

Elgin Street Parent Council Meeting – October 18th, 2016

Council attendance: Erik Husband (treasurer), Tara Hogeterp (co-chair), Pina Vito, Jim Costello (community representative), Tijen Karatas, France Poitras (teacher representative), MJ Tremblay (secretary), Heather Lindsay (community representative), Sacha Singh, Natalie Lyle (co-chair), Malaka Hendela (OCASC), Diana Mills, André Bernier, Eddie Jun, Jerry Ritt, Matt Vincelli

Others: Mark Cruise (principal), Doris Zastre, Chris Wilson, Oleksandr Kytsyshyn

Special guest(s): Rahma Ali (CCHC)

Absent: Michael Cameron, Angeleen Nayak

The meeting started at 17h32.

Presentation on Centretown Community Health Centre – Rahma Ali

Rahma gave a thorough overview of the CCHC's community programs, particularly those with a focus on children and parents.

1) Approval of agenda

MOTION: To approve the agenda for tonight's meeting - Motioned by Sacha Singh, seconded by Eddie Jun, vote passed.

2) Approval of minutes & review of action items

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the meeting of June 20th, 2016 – Motioned by Sacha Singh, seconded by Diana Mills, vote passed (one abstention).

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the meeting of September 20th, 2016 – Motioned by Eddie Jun, seconded by Pina Vito, vote passed.

ACTION ITEMS from the September 20th, 2016 meeting

- ACTION ITEM:** Consult Catherine Pacella to clarify what funds might be owed to her for the pizza driver tips (unassigned) – IN PROGRESS
- ACTION ITEM:** A discussion on the Council’s communication protocol is to be added to the next agenda (co-chairs). – DONE
- ACTION ITEM:** Consult on external options for hosting the website (Tara Hogeterp). – DONE
(Council website cannot be hosted on the school’s website, but they can be linked)

3) Treasurer’s Report

Erik went through the October 2016 financial report that was distributed via email before the meeting – the total cash available to allocate as of October 18th, 2016 was \$471.60.

- MOTION:** **To approve the October 2016 financial reports (as presented by Erik Husband)** – Motioned by André Bernier, seconded by Jerry Ritt, vote passed unanimously.

4) Communications Plan

The co-chairs presented some draft points regarding the Council communications, which provoked some of discussion on the difference between ‘second set of eyes’ on a document and the Council’s voice/perspective. It was agreed that any communications would be sent out to the Council as a whole, asking for comments/issues within a certain deadline, and if there are no responses the communications will go out. Mark proposed that Council communications to parents could sometimes be on the school’s newsletter (SchoolConnect automatic email system) and the SynerVoice calling system. Emphasis was made on the quality of the information versus the quantity, as both have their merits (especially for parents who are new to the school and may not know the details of some of the items).

- ACTION ITEM:** Diana will check to see who originally created the Elgin125 Twitter account, so that it can be deactivated.

- MOTION:** **To approve the expenditure of up to \$30.00 tax included on the WordPress account service for the Council’s website** – Motioned by André Bernier, seconded by Malaka Hendela, vote passed unanimously.

5) Fundraising Positions

Sacha updated Council on the first movie night. He also reminded Council that he will not be at the school next year, so finding a replacement for him to start learning how it works.

ACTION ITEM: Put out an email looking for a chair of the committee for the Savouring Centretown fundraising event. (co-chairs)

Malaka offered to get additional ideas on fundraising events from fellow OCASC members, and will check to see if anyone has any techniques on encouraging volunteerism.

6) Outreach to other schools

7) Active transportation/ploughing of sidewalks

Tara reported that Mutchmore and Lady Evelyn schools were interested in the possibility of active transportation ('walking school bus'). Unfortunately, many school websites are out-of-date, so getting contact information for them is very difficult. Malaka offered to post the question on the parking lot at the OCASC meeting this coming Thursday on how to organize active transportation, to see how others are doing it, as well as posting a question on snow-ploughing.

8) Constitution committee

The proposal is to download the last electronic version of the Constitution, review it, and use track changes to assist with the process. Matt, André, and Malaka all expressed interest in forming the sub-committee.

MOTION: To create a Council sub-committee to review the Council's Constitution – Motioned by Matt Vincelli, seconded by André Bernier, vote passed unanimously.

9) School Council Annual Report

Tara reported that a draft of the report was circulated; no comments were reported, so Erik will update the financial portion and pass it on to Mark.

10) PROGrant proposal

'Understanding your child's learning style' was a proposed seminar for parents of Grades 4 to 6 (the seminar has been given once before, at Briar Green); the co-chairs planned to review the request more

thoroughly, as there were no details regarding the cost, the presenter's qualifications, etc. Council members were concerned about the content being limited to the higher grades, and would prefer to look for something that applies to the school population as a whole.

11) Co-chairs' report

The co-chairs met before tonight's meeting, and have agreed to share meeting duties equally. Catherine Pacella offered to the co-chairs to be the unofficial liaison with the teachers (through Andrea) for the Arts programming. Council seemed to agree that having an Arts liaison would be of benefit, and that the co-chairs would confirm with her there are no real or perceived conflicts of interest before agreeing to have her as the unofficial Arts liaison.

ACTION ITEM: Clarify the Arts liaison role with Catherine Pacella (co-chairs).

One Council member stepped down soon after the last meeting, so there is a vacancy on Council to be filled.

The co-chairs would like to hear ideas for a social event for Council members (ie Go for a drink? Potluck?)

12) Principal's report

Mark reported that the school is now fully staffed! 2015-16 EQAO results showed that Grade 3 students were at or above Level 3 at 66% (reading), 62% (writing), and 56% (math), while Grade 6 students were at or above Level 3 at 89% (reading), 83% (writing), and 37% (math). Mark will try to get the EQAO results for those Grade 6 students when they took the tests back in Grade 3, and will present the results at the next Council meeting. The scores are of concern, and Mark will be working with his staff on the deficiencies.

ACTION ITEM: Mark to check the Grade 6 students' scores from when they did the EQAO back in Grade 3.

Terry Fox Run went very well – raised \$150.00. Boys' soccer team did very well, as did the girls' soccer team. Chess club, Spanish lessons, swimming (Swim to Survive), PokeClub, photo day (today), Walk and Wheel to School Day (Oct 21), and the upcoming cross-country meet for Grades 3 to 6 (Oct 21) were all mentioned. As well, the Ottawa 67s will be doing an anti-bullying presentation in November. Choralie is already up and running, and is extremely popular – France is looking for any suggestions on places where the children could perform. The school has been approved for a Tutor in the Classroom; Mark will be getting further information shortly.

13) Volunteer & Fundraising Chairs' report

No additional information at this time.

14) OCASC Representatives' Report

Malaka reported that the accommodation reviews and other board changes have created a lot of commotion, and generated a lot of attendance at the last meeting. OCASC has set a goal of working with the Board to make materials more clear and accessible to councils. Malaka also mentioned that other school councils are still handling pizza days themselves, using electronic systems, and that Council might want to consider that in future.

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 15th, 2016 at 5:30pm.

MOTION: To adjourn the October 18th, 2016, meeting - Motioned by Diana Mills, seconded by Heather Lindsay, vote passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 19h37.

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