

Elgin Street Parent Council Meeting – November 10th, 2015

- Attendance: Erik Husband (treasurer), Randy Reynoso (co-chair), Shaun Simms (co-chair), Catherine Pacella, Heather Lindsay (community representative), Connie Too, Jim Costello (community representative), Samanah Lolabar, Jennifer Simms, Angeleen Nayak, Alexandra Leonard, Tijen Karatas, Moya Crangle, Laura Frappier (principal), Sarah Landry, Carmen Rupp, Jennifer Stewart, Temi Guoti, Diana Mills, Shelley Langlois (learning support teacher), France Poitras (teacher), MJ Tremblay (secretary)
- Special guest(s): Rhama Ali (Centretown Community Health Centre), Karen C. Ostafichuk (Ottawa Carleton District School Board)
- Absent: Sacha Singh

11) Services at Centretown Community Health Centre

Rhama spoke to the many wonderful services available from the Centretown Community Health Centre (CCHC), such as the various homework clubs, a coffee club for parents, Christmas food programs, snowsuits for children, partnerships arranged for dental screenings and denture cleanings, and the Good Food box.

1) Roll Call

Randy brought forward the four new spots now available on Council (ie voting members), and asked the floor if there was anyone interested in the spots. Pina Vito, Amanda Potts, Matt Cyr, Tara Hogeterp, and Connie Too all showed interest in the positions, and as Angeleen is stepping down as a voting member (but she will continue as a non-voting member), all five were acclaimed as voting Council members.

2) Approval of minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the meeting of September 22nd, 2015 with the modification proposed by Diana Mills – Motioned by Catherine Pacella, seconded by Heather Lindsay, vote passed.

4) Boundary/Programming Proposed Changes for 2016

The school is currently at 132% capacity, and Laura has been in discussion with the Board regarding Elgin Street P.S.'s current and future capacity issues. Karen Ostafichuk from the Ottawa Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) discussed trends, what the school's capacity really is, and what the best plan for the school would be. Options that were considered by the Board include an additional portable (which would probably only be a stop-gap measure), changing the school boundaries, expanding the school (which is not possible, since the OCDSB cannot raise its own capital and must go to the province for such funding), and reducing the number of education streams available at Elgin (which at the moment might be the best option, although the Grade 5 students would be left at Elgin to 'age in place').

Karen stressed that her team really wants to do what's best for the kids while offering students and teachers some stability, and acknowledges the impact that any decision may have on the students, siblings, teachers, and everyone. The team uses every possible source of information (housing sales, rentals, live births, etc.) before making a proposal. On Nov 17th, the Community of the Whole will debate the issue (it is a public meeting), and it is expected that the final meeting regarding the issue will probably be in February 2016. Photocopies of Report #15-148, which will be presented to the Committee of the Whole on Nov 17th, were handed out to the parents present.

It was agreed that a small working group of parents should represent Elgin's global interests in this issue going forward, as any change will affect the school as a whole.

5) Principal's report

There is a new school superintendent started yesterday; Barry Hammond (retired) is in the position temporarily until approx. February 2016.

Laura let us know that she is still working on getting intermural sports for the nutrition breaks; she hopes to have more news in January 2016.

6) Co-Chairs' report

No items at this time, due to time constraints. They presented Chris Wilson, who had done a presentation on shared documents that was distributed to Council before the meeting, and it was agreed that Council members would review the presentation and answer the questions contained within it, so that Chris can compile the answers and present possible solutions.

7) Treasurer's Report

The treasurer presented an abbreviated version of the most recent financial report, which had been distributed via email before the meeting. Total cash available to allocate as of November 6th, 2015, was \$8,035.86

MOTION: To approve the November 2015 financial report (as presented by Erik Husband)
– Motioned by Amanda Potts, seconded by Heather Lindsay, vote passed unanimously.

The following agenda items were deferred to the next meeting, due to severe time constraints:

- Approval of agenda
- ECE Teacher Consumable Fund
- PRO Grant
- Parent Council Town Hall Discussion
- Roundtable/new business

Catherine did remind everyone that ticket sales for the One Stop Shop! are a little slow, and that Council is committed to making a \$1,000 donation to CHEO with the proceeds. As well, the upcoming Movie Night will have a table for One Stop Shop! ticket sales.

MOTION: To approve \$1,000.00 for the Christmas fund - Motioned by Catherina Pacella, seconded by Pina Vito, vote passed.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 8th, 2015 at 5:30pm.

MOTION: To adjourn the November 10th, 2015, meeting - Motioned by MJ Tremblay, seconded by Heather Lindsay, vote passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 19h50.

ACTION ITEMS from the October 13th, 2015 meeting

- ACTION ITEM:** Laura and Samanah will work together on an electronic parent volunteer schedule/sign-up form. – IN PROGRESS
- ACTION ITEM:** Co-chairs to email the google groups and people in attendance from September meeting to advise that we have increased the number of board members and those who may be interested can attend November meeting.
- ACTION ITEM:** Angeleen to follow up with neighbour; put him in touch with Randy.
- ACTION ITEM:** Catherine to submit annual report.
- ACTION ITEM:** Co-chairs to invite the school community to provide their input at the November 10 meeting. Put aside time on the agenda solely to our spending priorities for the upcoming year. Provide parents with documents in advance – ie: background information on what we have spent in the past, areas of priority. Also follow-up on the suggestion to provide food for meeting.
- ACTION ITEM:** Email Google groups and note in backpacks about meeting.
- ACTION ITEM:** Laura to submit strategic planning for discussion.
- ACTION ITEM:** Laura to put movie night on Synervoice.
- ACTION ITEM:** Co-chairs to re-invite parent who was on the agenda to attend in November re: portable security.
- ACTION ITEM:** Co-chairs to move items that were not addressed on agenda due to time constraints to the November agenda.
- ACTION ITEM:** Co-chairs to propose an interim meeting if deemed necessary.

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