

Elgin Street Parent Council Meeting – November 13th, 2013

Attendance: Catherine Pacella, Jim Costello, Randy Reynoso, Connie Too, Vivian Rigg, Barbara Johnston-Iafelice, Diana Mills, Meg Walker, Heather Lindsay, Tara Sheridan, Erik Husband, Marie Josée (MJ) Tremblay

Special Guest: n/a

Absent: Judith Lamarche, Samaneh Lolabar, Tim Baker, Lorrie Beaton, Sacha Singh,

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

LIST OF ACTION ITEMS from the September 18th, 2013 meeting

ACTION ITEM: Catherine Pacella to re-email OCASC representative duties to Council members.
– TO DO

ACTION ITEM: Current and new Council members' email addresses will be added to the Council Google Group, and a list will also be made available to the members for one-on-one discussion. – ADDITIONS DONE, LIST TO DO

LIST OF ACTION ITEMS from the October 9th, 2013 meeting

ACTION ITEM: Catherine Pacella to email the Safe Schools Working Group information to the general Google Group, if there are any parents who would like to become part of the Working Group. - DONE

ACTION ITEM : Barbara to present school budget at next meeting. - TONIGHT

ACTION ITEM : As per of the principal's update at the next meeting, the three-year technology plan will be reviewed. - TONIGHT

ACTION ITEM : Barbara will contact the Education Fund regarding charity status. - DONE

ACTION ITEM : Diana will send some examples of 'parent in the classroom' to Catherine/Randy.
- DONE

ACTION ITEM : Randy will forward Judy a link to the local hockey association, as Elgin Street P.S. does not have a minor hockey team. - DONE

Revisions to Minutes

None requested.

MOTION : To approval, with revisions, the minutes of the October 9th, 2013 meeting –
Motioned by Diane Mills, seconded by Vivian Rigg, vote passed unanimously.

Principal's Report

BARBARA'S 'PICK OF THE MONTH' : CONNECT, by Keith Harrell

Barbara presented the Safe Schools Working Group 'Bullying Prevention and Intervention School Condensed Plan'. The next meeting is on Friday, November 22nd, 2013.

Tara and Barbara outlined some of the strategies that the Safe Schools Working Group is currently using and is planning to use in the future.

Barbara passed around some copies of the school budget, although she may come back to us in January 2014 with a revised version that would be even more reflective. Excluding staff salary expenses, the school budget is under \$20,000.

She also presented the wish list for Council, on a three-year plan.

The Remembrance Day ceremony was very well attended by parents and the public (approx. 150 seats filled). As well, seven class field trips went out last week (some on buses, some walking)

PD day is Friday, November 15th, 2013 – parent-teacher interviews start Thursday evening.

Co-Chairs' Report

Near West Accommodation Review – Catherine reported that option C got the most feedback at the last meeting on November 4th; there was no vote, but there was a consensus. Option C does not involve Elgin Street P.S., but does make Connaught a dual-track school. The next step will be for it to go to committee.

End of Year Report – The report was sent in, so Catherine will post it on the website.

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

Treasurer's Report

The November 2013 financial report and a scan of the bank statement was distributed by email before the meeting and distributed to Council members at the meeting, and was reviewed in detail by the Treasurer. The total cash available to allocate as of November 13th, 2013 is \$14,056.66.

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

There was a consensus among the members that any NSF cheques that cannot be cashed by the Council from individuals will be forgiven.

School Council Finance Decision by OCDSB

The Board is encouraging councils to use the Board to manage any council financial accounting. As we currently have a very capable Treasurer and a lot of built-in accountability, we will defer the discussion to future Councils.

Database of volunteers and skill sets

The accidental call-out on the GoogleGroup generated a lot of volunteers for grant writing, so Randy proposed for discussion that perhaps a database be created to keep track of people who would be willing to volunteer in different areas.

ACTION ITEM: Catherine and Randy will draft a GoogleGroup email and circulate it to the Council for comment.

Need for a Technology Committee

After some discussion, it was agreed that this would be a good idea, especially to assist in focusing fundraising efforts (ie be able to fundraise directly for the school's technology needs). The Council will follow up on this idea next month.

ACTION ITEM: Catherine and Randy will draft some ideas for a Technology Committee.

ACTION ITEM: Barbara to ask if Jane Smith can return to discuss the Board's position on technology in schools.

Committee Updates

a) Fundraising

- Vivian and Barbara have completed two grant applications (one for \$1,000 and one for \$10,000).
- Sacha provided an update via email before the meeting regarding the next movie night (set for Friday, November 22nd, with a showing up 'Epic').
- There was no used sports equipment collected at the last Movie Night, so it will be advertised more for the next night.

Roundtable

The teacher representative to Council will rotate each month, and is greatly appreciated.

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ACTION ITEM: Catherine to post to the Council GoogleGroup regarding a potluck at the December 11th Council meeting.

Next meeting – Wednesday, December 11th, 2013 at 5:30pm

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

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