Concerns about the accommodation review should be directed to the school trustee.

For the English now-Grade 5 students who will remain at Elgin for their final Grade 6 year, the teachers will work hard to make sure they are not isolated in any way and that every student feels that they are a part of the school community and the greater neighbourhood community.

The point was made that messaging from the parents to the students should be clear that this move of students is only due to overcrowding and is nobody's 'fault'. Some students may end up going to other schools beyond Centennial, and some transition will be attempted with those schools as well.

There will also be a small transition team consisting of one teacher, one parent and one student each from Elgin and Centennial, along with the principals.

2) Approval of minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the meeting of March 22nd, 2016 – Motioned by Sacha Singh, seconded by Amanda Potts, vote passed.

3) Review of Action Items

ACTION ITEMS from the March 22nd, 2016 meeting

ACTION ITEM: Catherine and Shaun to work with Chris to discuss storing the Council's documents – IN PROGRESS

ACTION ITEM: Laura and Randy to talk about working with Centennial to foster a closer relationship, will present at the April meeting. - DONE

ACTION ITEM: Confirm with Darren/Angeleen who is attending JPRA for this school year and what the renewal cycle is for board membership – IN PROGRESS

ACTION ITEM: Connie and Jennifer to work with Michele Giroux to start the process (of the Council constitution) – IN PROGRESS

ACTION ITEM: Connie and Jennifer to also inquire on this issue (community infrastructure) during discussion with Michele Giroux – IN PROGRESS

ACTION ITEM: Council to raise the subject of a vice-chair at the April 2016 meeting – ON THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING

ACTION ITEM: For April 2016, identify items that require our priority before the end of the school year – IN PROGRESS

ACTION ITEM: Sacha will go to Scotia Bank and have his name added for signing authority – IN PROGRESS

ACTION ITEM: Catherine to provide more information on how much the pizza program makes each term, for the April 2016 meeting – IN PROGRESS

ACTION ITEM: Catherine to follow-up with parent regarding Ottawa Champions baseball fundraiser to express interest, and include Laura so she can follow up regarding availability of financial assistance - DONE

ACTION ITEM: Randy to send Council's motion on Google Groups and share with the parent community; Randy also to submit the motion to the Committee of the Whole - DONE

ACTION ITEMS from the January 12th, 2016 meeting

ACTION ITEM: Laura to categorize the teachers' ideas and present them to Council. – IN PROGRESS

4) Approval of agenda

MOTION: **To approve the agenda for tonight's meeting** - Motioned by Sacha Singh, seconded by Pina Vito, vote passed.

5) Vote for council vice-chair

Shaun offered his perspective on the events that had transpired, and recommended that a co-chair position continue (as there has always been).

MOTION: **To elect a co-chair for the remainder of the current school year** – Motioned by Sacha Singh, seconded by Heather Lindsay; vote passed (three abstentions)

Tara Hogeterp put her name forward, with a brief summary of her qualifications; there were no other volunteers.

MOTION: **To elect Tara Hogeterp as a co-chair for the remainder of the current school year** – Motioned by Amanda Potts, seconded by Tijen Karatas; vote passed (three abstentions)

6) Gift policy

Amanda started the discussion with some potential options and the pros and cons of each option. Many council members and guests contributed their points of view, and Laura mentioned that she had asked the staff for their opinion and they provided some ideas as well (a handwritten letter, a book donated in the staff member's name, planting a tree in the staff member's name, etc).

ACTION ITEM: For Jennifer and Connie to review the gift policy during their constitution work.

MOTION: **To approve the gift of a framed picture of Elgin Street Public School to each departing staff member** – Motioned by Amanda Potts, seconded by Randy Reynoso, vote passed.

Shaun requested that a small mention be placed in future fundraising communications to the effect that a portion of the funds raised will be used for departing staff gifts.

7) PRO Grant money – Ontario Sexual Health Curriculum

Moya confirmed that the presenter is booked for April 27th, 2016.

MOTION: **To approve the cost of up to \$300.00 to cover pizza and babysitting for the April 27th, 2016 event** - Motioned by Randy Reynoso, seconded by Tara Hogeterp, vote passed.

8) 2016-2017 PRO Grant money – Proposal: ‘Understanding your child’s learning style’ with Sharon Reichstein

Due to time constraints, this point will be deferred to the next meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Add the following item to the May 2016 agenda: 2016-2017 PRO Grant money – Proposal: ‘Understanding your child’s learning style’ with Sharon Reichstein.

ACTION ITEM: Diana to forward Randy an email with future possible uses for the 2016-2017 PRO Grant money.

9) Principal’s Report

There is a PA Day on Friday, April 15th, 2016.

There will be two presentations of the 'Big Bad Wolf' school musical on Wednesday, May 4th; one in the afternoon for students, and one in the evening for the community.

*****School volunteer breakfast is on Friday, April ??, 2016.

The 'Matheletes' activity today was a huge success; instead of solving 3,000 math problems, they solved over 4,000!

For the remainder of the school year, Marilee will be the teacher representative for Council meetings, and Tara will be her substitute.

Laura has compiled the teachers' wish list, but staff have requested an extension (so they can use some time at this Friday's PA Day) in order to review existing resources and establish what new resources will be needed given the change in programming.

10) Treasurer's Report

Erik went through the April 2016 financial report that was distributed via email before the meeting – the total cash available to allocate as of April 12th, 2016 was \$17,495.92.

MOTION: To cover the Matheletes fees for the April 12th, 2016 event, in the amount of \$1,356.00 – Motioned by Sacha Singh, seconded by Eddie Jun, vote passed.

MOTION: To cover any Book Sale expenses for this year's event, up to the amount of \$1,000.00 – Motioned by Heather Lindsay, seconded by Jim Costello, vote passed.

MOTION: To approve the April 2016 financial reports (as presented by Erik Husband) – Motioned by Tara Hogeterp, seconded by Jim Costello, vote passed unanimously.

11) Volunteer & Fundraising Chairs' Report

Sacha gave a brief update about Tara, Pina, and Jennifer joining the ranks of Book Sale volunteers to help with the organization of the event.

ACTION ITEM: Sacha and Catherine to distribute further information on the baseball fundraising.

12) Technology Committee

Due to time constraints, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

13) OCASC Representatives' Report

The last meeting was cancelled and not rescheduled, so there is no update at this time. There is a special meeting scheduled on April 14th with the Ontario ombudsman, for those who are interested.

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10th, 2016 at 5:30pm.

MOTION: To adjourn the April 12th, 2016, meeting - Motioned by Randy Reynoso, seconded by MJ Tremblay, vote passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 19h48.

ACTION ITEMS from the October 13th, 2015 meeting

ACTION ITEM: Angeleen to follow up with her neighbour, and put him in touch with Randy.

ACTION ITEMS from the December 8th, 2015 meeting

ACTION ITEM: Laura to update Council in January 2016 on the teachers' wish list items.

ACTION ITEMS from the January 12th, 2016 meeting

ACTION ITEM: Laura to categorize the teachers' wish list ideas and present them to Council.

ACTION ITEMS from the March 22nd, 2016 meeting

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ACTION ITEM: Confirm with Darren/Angeleen who is attending JPRA for this school year and what the renewal cycle is for board membership

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MOTIONS from the April 12th, 2016 meeting

- MOTION: To approve the minutes of the meeting of March 22nd, 2016** – Motioned by Sacha Singh, seconded by Amanda Potts, vote passed.
- MOTION: To approve the agenda for tonight’s meeting** - Motioned by Sacha Singh, seconded by Pina Vito, vote passed.
- MOTION: To elect a co-chair for the remainder of the current school year** – Motioned by Sacha Singh, seconded by Heather Lindsay; vote passed (three abstentions)
- MOTION: To elect Tara Hogeterp as a co-chair for the remainder of the current school year** – Motioned by Amanda Potts, seconded by Tijen Karatas; vote passed (three abstentions)
- MOTION: To approve the gift of a framed picture of Elgin Street Public School to each departing staff member** – Motioned by Amanda Potts, seconded by Randy Reynoso, vote passed.
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- MOTION: To approve the April 2016 financial reports (as presented by Erik Husband)** – Motioned by Tara Hogeterp, seconded by Jim Costello, vote passed unanimously.
- MOTION: To adjourn the April 12th, 2016, meeting** - Motioned by Randy Reynoso, seconded by MJ Tremblay, vote passed unanimously.