

Elgin Street Parent Council Meeting – January 12th, 2016

Council attendance: Erik Husband (treasurer), Randy Reynoso (co-chair), Shaun Simms (co-chair), Catherine Pacella, Connie Too, Jim Costello (community representative), Tijen Karatas, Laura Frappier (principal), MJ Tremblay (secretary), Tara Hogeterp, Pina Vito, Jennifer Simms, Diana Mills, Matt Cyr, Amanda Potts, Carmen Rupp

Others: Mei-Lin Chow, Chris Wilson

Special guest(s): n/a

Absent: Heather Lindsay (community representative), Angeleen Nayak, Jennifer Stewart, Samanah Lolabar, Alexandra Leonard, Moya Crangle, Sarah Landry, teacher representative, Sacha Singh

2) Approval of minutes

MOTION: To defer the approval of the minutes of the meeting of December 8th, 2015 in order to ensure that they accurately represent the meeting/ – Motioned by Catherine Pacella, seconded by MJ Tremblay, vote passed.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the working group meeting of December 21th, 2015 – Motioned by Jennifer Simms, seconded by Heather Lindsay, vote passed.

1) Roll Call

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

3) Review of Action Items

Deferred.

4) EFI Changes – Potential Need for Committee

The upcoming changes to Ontario's EFI curriculum change led to a discussion among Council as to whether there should be a special committee struck to inform parents about the EFI changes, or whether the Council even has a role in something that the teachers must implement in the classroom.

ACTION ITEM: Tijen to send the EFI link to Laura so that it can be posted on the school's website/blog.

While it was decided that no additional committee would be struck at this time, this issue represents a larger communications issue that Council will have to address in the future with a communications strategy (and possibly the formation of a Communications Committee within Council, who could have the responsibility of monitoring upcoming issues from the Board, and whose first action should be a 'lessons learned' review of past issues).

5) Council Planning Function

An action item from the meeting of December 21st was that Council would like to establish more of a priority list of issues for Council to address. It was agreed that Council should look at creating such a list (hand-in-hand with the communications issue), and that it could be a standing item on Council's agenda. It was also mentioned that all of the Council's members are volunteers, so in-depth work might not be possible for various reasons. As well, this year's accommodation issue and workforce actions severely limited the time and energy that could be spent on other issues and details. But teachers, members, and parents should feel comfortable bringing issues and ideas to Council for discussion, and that sense of openness should be properly communicated by Council. Laura stated that she feels (based on today's staff meeting) that teachers are very willing to bring ideas to her and to Council, and she currently has a list of ideas to present to Council.

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

7) Tech Solution for Council

Chris Wilson reviewed the slides he had presented last time he came to Council, and got some input from Council members on a potential structure for a 'cloud' filing system. With that, he will be able to form a proposal to be presented at the next Council meeting.

6) Committee on Accommodation Pressures - Findings

Catherine presented some details regarding her analysis of the information presented at last week's meeting, which resulted in much general discussion.

MOTION: Catherine will write a letter to the school board by January 15th, 2016 on behalf of Council, in support of a full accommodation review beginning as soon as possible (but no later than September 2016) to address our overcrowding issues, with temporary measures to help alleviate over-crowding, and that Council highlight their concerns about the fairness of a consultation process, the short timeframe of the consultation process, the need to address language barriers of some parents, our concerns about imminent over-crowding with Elgin as an EFI-only school, and Council's desire for a long-term solution that includes all stakeholders in the decision-making process. The draft letter will be circulated to all Council members for input with a deadline for comments by Friday, January 15th, 2016 at 12:00pm EST (noon Eastern standard time) so that the letter can be submitted to the Board by 6:00pm EDT that day (with copies to all trustees) - Motioned by Catherine Pacella, seconded by Heather Lindsay, vote passed (one opposed, one abstained).

It should be noted that Council understands that an accommodation review is not a solution, but would assess all available options on a more long-term basis. Council also understands that it is that the Board decides what temporary measures will have to be put into place for September 2016 to relieve the over-crowding on a more immediate and short-term basis.

8) Co-Chairs' report

Deferred.

9) Principal's report

Laura gave an update on the intermural activities she is trying to arrange for (the estimate at this time is for 5 hours per week, including planning time, at \$20 per hour).

MOTION: To approve a maximum of \$2,500.00 to cover the costs of offering intermural sports at Elgin Street P.S. until the end of the 2015-2016 school year. – Motioned by Heather Lindsay, seconded by Jim Costello, vote passed.

10) Treasurer's Report

MOTION: To defer the presentation of the treasurer's report to the February 2016 meeting -
Motioned by Randy Reynoso, seconded by Erik Husband, vote passed.

11) Committee reports

Deferred.

12) OCASC Representatives' report

Deferred.

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 9th, 2016 at 5:30pm.

MOTION: To adjourn the January 12th, 2016, meeting - Motioned by Randy Reynoso, seconded by Erik Husband, vote passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 20h46.

ACTION ITEMS from the October 13th, 2015 meeting

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

ACTION ITEMS from the December 8th, 2015 meeting

ACTION ITEM: Laura to advise the ECEs of their classroom consumable allocations.

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

ACTION ITEM: Council to explore the possibility of a motivational speaker to present jointly to the students of several local schools, including Elgin Street P.S. (approx. \$3,000.00 in total cost).

ACTION ITEM: Catherine to review the possibility of adding a blog specific to the Working Group onto the Council's website.

ACTION ITEM: Co-chairs to look into drafting a proposed Communications Guideline/Strategy for Council communications.

ACTION ITEM: Catherine to find out from staff what the Council's role will be at the public consultation meeting (as it may not have the same rules as an accommodation review does).

ACTION ITEMS from the January 12th, 2016 meeting

ACTION ITEM: Tijen to send the EFI link to Laura so that it can be posted on the school's website/blog.

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

MOTIONS from the January 12th, 2016 meeting

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