

Elgin Street Parent Council Meeting – January 15th, 2014

Attendance: Catherine Pacella, Sarah Backstrom Van Veen, Randy Reynoso, Vivian Rigg, Meg Walker, Barbara Johnston-Iafelice, Jim Costello, Sarah Rhamey, Darren Eke, Sacha Singh, Connie Too, Marie Josée (MJ) Tremblay, Erik Husband, Diana Mills

Special Guest: Rhama Ali (Centretown Community Health Centre)

Absent: Judith Lamarche, Tim Baker, Lorrie Beaton, Samaneh Lolabar, Heather Lindsay,

Update from the Centretown Community Health Centre (CCHC)

Rhama Ali provided an informative update on the services provided by the CCHC.

MOTION : To approve the evening's agenda - Motioned by MJ Tremblay, seconded by Jom Costello, vote passed unanimously

ACTION ITEMS from November 13th, 2013 meeting

ACTION ITEM: Catherine to post the End of Year Report to the website. – DONE

ACTION ITEM: Catherine and Randy will draft a GoogleGroup email (regarding a list of volunteers and skill sets) and circulate it to the Council for comment. – IN PROGRESS

ACTION ITEM: At the next Council meeting, Council will start discussion regarding a plan for Teacher Appreciation Day. – DONE

Revisions to Minutes

None requested.

MOTION : To approve the minutes of the December 11th, 2013 meeting – Motioned Sacha Singh, seconded by Connie Too, vote passed unanimously.

Teacher's Report

Sarah Backstrom Van Veen gave a presentation on the French immersion literacy wish list, which is a three-year proposal with the first year requiring approx. \$5,400.00. Funding could possibly be raised from local businesses, in exchange for labels in the purchased books that mention the name of the business. Barbara may be able to contribute school funds (HST rebates) of approx. \$600.00.

ACTION ITEM: At or before the next Council meeting, Council will take an overall view of the financial situation and all of the 'competing' needs (technology, books, etc) that require fundraising and/funding, to establish exactly how much can be directed to this literacy wish list and how much fundraising may be required.

ACTION ITEM: Barbara will circulate the literacy wish list document to the Council members via email.

Principal's Report

BARBARA'S 'PICK OF THE MONTH' : None this time [tune in next month!]

Full-day kindergarten – As of fall 2014, Elgin Street P. S. will have all-day kindergarten, taught by a teacher and an early childhood educator (ECE). The Board is projecting three classes, which could consist of up to 30 children each. The Board is still looking at where the third classroom would be located. Each kindergarten classroom receives approx. \$10,000.00 in funding from the Board for classroom equipment. The Extended Care Program will be offered in each school from 07 :00 to 18 :00 each day (with a minimum three children registered for it, for viability), but it is not sure at this time who exactly will be offering it (the school, the Board, or a third-party provider). A lot of details have not yet been confirmed or decided; this will prove to be a challenging but rewarding time for Elgin Street P. S.

January 21st, 2014 – There will be an anti-anxiety workshop at the school, in the evening – details to follow.

Volleyball team tryouts have happened; Monsieur Marc's retirement assembly is coming up on January 31st.

Door security fobs are being installed at all exterior doors in the school (with a couple of exceptions), by the Board's security section, as well as a chain link fence to be installed along the pathway in the yard.

Treasurer's Report

The January 2014 financial report was distributed by email before the meeting, and was reviewed in detail by the Treasurer. The total cash available to allocate as of January 14th, 2014 is \$15,352.70.

MOTION : To accept the financial reports as presented - Motioned by Sacha Singh, seconded by Connie Too, vote passed unanimously.

Co-Chairs' Report

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon – Proposed date is Tuesday, February 11th, 2014, during the staff meeting.

ACTION ITEM: The Co-Chairs to circulate a request for luncheon foods (for the Teacher Appreciation event) to the Google Groups.

Retirement gift for Monsieur Marc has been purchased by the Co-Chairs (a Mountain Equipment Coop gift card in the amount of \$50.00).

Donation letter – The draft letter was sent to Council members via email before the meeting; all comments and questions are welcomed, before a final version is created.

ACTION ITEM: Randy to forward information to Barbara on the free Junior Achievement program.

Randy also distributed a draft form for the Volunteer Inventory, to be reviewed by the Council members in order for general distribution at the next Movie Night. Any non-parent volunteers would require a police check first, as per Board policy.

Committee Updates

a) Fundraising

- Book Sale preparations have slowly started; the tables and gym are not available a day early this year, but will try for that again for next year.
- Next Movie Night is scheduled for Friday, February 7th, 2014.

ACTION ITEM: Co-Chairs to put a review of the technology plan on the agenda for the next meeting.

Next meeting – Wednesday, February 12th, 2014 at 5:30pm

MOTION : To adjourn the meeting - Motioned by Meg Walker, seconded by Sacha Singh, vote passed unanimously.

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