

## **Elgin Street Parent Council Meeting - November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

Attendance: MJ Tremblay, Susan Fisher, Erik Husband, Judith Lamarche, Connie Too, Barbara Johnston-Iafelice, Lorrie Beaton, Catherine Pacella, Heather Lindsay, Michael Bonser, Jim Costello, Sacha Singh, Samanch Lolabar, Scott McKenzie

Special Guests: Superintendent Mike Carson (CFO, OCDSB), Kevin Gardner (Manager of Financial Services, OCDSB)

Absent Members: Tara Hennessy, Sheila James, Diana Mills, Saqib Hassan

### **1. Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Approval (Catherine Pacella)**

**ACTION ITEM:** Catherine Pacella to check the functionality of the Google Groups, as some members did not get tonight's agenda/supplementary documents.

**MOTION:** to accept the agenda – Motion approved by Erik Husband, seconded by Sacha Singh; passed by Council.

### **2. Approval of October Minutes and review of Action Items (Catherine Pacella)**

- Review of Action Items by Catherine Pacella.

**MOTION:** to accept the minutes of the last meeting – Motion approved by Sacha Singh, seconded by Jim Costello; passed by Council.

### **3. Principal's update and introduction of guest speakers (Barbara Johnston-Iafelice)**

- Barbara introduced the guest speakers, who provided information and advice on the Council's banking and OCDSB financial policy (see point #4 below).

- After the presentation, Barbara continued with her Principal's Update.

- New game lines and soccer poles are still on hold.

- Piney were not ordered, as more jerseys were needed instead

- \$486 is still remaining to be spent.

- Full report on these purchases passed to treasurer Erik Husband.
- Food Bank drive went really well; lots of food collected, and will be delivered this week to the Bank.
- Both girls and boys soccer teams have won gold recently (out of 11 schools in the division).
- Remembrance Day service on Friday, Nov 9<sup>th</sup>, was very nice.
- Mary Dolan (temporarily replacing Shelley Langlois) has been reading stories to the children and involving them in the ‘crumpling of paper dolls’, representing the hurt causing by bullying.
- Parent-Teacher interviews are Thursday evening (Nov 15<sup>th</sup>) and Friday (Nov 16<sup>th</sup>); Barbara reviews all report cards before they are sent out.
- The school is still running during this period of labour disputes.

**4. Guest Speakers: Superintendent Mike Carson (CFO, OCDSB) and Kevin Gardener, Manager of Financial Services**

- Twenty-five schools currently do their council finances/banking through the OCDSB (out of 150 schools).
- School councils have been requested to report their finances (through a brief annual questionnaire) to the school board for the last five years; some have refused, feeling that regular school funding might be affected as a result of the disclosure.
- The Board will be bringing forth a new policy after Christmas, after the required consultations.
- By provincial regulations, fundraising by councils must follow Board policies, and this could be expanded to require that councils do all their finances through OCDSB (although this is only a recommendation at this time).
- The province has also specified that the purpose of council fundraising monies is for them not to be used for the purchase of learning materials that the Board pays for through grants (i.e. textbooks).
- The Board would provide regular financial statements, which would then be scrutinized by the councils’ treasurers.
- The Board uses the Bank of Nova Scotia, and has special agreements with them

regarding interest rates and service fees.

- The Board's goal is to ensure that the credibility of the councils' finances is maintained.
- The special guests left copies of the presentation produced by them, for the Council's information.
- Council will take the information under advisement, and will discuss at a later time (perhaps when the new policy is released in 2013).

**5. Co-chairs report- a) Meeting with School board trustee, b) Update on Executive positions, c) Report from OCETF/ETFO meeting**

a) Meeting with School board trustee (Catherine Pacella)

- Most schools reported no great disruptions at this time.
- Major item at the meeting was upcoming 'Near West' Accommodation review (west of Bronson, up to approx. Island Park); it does not involve Elgin St Public School, but we will be asked to join if Elgin St Public School does end up being affected by the review.
- Catherine is willing to forward the report to any interested council members.

b) Update on Executive positions

- Robyn Griffiths has left the Council; another co-Secretary would be welcomed.

c) Report from OCETF/ETFO (Sacha Singh)

- OCETF/ETFO meeting was looking at the current labour disputes, and reviewed the bill that was recently passed (from their viewpoint).
- 97% of teachers voted favourably for possible strike action, if they ever get to a strike position
- Regarding the progress reports (report cards), the Federation maintains that the Comments section was never really a compulsory section that must be filled; it was always optional.
- It is up to the councils to determine how their monies should be spent, regardless of the teachers' lack of participation in fundraising events.
- Sacha's full report was circulated via Google Groups with the agenda for tonight's meeting.

**6. Financial summary, overview and statements (Erik Husband)**

- a) projection of expenses**
- b) swimming reserve**
- c) additional arts programming**
- d) school directory printing**
- e) reimbursement for Erik**

- a) Projection of expenses
- e) Reimbursement for Erik

- Erik reviewed this month's revenue and expenses (all financial reports had been provided via Google Groups before the meeting)

- Total available funds at this time: \$19,158

- Erik temporarily used four personal cheques to cover certain expenses (as the Council cheques were not available), so there are several financial entries to reimburse him

**MOTION:** to reimburse Erik Husband a total of \$472.38 (a copy of the receipts are part of the minutes) – Motion approved by Michael Bosner, seconded by Heather Lindsay; passed by Council.

- According to the report, there may be a small amount of additional funds available for the Arts Programme.

**MOTION:** to accept the financial reports (a copy of which are part of the minutes) – Motion approved by Scott McKenzie, seconded by Jim Costello; passed by Council.

**b) Swimming reserve**

- Catherine is still looking into the swimming reserve, as there are still questions regarding the remaining funds.

- So far, it appears that we have enough funds for the next two years, so grant-writing will have to start next year (2013-2014)

- Samaneh asked if Google Group folders could be used to archive the Council's documents so that they can be easily accessed for future councils; Scott suggested they be set up by school year (eg. 2011-12, 2012-13).

**ACTION ITEM:** Samaneh Lolabar to create Google Group folders, with input from Barbara's and Catherine's binders.

**c) Additional Arts programming**

- Report on additional Arts funding was reviewed, with three additional opportunities; the Council can decide how much to allocate in spending, and the teachers would decide which of the three options they would choose.

- If there is a school musical, that funding does come from the Council, but not necessarily from the Council's monies that are set aside for Arts Programming.

**MOTION:** to fund two of the three additional Arts programs up to the amount of \$1,800 (Council's recommendations are for six days of the South American Rhythms and one ballet program) – Motion approved by Scott McKenzie, seconded by Susan Fisher; passed by Council.

d) School directory printing

**MOTION:** to reimburse Connie Too the costs of printing the school directory up to a maximum of \$125 – Motion approved by Judith Lamarche, seconded by Michael Bonser; passed by Council.

**7. Committee updates**

- a) School Directory
- b) Movie Nights
- c) Google Group manager
- d) Website
- e) Playground

- Deferred to the next meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

**8. Seeking volunteers: Grants, Pizza Friend, Newsletter, Safe Schools (Catherine Pacella)**

- Deferred to the next meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

**9. Other business**

- Deferred to the next meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

**10. Next meeting date: December 11th and Meeting Adjournment (Catherine Pacella)**

**MOTION:** to adjourn the meeting – Motion approved by Scott McKenzie, seconded by Erik Husband; passed by Council.

**LIST OF ACTION ITEMS from the November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meeting**

**ACTION ITEM:** Catherine Pacella to check the functionality of the Google Groups, as some members did not get tonight's agenda/supplementary documents.

**ACTION ITEM:** Samaneh Lolabar to create Google Group folders, with input from Barbara's and Catherine's binders.