

Tuesday, October 14, 2014

Attendance: Darren Eke, Tijen Karatas, Angeleen Nayak, Moya Crangle, France Poitras (teacher), Ingrid Bauer (teacher), Diana Mills, Sacha Singh, Chris Kincaid, Connie Too, Jennifer Simms, Daniel Nugent, Erik Husband, Randy Reynoso, Heather Lindsay, Laura Frappier (principal), Catherine Pacella

Guest speakers: Lisa Choi, Dave Miller (OCDSB), Sandy Owens (OCDSB), Mike Pattridge (OCDSB)

Absent: Jim Costello, MJ Tremblay

1. Lisa Choi spoke about the One Stop Shopping Event fundraiser in November. Elgin parents are encouraged to help sell tickets, a prize will be awarded to the family that sells the most tickets. Will also be selling tickets at the upcoming movie night.
2. Review and approval of September 16, 2014, minutes. Chris Kincaid noted that her name is misspelled on pg. 3 action item. Also noted that JPRC should be JPRA (association vs. centre). Chris also requested that sentence be added to financial report noting her concern that the parent council should be spending more of our revenue. Chris to provide wording to be added to minutes. Tijen noted that her name is spelt incorrectly throughout the minutes (with an "a" instead of an "e").

Motion to approve September 16, 2014 minutes as amended moved by Daniel Nugent, seconded by Jennifer Simms. Passed.

ACTION ITEM: Catherine to send edits to MJ for revision to September minutes.

Review of action items from September 16, 2014. All items completed, nothing outstanding.

3. Motion to approve agenda moved by Diana Mills, seconded by Heather Lindsay. Passed.
4. Daniel spoke briefly about membership with OCASC. Attended September meeting, most other parent councils have OCASC reps. Lots of discussion of common issues such as support for fundraising, etc. Membership fee to join is \$40. Believes it is a worthwhile for parent council to officially join. Tijen attended parent council workshop hosted by OCASC and echoed Daniel's comment re: benefits of joining OCASC. Randy suggested that we have that discussion later in meeting during committee reports.
5. Co-chairs' report: 2013-2014 draft annual report circulated to all board members. One edit noted in report where it says 2012-2013 instead of 2013-2014. Darren Eke's name

also needs to be added as a board member. Erik Husband suggested removing the financial highlights and just include the opening balance, amount raised, amount spent, closing balance. No further edits required.

ACTION ITEM: Catherine to submit 2013-2014 annual report to OCDSB.

Update on survey: approximately 37 responses received to date. Will send a notice home through agendas/backpacks to try and reach more parents. Note will state that if paper copy required, they can be picked up at office. Survey website will also be available at movie night.

ACTION ITEM: Catherine to put survey notice in agendas/backpacks, have paper copies available at office, make available at movie night.

In the spring, the parent council was invited by Rahma at the Centretown Community Health Centre to have one of our meetings at their centre. This is something that has been done in the past. A tentative date for November 2014 was set. Consider making technology an item on the agenda to help attract more parents.

ACTION ITEM: Catherine to follow up with Rahma and confirm location of November meeting.

Catherine raised request from teachers Cara Lipsett and Ingrid Bauer regarding a loan for a leadership field trip that they are interested in taking at the end of October. They would like to fundraise for the trip as a good learning experience for the students, but do not have enough time before end of month so they are wondering if a loan is possible. Ingrid in attendance at meeting, said some discussion earlier that afternoon about cost of trip and potential other field trips. They are exploring options and would like this request put on hold for time being. Board will also discuss possibility of helping to fund field trips for all teachers as part of the long term planning/financial document to be discussed later on in the agenda.

6. Principal's report: Swimming lessons have started at Jack Purcell for the gr. 5, 6 students. Gr. 3 students will receive additional lessons as part of a separate program. XC meet was held last week, students did a great job of representing Elgin. On November 11, school will hold a Remembrance Day ceremony, and will hold a food drive for the Centretown Emergency Food Centre. Soccer tournament is scheduled for October 16.

Laura also recently met with Rahma at the Centretown Community Health Centre. Copies of programs offered will be made available at the school.

Laura looked into request from spring 2014 about crossing guards at key intersections. Formal application was not made at that time, so one has now been submitted and she has a reference number that she will follow-up on.

Laura also inquired about possible blinds on gym windows. Renovations being done to roof and it had to be raised in order to make repairs. Windows on north side of gym will be blocked, no changes to windows on south side. Nothing in plans to include blinds.

Updates continue to be made to school's website. School is currently on the list for a new template being used by the OCDSB. Google calendar feature has been added, arts calendar available, newsletters will be posted, Twitter feed can be viewed on website. Will be adding a new feature where daily news can be added to home page, parents can scroll through and find older messages. Move toward putting more information on the website/electronically and reduce the amount of paper going home to each student.

Funding has been received for after-school tutors and focus will be on math support. EQAO scores have been used to focus on particular areas for the school's learning plan. EQAO scores are posted on the province's website. Printed copies of the EQAO scores were also circulated to board members.

7. Guest speakers: Dave Miller, Sandy Owens, Mike Pattridge (OCDSB): Elgin's computer lab in the library was removed to create a new classroom. Original plan was to have laptops on carts that would be available to all teachers. OCDSB, however, is looking at how technology can best support the curriculum and teaching pedagogy, as well as how technology can support the needs of a school's learning plan. Want opportunity for students to use technology in a way that encourages more inquiry-based learning, collaboration, critical thinking. Begins with having a projector in every classroom that helps to make information accessible to everyone. Moving away from idea of a computer lab or laptops on carts to "PODS" – ie: a selection of laptops (Chrome books) and tablets (iPads or Nexus) in each classroom. Proposal is for each classroom to have up to five items of their choice – ie: kindergarten teachers may choose to have more tablets, whereas junior teachers may choose more Chrome books. Need to ensure that teachers are comfortable with these tools and technology support will be provided. General discussion around BYOD (bring your own devices) and ensuring a level-playing field for all students. Also noted that having more devices in the classroom helps to reduce stigma for students with SEA-approved technology. Parent council to discuss how we can continue to support technology in our school during long-term planning/financial planning agenda item.
8. Treasurer's report: see attached. Motion to approve October 14, 2014, treasurer's report as presented moved by Chris Kincaid, seconded by Angeleen Nayak. Passed.

Question was raised regarding the \$1000 PRO Grant that we received. In the past, have received an additional \$500 in funding but it is not something that the parent council applied for – perhaps application was made by Barbara (former principal). Laura suggested that the additional \$500 may have been the Continuing Education Grant.

ACTION ITEM: Laura to send information to co-chairs on accessing Continuing Education Grant.

9. Approval of 2014-2015 arts budget. Motion to approve arts budget as presented for \$8545.93 to reflect addition of kindergarten programming for new class moved by Sacha Singh, seconded by Darren Eke.

10. Long-term planning document: Please see attached. Need to look at our funding priorities for the upcoming school year. Suggestion made to add a column to the document noting whether item is “one-time only” or an “ongoing expense.” Laura provided update on trees in the school yard. School board will plant six trees, provide care for one year. Susan Fischer is recommending that council fund protective “cages” around five existing trees. Approximate cost is \$250 for mulch, \$460 for caging. Laura also identified other items on “wish list.” This includes cost of buses for all students in grades 1-6 to attend Odyssey Experience; end-of-year trip for gr. 6 students, enhancements to technology that could include charging “tubs” for save storage/charging of laptops and tablets, possibility of additional Chrome books or tablets, ear phone splitting, protective cases for tablets, Apple TVs, Apple gift cards for buying apps; scientists in the schools; rocks and rings program (curling). Also a discussion about the three year plan that Sarah Van Veen (teacher) presented to council in winter 2014 about French literacy. Parent council did approve \$1000 last year for the purchase of new books. Will need to see what second year of the plan required. Due to time constraints, suggestion made to hold an extra meeting to discuss contents of the document. We are, however, in the third year of the three-year commitment that we made in 2012-2013. Items included additional blue plastic chairs and books for the library. Also noted that new classroom in library does not yet have a projector, wireless keyboard, speakers.

Motion to approve three-year plan commitment for projector in new classroom, wireless keyboard, mouse, 30 blue chairs, and French books for the library for a value of \$1800, moved by Angeleen Nayak, seconded by Darren Eke. Passed.

ACTION ITEM: Catherine and Laura to arrange to meet with branch manager at Scotia Bank, discuss fundraising opportunities.

ACTION ITEM: Laura to provide update on Safe Schools Committee.

ACTION ITEM: Randy, Catherine and Laura to find more information about Sarah Van Veen's presentation to council for 2013-2014 re: three year plan for French literacy.

ACTION ITEM: Randy to send email with date suggestions for an additional meeting.

11. Committee reports: due to time constraints, unable to discuss committee reports, although Chris Kincaid noted that the JPRA will discuss having an Elgin Street Parent Council rep at their October 20 meeting.

Motion to adjourn moved by Heather Lindsay, seconded by Moya Crangle.

ACTION ITEM: Catherine to send edits to MJ for revision to September minutes.

ACTION ITEM: Catherine to submit 2013-2014 annual report to OCDSB.

ACTION ITEM: Catherine to put survey notice in agendas/backpacks, have paper copies available at office, make available at movie night.

ACTION ITEM: Catherine to follow up with Rahma and confirm location of November meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Laura to send information to co-chairs on accessing Continuing Education Grant valued at \$500.

ACTION ITEM: Catherine and Laura to arrange to meet with branch manager at Scotia Bank, discuss fundraising opportunities.

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