

## Elgin Street School Council Meeting – October 11, 2011

Attendance:

Diana Mills, Kim Gauvin, Heather Lindsay, Doris Zastro, Sheila James, Jim Costello, Scott McKenzie, Barbara Johnston-lafelice, Eric Husband, Michael Bonser, Nichole Reynoso, Catherine Pacella, Lorrie Beaton, Tara Sheridan, Tina Boisvert, Sasha Singh.

- Consensus to change meeting time to 5:30p for next meeting (Tuesday, November 8)
- “Roles of school council members” document was circulated
- Confirmation of committees: Ottawa Carleton Association of School Councils (OCASC) committee, ARC committee, fundraising committee, safe schools committee, executive committee

Motion to approve agenda: Scott McKenzie, Seconded by: Michael Bonser

- Review of September minutes
- **Action item (Catherine): changes to be made: Add Scott McKenzie as a parent member, Sara Bhola and Tara Sheridan as teacher reps, Sarah R. not doing it this year, safe schools rep is Tina Boisvert**

Motion to approve minutes: Scott McKenzie, Seconded by: Nicole Reynoso

Treasurer’s report: Erik Husband

- Financial summary distributed
- Starting August 31 at \$13,292.03
- Total funds as of meeting: \$14,462.45
- Still have outstanding cheques but total funds available to allocate is \$8,883.57
- Recommendation for photocopy of bank statement, keep it as part of records/minutes

Motion to approve treasurer’s report: Michael Bonser, Seconded by: Diana Mills

Safe Schools: Tina Boisvert

- Will continue with parenting series, character building series of presentations, first two presentations in the evening (with babysitting) are on cyber-bullying, second one on childhood anxiety, third one to be determined, hoping to do survey to get ideas
- Barbara, Sara Bhola, Cheryl, Rosalind, Tina – on the committee – Friday at 1p for meetings
- Gave example of Barbara riding the bus to help understand/deal with issues on school bus
- Tina putting forward name to serve on parent council
- **Action item (Tina): email date of next meeting**

ARC report: Scott McKenzie

- Survey of parents – 53 parents (23% of population) – most (70%) preferred keeping dual tract

- Since received 28 responses – most prefer dual-tract
- Presented to committee
- Numbers this year are projected lower – if this continues, will we need to change boundaries?
- Lobbied to not change boundaries because numbers may be low for 2015 and not overcrowded
- Board staff not necessarily agreeing – send kids east of canal to Hopewell for 2013
- EFI will likely be added to Glashan
- Grandfather in grade 5 and 6 at Elgin
- Next meeting – Oct 27 at Lisgar – public meeting
- **Action (Scott): send out link with all recommendations**

Playground: Scott McKenzie

- \$5500 left in playground fund
- Board has paid \$7500 contribution
- Might still be a few outstanding bills, so hold off a month before spending the remainder of the money
- Question: hasn't a list (for using the remaining money) already been established? Answer: if not enough left, may have to remove a few items
- So need to meet once all bills paid to decide how to spend leftover money
- October 28, 9:30a official opening
- **Action (Scott): send that list of priority items**

Rules of order: Diana Mills

- Not sure if rules already existed, need set rules of order to help meet objectives, timelines
- Hand-out, use this as a guideline to help run the meeting
- Question: should we allow more than one sub-question per person. Answer: need to allow more dialogue, don't allow everything to become a back-and-forth between two people
- Question: is this too "strict" or should the co-chairs help to moderate more. Answer: need to give an opportunity to everyone, times last year where couldn't get a word in
- Question: does this just reflect movement of motion vs. open debate – not clear.

Motion: Co-chairs to take document, widen the scope and make revisions and represent to board

Motion by: Kim Gauvin, Seconded by: Michael Bonser (two abstained)

- **Action (Lorrie and Sheila): take document, make proposed revisions, represent to board**

T-shirts: Diana Mills

- Quote based on one t-shirt per child, plus few extras – white \$1,002 (with one colour), coloured \$1344 (with one colour)
- Tara Sheridan – not all child will be able to buy/afford a t-shirt, will council subsidize those

- Not sure all students will want to wear it for field trips, may become difficult for teachers to impose this
- Motion to reserve \$1500 for t-shirts
- Suggestion for motion to make decision about whether to proceed or not on t-shirts
- Question: why do we need the t-shirts – purpose is not clear
- Question: do we pursue something if staff is not in favour? Concern that staff would not feel that we have spent the money well
- Barbara: we do have about 30 jerseys but we would appreciate some larger jerseys (about 10-12 needed)

Motion to support purchase of t-shirts Motion by: Eric Husband, Seconded by Diana Mills – did not pass

- Sheila: Apologized if this item became misdirected and time-consuming for Diana, thanked Diana for all her time and investment in this project

Presentation of projected expenses: Erik Husband

- Remaining arts balance – still need to approve \$1908.10
- Still need staff's wish list
- Free up \$1500 from t-shirts
- In the past, the old council approves the arts programming for the upcoming year – new council takes that and looks ahead to the next year
- Question: But should be some time during the course of the year to reflect

Motion to support remaining \$1908.10 for the arts programming Motion by: Heather Lindsay, Seconded by: Nicole Reynoso (one abstained)

Principal's report: Barbara Johnston-lafelice

- Have updated school website
- Safe school website updated too
- Planning for holiday show in December
- Talent show upcoming
- Jump rope/hoops in the spring
- EQAO results – present more information on this in November
- School improvement plan discussed at tonight's staff meeting – focusing on different strategies of writing, look at gender differences in teaching at PD Day
- Look at school budget next month
- **Action item (Lorrie and Sheila): add 20 minutes to the agenda for Barbara to present on EQAO results**

Motion to adjourn: Catherine Pacella, Seconded by: Sasha Singh