

Elgin Street Parent Council Meeting – March 10th, 2015

Attendance: Randy Reynoso (co-chair), Tijen Karatas, Erik Husband (treasurer), Sacha Singh, Catherine Pacella (co-chair), Connie Too, Angeleen Nayak, Jennifer Simms, Devon Forde (teacher representative), Laura Frappier (principal), Marie Josée (MJ) Tremblay (secretary), Christine (Chris) Kincaid, Darren Eke, Jim Costello (community representative), Diana Mills

Special Guest(s): Sarah Routliffe (JPRC After-School Program)

Absent: Samaneh Lolabar, Daniel Nugent, Heather Lindsay (community member), Moya Crangle, Doris Zastre (observer & former community member)

Meeting was called to order at 17h37.

1) **Presentation regarding Jack Purcell Recreation Center After-School Program**

- Sarah Routliffe gave a brief presentation on the after-school and camp services offered by the Jack Purcell Recreation Centre.

2) **Approval of minutes/Review of action items**

ACTION ITEMS from January 13th, 2015 meeting

ACTION ITEM: Catherine to update the Council website with the word ‘bienvenue’ – TO DO

ACTION ITEM: Catherine to provide Council contact information to Sacha, for the production of an agenda information sticker. – TO DO

ACTION ITEM: Laura will inquire into the completion date of the school’s website updates for accessibility. – DONE (no date can be given at this time)

ACTION ITEM: Angeleen to provide/make contact with someone for a helmet safety workshop, for Council to take the lead on (under the PRO Grant funding). – DONE (scheduling/availabilities are being discussed)

ACTION ITEM: Randy to pursue the TD Grant application. – IN PROGRESS

ACTION ITEM: Laura will check with the Board to ensure that Council would be able to provide recognition to companies like TD for grants that support Elgin. – TO DO

ACTION ITEM: Catherine will check with her partner John regarding the acquisition of two USB drives for Council use, to ensure that documents and application are saved and can be reused by future Councils, and that there is a backup drive in the event of loss or damage of the original drive. – DONE (DropBox is

being recommended instead of USB drives)

ACTION ITEM: Diana will distribute an invitation to the next Committee meeting on the GoogleGroups. – DONE

ACTION ITEM: Diana will provide information on the Committee's plans and contact information (Twitter, etc) to Catherine, to be posted on the Council's website. – TO DO

ACTION ITEM: Tijen will share the handouts from an interesting presentation given at OCASC regarding internet security when she receives them at the next meeting. – DONE (no handouts were provided by the presenter, but Tijen can provide his contact details to Council)

ACTION ITEMS from February 10th, 2015 meeting

ACTION ITEM: Catherine to provide cheque for Glashan yard-greening initiative to a Glashan representative. – IN PROGRESS (treasurer has provided her with the cheque)

ACTION ITEM: Laura to check if the GoogleCalendar can be synced to parents' calendars (ie what platforms can access it?) – DONE

ACTION ITEM: Tech Committee to set up a meeting with Laura and some parents regarding tech devices at school. – DONE (approx. in early April 2015)

ACTION ITEM: Catherine to draft a submission for the Director of Education Award on behalf of Council, for review and input by Council members. – DONE

ACTION ITEM: Catherine to send a reminder email to parents regarding the voluntary Arts donation letter. – DONE

MOTION : **To approve the minutes of the February 10th, 2015** - Motioned by Jim Costello, seconded by Sacha Singh, vote passed unanimously

MOTION : **To approve the evening's agenda** - Motioned by Darren Eke, seconded by Tijen Karatas, vote passed unanimously

2) Co-Chairs' Report

Digital Citizenship (MediaSmart) presentation

- Council table at the presentation was well received; many parents appreciated information regarding the Google Calendar and that the website was regularly being updated.
- It was suggested that perhaps a campaign/contest in the school to get parents signed up for the website, perhaps with a general prize for the entire school when a certain marker is reached.

ACTION ITEM: Catherine and Connie to discuss ways and means of amassing the information required for future school directories in an electronic manner, while still obtaining the necessary consent.

Glashan ‘greening’ initiative update

Catherine will drop off Council’s donation to the Glahan representative later tonight.

Next parent information session

- Catherine is working on the next presentation, related to attachment parenting/parenting versus peerenting.
- Anticipated to occur in April 2015; will be promoted to other schools’ parents in the area.

4) Principal’s Report

The school received an additional 54 students last year that were not originally anticipated. Enrollment for next year is steady (although numbers have yet to be finalized – Laura should be getting the final numbers in the next few weeks), so additional space for classrooms in the school will be required (potentially in the form of two additional classrooms). After discussion with Jack Purcell Recreation Center, it was decided that the Center could not accommodate the school, and therefore portable classrooms are the only a viable option. Laura presented Council with a draft site plan showing the locations of the two portables; although currently only one is necessary, projections do show that two will be probably be required, so both will be installed at once. No decision has yet been made as to which classes would be moved into the portables (which will be heated/air conditioned), although because there is no cap on the sizes of the higher grades and there are caps on the younger ones (maximum of 20 per class for Grades 3 and 4, and maximum of 23 per class for a split Grade 3/4), it is possible that the focus will be on moving the Grades 3 and/or 4.

Grade 4, 5, and 6 students will be doing a ‘Tell-it-to-me’ survey the week of April 14th, 2015; parents will not be involved in this year’s survey.

Laura also mentioned that there are valuable links for parents (including a parent’s guide) on the Ministry of Education’s website regarding the new physical education curriculum that was recently released, and provided a few photocopies.

The school learning plan has been discussed among Elgin Street P.S. staff; areas of improvement in math were in strategizing and communicating solutions; teachers have already started working with students on this. More details will be provided in Laura’s next school newsletter (to be released by the end of this week). As a result of the initiative, the teachers are asking to see if Council could assist in funding some professional math resources.

MOTION: To approve an amount of up to \$1,800.00 for the purchase of educational resources

including the following: ‘Leaps and Bounds’ (one in English and one in French, for grades 3 and 4) (\$109.95 each x 2), a Blackline Master (\$212.00) for Grades 3 and 4, math resources for Grades 5 and 6 (for \$116.00 each x 2), a Blackline Master for Grades 5 and 6 (\$222.95), math resources for Grades 7 and 8 (for \$116.00 each x 2), a Blackline Master for Grades 7 and 8 (\$222.95), and the ‘Good Questions’ resource (\$45.75 each x 5), plus applicable taxes – motioned by Angeleen Nayak, seconded by Jennifer Simms, vote passed unanimously

Laura and Andrea have started to plan the arts program calendar for next year, while respecting how the activities should fit into the curriculum minutes allotted for them. Laura would like to request Council pay for Andrea’s release time (ie to pay for a supply teacher while Andrea works on the arts programming).

MOTION: To approve up to \$800.00 for release time for Andrea to plan and coordinate the arts program for school year 2015-2016 – motioned by Sacha Singh, seconded by Darren Eke, vote passed unanimously.

5) Treasurer’s Report

The February 2015 financial report was delivered via email before the meeting, and was reviewed in detail by the Treasurer. The total cash available to allocate as of March 9th, 2015 is \$13,725.31.

MOTION: To accept the February 2015 financial reports as presented - Motioned by Jennifer Simms, seconded by Sacha Singh, vote passed unanimously.

Teacher ‘wish-lists’ will be submitted to Council at the next meeting (in April 2015).

ACTION ITEM: Eric will review with Catherine the recent request by Sue for additional funds (in the amount of \$347.43) to pay for the arts programming for school year 2014-2015.

6) Committee Updates

Fundraising

Sacha is continuing book sale preparations, and has a planning meeting set for after tonight’s Council meeting. Jim had been approached by a student from Lisgar Collegiate for book donations for their sale (set for March 27th, 2015), who also said that their sale was associated to Elgin Street’s (it is not). There is also a rumour that Glashan with also be doing a book sale; Catherine will inquire. Prices will continue at the same rates as last year (after Council discussion), and classes prizes for bringing in books will be the same as last year.

The idea was brought up to run an Elgin Street garage sale; this fundraising opportunity could be a

great fall project (first suggested by Lisa Corrido).

125th Anniversary Celebration

Diane reported that the last committee meeting in February 2015. The event will be held on Wednesday, May 6th, 2015 during Educational Week. There may possibly be an assembly held for the school on Thursday May 7th.

ACTION ITEM: For the next Council meeting, Catherine will add an agenda item regarding the use of a bouncy castle during the festivities.

Meetings are being held bi-weekly, and will move to weekly in April 2015. Invitations to the meetings will be issued via GoogleGroups. The teachers will be working on the historical documentation, and have been given access via DropBox to the research documents. The search for the time capsule from the 100th Anniversary is still underway; it may be located under the tree closest to the library.

OCASC / survey

Deferred – Tijen was unable to attend the last OCASC meeting.

JPRA Board

Darren and Angeleen both attended the last meeting of the JPRA Board and both were nominated to the JPRA Board.

7) Roundtable

Deferred, due to time constraints.

Next meeting – Tuesday, April 14th, 2015 at 5:30pm

MOTION : **To adjourn the meeting** - Motioned by Angeleen Nayak, seconded by Jim Costello, vote passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 19h43.

ACTION ITEMS from January 13th, 2015 meeting

- ACTION ITEM:** Catherine to update the Council website with the word ‘bienvenue’
- ACTION ITEM:** Catherine to provide Council contact information to Sacha, for the production of an agenda information sticker.
- ACTION ITEM:** Randy to pursue the TD Grant application.
- ACTION ITEM:** Laura will check with the Board to ensure that Council would be able to provide recognition to companies like TD for grants that support Elgin.
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