

Elgin Street Parent Council Meeting – March 21st, 2017

Council Attendance: Nathalie Lyle (co-chair), Tara Hogeterp (co-chair), MJ Tremblay (secretary), Jim Costello (community representative), Heather Lindsay (community representative), Eddie Jun, Sacha Singh, Erik Husband (treasurer), Diana Mills, Matt Vincelli, Michael Cameron, André Bernier

Others: Mark Cruise (principal), Doris Zastre

Special guest(s): n/a

Absent: Jerry Ritt, Pina Vito, Angeleen Nayak, Marilee Bowles-Wilson or France Poitras (teacher representative)

The meeting started at 17h30.

1) Approval of agenda

MOTION: To approve the agenda for tonight's meeting (after the date was changed to March 21st, 2017 - Motioned by Eddie Jun, seconded by Sacha Singh, vote passed unanimously.

2) Approval of minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the meeting of February 21st, 2017 – Motioned by MJ Tremblay, seconded by Heather Lindsay, vote passed unanimously.

Review of Action Items

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). – DONE

ACTION ITEMS from the October 18th, 2016 meeting

ACTION ITEM: Diana will check to see who originally created the Elgin125 Twitter account, so that it can be deactivated. – DONE; Diana will pass the account info to Matt for deactivation.

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

Action items from the January 31st, 2017 meeting

ACTION ITEM: Matt to add links on the Council's website to the OCASC and Board information regarding the accommodation review. – IN PROGRESS

Action items from the February 21st, 2017 meeting

ACTION ITEM: Nathalie will research the printing of kids' art as a fundraising opportunity. – IN PROGRESS

ACTION ITEM: Nathalie will research the possibility of participation in the Canada Coding Week. – DONE; Nathalie will forward the information to Mark.

ACTION ITEM: Angeleen will contact Gautam regarding a coding and/or robotics activity for the PRO Grant funds. - DONE

ACTION ITEM: Nathalie will contact Matt on adding the 2015-2016 arts activities information to the Council website. – TO DO

ACTION ITEM: Erik to prepare a payment for Charlotte for babysitting at the February 21st, 2017 meeting. – DONE

3) Treasurer's Report

Erik had distributed the February 2017 financial report via email before last month's meeting, as well as the March 2017 financial report via email before today's meeting – the total cash available to allocate as of March 20th, 2017 is \$2,771.78.

MOTION: **To approve the expenditure of \$100 per teacher and ECE at Elgin Street Public School for the 2016-2017 school year (pro-rated for those who are not full-time) – Motioned by Erik Husband, seconded by Michael Cameron, vote passed unanimously.**

MOTION: To approve the February 2017 and March 2017 financial reports (as presented by Erik Husband) – Motioned by Eddie Jun, seconded by Sacha Singh, vote passed unanimously.

4) Bike Rack update

Tara has not had a satisfactory response from the supplier regarding when the bike racks will be delivered; Council is comfortable with her putting a bit more pressure on them for a response, and possibly cancel the contract with them. Tara will keep Council, Mark, and Jack Purcell involved in the process (as Jack Purcell is paying for half).

5) Changes to the Council constitution

Matt reviewed an earlier draft of the Constitution that he had on hand; a lot of changes were made to the language (for consistency and clarity), and some of the definitions were fleshed out.

The Council had a somewhat lengthy discussion on how the changes should best be adopted; present it at the Sept 2017 Annual General meeting, or distribute it now for comments and consensus?

It was agreed that everyone needed some more time to properly review the document, so the item will be put on the agenda for the April 2017 meeting, with possible adoption at the June 2017 meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Matt to resend the revised Constitution document to Council for comments.

6) Update on walk-safe routes to school initiative

Thirty-seven families have completed the survey so far; another notice of it will be going out to the school community tomorrow.

The traffic observation portion will be done on April 6th, 2017, while the student polling (how do they get to school, and how do they get home) will be done on April 22nd-23rd, 2017.

The redevelopment of Elgin Street will have an impact on the school; while the Council has not been officially asked to participate or give an opinion as yet, it would like to be able to pass information on to the parent community.

ACTION ITEM: Tara will contact Catherine McKenney, to see what kind of information can be provided to the parents of Elgin Street.

7) Donate button for website

Mark talked to Mike Carson (superintendent), and he did not feel it would be an issue to have such a button. However, he did recommend that the account that the money would go in to should have two people who can sign for or access the funds. With some payment systems (like PayPal), the funds can be automatically redirected to the Council's bank account, but again that would require some sort of second signatory as well.

ACTION ITEM: Nathalie will investigate how PayPal or a similar system could be used in a manner recommended by the superintendent, and will bring the information back to Council.

8) Potential fundraising opportunities

Nathalie looked into having kids' art printed; she has been in contact with VistaPrint, but she is still doing some research, and will email a proposal around within the next couple of weeks.

9) PRO-Grant funding

Gautum has stated that he could probably do groups of a maximum of 20 people, possibly two groups in a night, but he is unsure if it meets Council's needs. Nathalie suggested that maybe another approach could be used; instead of hands-on, do more of a presentation, but then other organizations should be approached to avoid a 'sales pitch'. Diana suggested that Ottawa University be contacted, as they have an outreach associated with their summer camps at a nominal fee. Matt suggested another Ottawa University contact ("Bacon and Eggheads"), and Mark suggested contacting the Museum of Science and Technology. Another suggestion was to purchase coding board games for the parent resource library, and have some 'board game nights' (although the games could not be taken home by the parents).

ACTION ITEM: Nathalie will continue her research on a coding PRO-Grant opportunity, as it will have to be decided on within the next couple of weeks if it is to happen before the end of June 2017, and will send an email around to Council with the results.

ACTION ITEM: Tara will contact the Museum of Science and Technology.

10) Co-chairs report

The only item from the co-chairs that was not already covered was the start of the Silent Auction.

ACTION ITEM: Sacha will contact Catherine to see if she requires any volunteers to assist her with the beginning stages of the Silent Auction.

11) Principal's report

Mark thanked attendees for coming to the meeting tonight. Susan McDonald is the new school superintendent; she is a formerly retired superintendent who is back in the position until a permanent replacement is found.

The Destination Imagination team placed third on March 4th at École secondaire Paul Desmarais, and therefore earned the right to go to the provincials. The Engineering team placed second at the NRC.

March 3rd was the last movie night for this year, and was very well attended.

The student-staff volleyball game just before the March Break was enjoyed by both sides of the net.

Potential visit from Henry Burriss sometime during the week of April 10th, for Grade 4-6 students.

Camping Royale was a successful presentation by the Corpus Theatre Company.

Hip Hop dance for all grades starts March 22, 2017.

Education week is May 1st-May 5th, 2017; on May 2nd from 11:00-13:00, there will be an open house for parents with a "Math Across the Curriculum" focus.

Grade 6 students will be putting on a play in early May; Eagle Child - Tale about Forgiveness.

Choralie – The main event is on May 5th, with the choir kids in Gatineau all day.

Earth Hour is being celebrated by the school on March 24th. For one hour (13:45-14:45) everyone will be asked to shut off all lights/computers.

12) Volunteer Committee

Pina had sent out an email update before the meeting (see below), but Sacha reiterated that lots of parent volunteers are required (especially during the set-up period before the sale), so all Council members should be reaching out to Elgin parents and getting them interested!

Hi everyone,

I wanted to send out an update regarding book sale since I won't be there tonight.

We now have a lead organizer for the bake sale as well. So we are covered for book sale, silent auction and bake sale.

In early April I will be sending out another flyer, explaining book donations, class book tallies and prizes and how parent volunteer hours add to their child's class total. The other side will reiterate volunteer possibilities and who to contact.

I will be getting the banner updated in April.

Mutchmor will be contacted regarding borrowing shelves and the organization of that.

Mid to late April Tara will be starting volunteer recruitment for book sorting. I've set up the book sorting dates and will send those to Tara.

That's it for now. Thanks and have a great week! I'll be without WI FI for most of the next week .

*Ciao,
Pina*

13) OCASC report

Malaka was unable to make it to the meeting, but advised beforehand that there was no update as the next meeting is this Thursday.

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18th, 2017 at 5:30pm.

MOTION: To adjourn the March 21st, 2017, meeting - Motioned by Diana Mills, seconded by Sacha Singh, vote passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 19h13.

Action items from the January 31st, 2017 meeting

ACTION ITEM: Matt to add links on the Council's website to the OCASC and Board information regarding the accommodation review.

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MOTIONS from the March 21st, 2017 meeting

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