

Elgin Street Public School Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday, June 19th, 2012

Attendance: Kim Gauvin, Barbara Johnston-Iafelice, Scott McKenzie, MJ Tremblay, Diana Mills, Heather Lindsay, Sheila James, Doris Zastro, Tara Sheridan, April Dickson, Jim Costello.

1. Approval of agenda moved by Kim Gauvin, seconded by Scott McKenzie
2. Approval of May 2012 minutes moved by Scott McKenzie, seconded by Heather Lindsay
 - a. Follow up on outstanding action items: Barbara advised that someone from OCDSB will come in either October or November 2012 to discuss accounting/financials
3. Co-chairs update – Sheila James
 - a. T-shirts likely to be delivered on Friday
 - b. Executive met with Barbara about two weeks ago, discussed swimming grant, ash trees. Will discuss further on the agenda.
4. Treasurer's Report – Erik Husband (absent – sent report by email)
 - a. Over \$9,000 from booksale – total not finalized yet
 - b. Some outstanding teacher reimbursements – some have not submitted, some have gone over the \$100 (maximum of extra \$25)
 - c. Motion to approve extra expenses to cover teacher reimbursements, providing the final total remains with budget – moved by Scott McKenzie, seconded by Kim Gauvin
 - d. June financial report – opening balance \$8743. Cash available for allocation as of June 14 is \$6977.
 - e. Motion to accept budget with additional earnings from book sale and \$150 t-shirt sales – moved by Kim Gauvin, seconded by Heather Lindsay
 - f. T-shirt money - \$1730 was collected, about \$150 profit. Of 260 students, about 150 ordered t-shirts.
 - g. Motion to approve \$250 fee for final speaker as part of Safe Schools Committee – moved by Catherine Pacella, seconded by Scott McKenzie
 - h. ACTION – Erik to provide summary of what came in, what went out in each “section” (ie: arts, sports) for meeting in September so new council has an overall view/idea of spending**
 - i. Discussion about spending remaining playground money. If money is not spent by August 31, 2012, and it was approved, it needs to come forward and be reapproved in September 2012 (ie: lines on playground). **ACTION – Barbara to provide report as to status of playground money – ie: money that has been committed, what receipts are available or still pending.**
5. Principals report- Barbara Johnston-Iafelice
 - a. Erik was provided with four years of swimming receipts

- b. Enough money for upcoming 2012-2013 school year. **ACTION - need to apply in fall 2012 for grant for 2013-2014. Put on agenda for start of 2012 school year.**
 - c. OCDSB wants a fundraising plan from the school for the fall. **ACTION – add this to agenda for September 2012.**
 - d. Heat warnings in next couple of days, teachers sent memo with instructions.
 - e. Award and grad day next Tuesday, leaving ceremony. Parent council pays for juice, cake expenses (\$250 for cupcakes, \$30 for juice). Motion to pay up to \$300 for food/drink expenses at leaving ceremony – moved by Catherine Pacella, seconded by MJ Tremblay.
 - f. Grade 6's going to Glashan for orientation on Tuesday, some field trips in the last week. Seven teachers are leaving the school, suggestion to print black and white photo, approx. \$10 each, have traditionally been given to outgoing teachers. MJ volunteered to coordinate. Motion to approve spending up to \$100 on gifts for teachers leaving – moved by Catherine Pacella, seconded by Scott McKenzie.
 - g. Arts program for 2012-2013, list of presenters sent out on google groups, Andrea anticipates about \$1000 less in costs than last year, possibility of free opera performances throughout year.
 - h. Thank you to the parent council for a great year.
6. Committee Reports
- a. T-shirts: Approximately \$1730 brought in for t-shirts, profit of about \$150
 - b. Master gardener came in, working on a map to identify what exists in the garden, need more volunteers to maintain the garden.
 - c. Website: working on content, a lot still available from previous website. Need to confirm who owns domain name. **ACTION – Catherine to supply copy of content for September meeting.**
 - d. Booksale: Great success overall. Suggestion to consider lowering prices on Saturday, especially hardcovers. Also a suggestion for a sandwich board on the sidewalk.
 - e. Jack Purcell Park Rebuild: redesign of JP park from a few years ago, put in fence for dogs. Field still needs attention. Scott spoke with Councillor Holmes at book sale, two new condos coming in and money earmarked for the park. **ACTION – parent council to keep discussing ongoing park improvements with Councillor Holmes.**
 - f. Full-day kindergarten: Scott spoke with Trustee Adams at book sale, she mentioned that it might be moved up to 2013. Barbara was not aware of this but always exploring possibility of creating new space within the school. Suggestion to look into space with Jack Purcell, see how we can maximize space/relationship with the centre.
7. Proposal to save ash trees and discussion – Susan Fischer
- a. Ash trees – suggestion to set aside contingency fund of \$1700 (plus HST = \$1925) – 11 ash trees in yard, 8 trees that fit the criteria for protection, injection lasts for two years
 - b. We may not have to pay for it forever, new control may be available soon
 - c. City has enough budget for 2% of the ash trees – our area has been deemed high priority, so everything on Jack Purcell property, dog park has been injected

- d. Had meeting with Dan Fournier – funding may be available in a few weeks
 - e. Verifying that trees meet criteria at Elgin
 - f. Elgin School is a priority, funding is in question with amount quoted above
 - g. Cost of removing trees is higher than the price of the injections
 - h. Motion to redirect up to \$2000 from the playground funds toward the tree injections as a contingency for those ash trees that are not covered by the board but still meet the criteria for injections – moved by Scott McKenzie, seconded by MJ Tremblay
 - i. **ACTION - Susan to speak with Dan, advise of parent council decision**
 - j. **ACTION – If contingency fund not needed, it is to be redirected back to playground funding**
 - k. Suggestion that this is the responsibility of OCDSB, we as a board need to start advocating more for our needs with the OCDSB
 - l. Spoke with Dan – re: repaving for water main work, need to keep some retaining wall but plan is to better level the playground surface. When work is done, topsoil will be added so it will be ready for tree planting.
 - m. Kevin has expressed some concern for maintenance, durability issues with mulch
 - n. Susan to fundraise for next year, approximately \$1500 would be needed for something more permeable around the trees than mulch
 - o. Motion to leave a 4m x 2m area in the playground that is not to be replaced with asphalt, use topsoil and mulch, for the potential of tree planning – moved by Heather Lindsay, seconded by Kim Gauvin
8. Teacher's appreciation lunch
- a. Tara and Barbara advised that although a lunch would be appreciated, it is not necessary
 - b. Executive was not aware of this tradition until recently, perhaps too rushed to put something together before the end of the school year
 - c. **ACTION – Discuss teacher's appreciation lunch in September 2012, plan for 2012-2013 school year**
9. Next year's elections and issues
- a. Sheila to continue as co-chair, Erik has expressed an interest as continuing as treasurer
 - b. Next meeting to be held on September 25
 - c. **ACTION – first week of school, send out flyer advising of meeting date**
10. Constitution work over the summer
- a. Sheila, Catherine will continue to work on this, will put out the call for anyone else interested, Diana and Scott have expressed interest
11. Other Business
- a. Gift for Kevin who has been on leave for medical reasons. Barbara suggested a gift card to Second Cup or Tim Hortons for \$25.
 - b. **ACTION – Barbara to give gift card to Kevin next week, Sheila to sign a card**
 - c. Motion to approve \$25 toward a gift for Kevin, moved by Scott McKenzie, seconded by Heather Lindsay
 - d. Motion to reimburse Sheila for cost of babysitting tonight as Erik not present with a cheque, moved by Catherine Pacella seconded by Diana Mills

12. Meeting Adjournment

a. Motion to adjourn, moved by Scott McKenzie, seconded by Diana Mills

13. E-vote – An e-vote was held from July 4 to July 11, 2012, on the following motion below. Motion moved by Catherine Pacella, seconded by Tina Boisvert:

WHEREAS at the June 19, 2012, Elgin Street Public School parent council meeting, a motion was passed to put aside \$2,000 from the playground fund as a contingency fund for the TreeAzin injections if the OCDSB was unable to pay for all of the trees on the Elgin Street Public School property;

AND WHEREAS that motion also stated that if the \$2,000 was not needed for the TreeAzin injections, then the money would be returned to the playground fund;

AND WHEREAS the OCDSB has since confirmed that it will fund all of the TreeAzin injections on the school's property;

AND WHEREAS an opportunity has presented itself to enhance the 4m x 2m tree pit that the OCDSB has offered the school in the asphalt area with structural soil and permeable pavers, instead of just topsoil and mulch;

AND WHEREAS this structural soil and permeable pavers would make the tree pit more durable and low-maintenance;

AND WHEREAS the structural soil and permeable pavers will cost the OCDSB about \$5,000 more than the topsoil and mulch;

AND WHEREAS the OCDSB would be in a better position to procure the work if a \$2,000 contingency fund from parent council existed to ensure that if the OCDSB does not have enough funds, the enhanced project can still go ahead;

THEREFORE, the parent council motions to reallocate the \$2,000 contingency fund toward the enhanced tree pit.

MOVED BY: Catherine Pacella, SECONDED BY: Tina Boisvert

Attached: Plan submitted by Jeff Kaster, board consultant, to Dan Fournier. The purple area is where the permeable pavers would be installed and one tree could go to the left of the steps and another to the right (optional).

Further background information: Structural soil (unlike topsoil) is supportive enough to enable a hard, durable surface on top which the children can play on and is lower-maintenance than mulch. So it would not take usable play space from the existing paved area and it would be as durable and low maintenance as asphalt, but would enable us to plant a tree in the paved area. The permeable pavers allow water to percolate into the tree pit, unlike asphalt which is impermeable. Since the 4m x 2m area is too small to support a tree, we can "borrow" the soil from the timber-edged planted area (with the new hackberry and the mature Ash, plus a dead Ash) by extending the structural soil/permeable paver area over to the planter.

Motion passed. Ten voted yes, one abstained.

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ACTION – Barbara to provide report as to status of playground money – ie: money that has been committed, what receipts are available or still pending.

ACTION - Need to apply in fall 2012 for grant for 2013-2014. Put on agenda for start of 2012 school year.

ACTION – Fundraising plan for new school year added to agenda for September 2012.

ACTION – Catherine to supply copy of website content for September meeting.

ACTION – Parent council to keep discussing ongoing park improvements with Councillor Holmes.

ACTION - Susan to speak with Dan, advise of parent council decision

ACTION – If contingency fund not needed, it is to be redirected back to playground funding

ACTION – Discuss teacher’s appreciation lunch in September 2012, plan for 2012-2013 school year

ACTION – First week of school, send out flyer advising of meeting date

ACTION – Barbara to give gift card to Kevin next week, Sheila to sign a card