

## Elgin Street Parent Council Meeting – October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Attendance: Erik Husband, Randy Reynoso, Shaun Simms, Catherine Pacella, Heather Lindsay, Connie Too, Jim Costello, Sacha Singh, Pina Vito, Jennifer Simms, Angeleen Nayak, Alexandra Leonard, Tijen Karatas, Moya Crangle, Laura Frappier, Sarah Landry, Carmen Rupp, Jennifer Stewart, Temi Guoti, Diana Mills

Special guest(s): n/a

Absent: MJ Tremblay, teacher representative, ECE representative

### 1) Roll Call

### 2) Review of action items

#### ACTION ITEMS from September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

**ACTION ITEM:** Laura and Samanah will work together on an electronic parent volunteer schedule/sign-up form. – IN PROGRESS

Jim asked about surfacing under new play structure. It is coming apart in some places. Laura replied that play structure is closed while this is investigated. City has been contacted because it appears as though some work was done during the summer. The school board and Kevin are aware of the situation and monitoring it.

### 3) Approval of minutes and agenda

**MOTION:** To approve the evening's agenda, with the addition of the chess club as an item – Motioned by Sacha Singh, seconded by Heather Lindsay, vote passed.

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes of the meeting of September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 with the following modifications proposed by Moya Crangle (edits are in capitals):

- Bottom of page 3 – “To approve the expenditure of up to \$500.00 FOR the school directory”
- Pg. 4 - “Sacha briefed those assembledD...”

– Motioned by Sacha Singh, seconded by Erik Husband, vote passed.

#### 4) Co-Chairs' report

The first item was the proposal to increase the size of the board from 16 members to 20 members. Discussion about what would constitute quorum. Constitution currently states a simple majority (ie: 16 board members so 9 must be in attendance for quorum).

**MOTION:** To approve a change to article 6.1 of the constitution to read a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 20 board members may be elected - Motioned by Erik Husband, seconded by Moya Crangle, vote passed.

**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.

Storage of working files – Dropbox deemed too expensive. Is anyone interested in leading this and exploring options? Angeleen said a neighbour has expressed interest.

**ACTION ITEM:** Angeleen to follow up with neighbour, put him in touch with Randy.

Annual report – no issues with wording, Catherine will submit.

**ACTION ITEM:** Catherine to submit annual report.

#### 5) Principal's report

Home and school communication: Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to distribute/collect/organize information between classrooms, it has been invaluable. We have a reciprocal agreement with Jack Purcell which allows us to move forward with movie nights, and we will continue to work on arrangements – ie: accessing the school after-hours. Cross-country is going forward this year and we have over 100 students participating on Thursday. Normally we charge \$5 for bus but we didn't this year because of extra workload associated with collecting/counting money. Cost of bus is \$500 – would school council consider subsidizing the cost of the bus? Due to the increased enrollment in JK, senior staff have approved three additional ECE staff members. We will now always have three adults with students at a time. This will make the ratio approximately 1-12 or 1-13. We now have a team of 10 ECEs at Elgin. Note going home to JK/SK parents to advise. Received a call from TD Bank manager with \$200 donation. BYOD – had a forum last spring about this policy. Draft document to be presented to staff but on hold because of communication between principal/teacher during labour/job action. Some parents have already inquired about their child bringing a device. In the interim, Laura will give draft

copy to those parents who inquire. Hope to have full implementation in place soon. Portable safety – signs have been put up around the school – ie: no public access during school hours. Doors at Jack Purcell also locked. Laura has seen a significant decline in the amount of cut-through traffic. Presentation on consultations re: changes to EFI. The overall expectations for kindergarten are designed to be achieved at the end of a two year learning experience. So keep JK/SK together vs. separating at SK between English and French immersion. Currently, grade one has 100% of French; now, proposal would be 60 minutes a day in English (math). Also, starting in grade one, all math for French immersion students will be in English (currently, only starts in grade four). In core French, also an increase in the overall number of minutes of French instruction. At the JK/SK level, it will allow for greater flexibility with classroom numbers. Electronic survey is available online, three stakeholder meetings, three consultation meetings. Link is available from school website.

## 6) Treasurer's Report

Closing bank balance as of October 9 of \$25,985.61. Currently have \$19,931.93 to allocate. Estimated profits this year of \$24,250.00. Estimated year-end cash position of \$39,963.93. Last year, we agreed to a year-end closing balance and would give the remainder to the school/principal. We need to make decisions about the surplus that we have.

General discussion about how we could spend the money – ie: exercise equipment in classroom. Cara Lipsett will be piloting a program in her classroom in this area. Perhaps some money can be given to items that fall under special education resources but benefit many students.

**MOTION:** To approve a \$12,000 donation to Elgin Street Pubic School with monthly accounting of expenditures by principal – Motioned by Jim Costello, seconded by Tijen Karatas, vote passed (opposed – Jennifer Simms).

**MOTION:** To approve the October 2015 financial report (as presented by Erik Husband) – Motioned by Jim Costello, seconded by Angeleen Nayak, vote passed.

**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. 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.

## 7) Committee reports

### **Fundraising**

Sacha provided update on upcoming movie night. Need volunteers. One Stop Shop event coming up and we need momentum. Spread the word amongst friends and neighbours. Bake sale part of event too.

**ACTION ITEM:** Laura to put movie night on Synervoice.

### **OCASC**

Last meeting, OCDSB staff presented strategic plan. Union reps also attended to give up, and Tijen had material available for parents to look at. Suggestion for another social event given that we had to cancel Meet the Teacher. Some schools went ahead, regardless that teachers did not attend. Tijen also advised that Mike Carson (OCDSB, finance) is looking into setting up online payment that would be accessible by all parent councils for conducting business.

**MOTION:** **To approve \$35 OCASC membership fee** - Motioned by Heather Lindsay, seconded by Jim Costello.

### **Chess club**

Update – large turnout, had to add second day. Not enough space to increase student/teacher ratio. Two teachers on Wednesday, one teacher on Thursday. Lots of excitement and interest from students. Brainstorm ideas for more space? Not enough at Jack Purcell due to after school programming and other city programming.

## 8) School Greening

Susan Fisher – At the time of the fundraising for the new playstructure (2010), seven new trees were also added. Ash trees were injected to protect them but in August 2014 the board decided to cut them down. Recently, two elms have been added. Summer 2015 – two new portables added. Board had replaced seven of the ash trees, but two of the trees that were fundraised by parents a few years ago had to be relocated due to the portables. The two red maples look like they are dying but they are not. Recommendation to wait until spring, see how they are doing after transplanting and if they are not thriving, ask board for two new plants. Someone also pruned one of the trees - Susan can't find out who

did it – and they will not really recovering from it. Suggestion to first ask school board to replace the trees even though we originally paid for them. If not, target them for fundraising and start fresh. Other recommendation – another tree placed in the wrong location, recommendation to ask it to be moved to proper agreed upon location. More opportunities for school greening but with presence of portables, will make it difficult.

The other committee reports were deferred to the next meeting due to time constraints.

### **17. Roundtable/new business**

Roundtable and new business were deferred to the next meeting due to time constraints.

**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.

Diana attends OCDSB PIC meetings – parent involvement committee – and she is unable to attend meeting tomorrow (October 14). If anyone is free to attend in her place, let her know. Meetings also open to public – second Wednesday of every month.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 5:30pm.

**MOTION:** **To adjourn the October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015, meeting** - Motioned by Jim Costello, seconded by Heather Lindsay, vote passed.

The meeting was adjourned.

### **ACTION ITEMS from the October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 meeting**

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## **MOTIONS from the October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 meeting**

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