

WEJ SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINTUES

14 April 2014

Attendees

Co-Chair	Megan Cornell
Co-Chair	Brian Turner
Treasurer	Maggie Huang
Arc Transition Team	Joanne Irwin
Principal	Marilyn Burans

Jen Ljungstrom, Gail Campbell, Sandie Crumm, Cheryl M, Karen McBurney, Diana Lloyd

Welcome

Meeting called to order by Megan and attendees welcomed.

Agenda

Agenda approved by Cheryl and Karen.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of March meeting were reviewed and amended.

Volunteer Recognition

Sandie was recognised for her outstanding sustained regular contributions to the School Council and WEJ and presented the award by Megan Cornell.

Updates on Council Activities

Communications Committee

Brian confirmed that 366 parents/guardians were enrolled on the email programme with an open rate of approximately 70%. Meaningful subjects appear to be helping with the open rate. It was noted that individuals are able to easily unsubscribe from the emails with immediate effect should they wish. Cheryl suggested that the Council information regarding subscription to the council emails be put on school group and teacher blogs. It was also suggested that it appear on JK and MFI information supplied to parents.

Hard copy ticket invitations to the Lone Star Event will be sent out to parents. Future emails will include the Garage Rummage Sale donations and a review of the year's fundraising and money spent. Sandie commented that the Annual Report is available to all subscribers.

Events Committee

Megan reported that the committee were in favour of approaching families to donate proceeds from garage rummage sales held in May to WEJ. A poster would be supplied for them to advertise the donation. The intention is to gauge support for this initiative for future possibilities.

The Lone Star event is on Tuesday April 29th. Previously this event raised \$125 and it is hoped that more families will participate this time. Mrs Burans will include the event in school announcements and teacher blogs and suggested that posters be put up in school to

advertise the event among the student populace. Maggie suggested that the ticket process was not clear previously and Brian said this would be rectified on the ticket invites.

Parent Library

Jen announced that 75 books had been purchased with a further \$355.50 left to spend on more books. She has approached staff for suggestions and acted on these and has sought further suggestions from an education specialist who has recommendations. Mrs Burans suggested books on mental health and will be encouraging staff to suggest the resources to parents/guardians who might find the books useful and supportive. The current list of books is available on the website and Brian suggested an email be sent out. The school librarian, Mme Poiriet has catalogued the books. The process for loaning books is being developed.

There is a PRO Grant available for the upcoming year with the government looking favourably at grants for Math Programmes. It was suggested that a speaker for the pending Transition to Earl be considered although Sandie informed the committee that events were being planned at the new site to welcome new parents and students. Jen to make an application before the deadline on May 31st.

Treasurer's Report

The accounts had been fairly static for the period. The Pita Pit lunch funds raised were \$2152 with a few reimbursements still outstanding.

Opening Balance Sep 2013	\$2180.66
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Income

Interest	\$0.50
Parent Involvement Grant	£500.00
Parent Reaching Out Grant	\$1000.00
School Council Raised Funds	\$3295.21
SUM	\$4795.71

Expenses

Walk to School	\$179.85
Volunteer Recognition	\$30.00
Transfer Funds to WEJ	\$2000.00
PRO Books	\$84.00
SUM	\$2293.85

BALANCE	<u>\$4682.52</u>
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Events Committee

Movie Nights

Although the LEGO movie had been suggested as a possible for the next movie night, the rights to this film are not available. Megan suggested a film suitable for the older children might be welcome. Cheryl suggested a themed night, retro or 80's. Suggestions of Indiana Jones, Back to the Future, Star Wars etc, were made and Megan is to circulate the list of licensed movies available to Council. Mrs Burans reminded the Council that sports activities will be taking up evening activities. A Friday night was suggested for the film. Any film

would have to have a Universal or General rating and parents/guardians would be expected to stay.

380 tickets had been released for the last movie night and this seemed to be a manageable number with most participants arriving with tickets. The Event site is only accessible through email link and so should only attract WEJ participants.

Brian has donated his DVD player to the school.

Inter-School Council / Boundary Review

No meetings had been held since the last Council meeting although Megan had seen published that the site on Terry Fox and 2nd Line was due to be clear cut. The OMB outcome on the Innovation Site is due in the autumn and the boundary review is currently on hold.

There is a Transition Team Meeting on Monday 28th April.

Principal's Update

Copies of photos of the new reading materials purchased with Council funds are to be sent to Council for inclusion on the website.

Mrs Burans is meeting to decide on the spending of the Technology funds shortly.

Staff allocation is beginning to be considered as tentative projections on students are becoming available. New housing developments will continue to impact on student numbers and it is still possible that there will be a necessity to continue with split classes even at JK, SK and Grade 1.

Other Business

Outdoor Equipment – Jen noted that traditionally the Council has spent approximately \$100 on purchasing new playground equipment ie. balls, skipping ropes, Frisbees etc. Mrs Argue is usually approached regarding this and Jen has in the past purchased at discount on behalf of the school. The motion to approve \$100 spending on such equipment was made by Jen and 2nd by Karen. The motion was approved unanimously.

Student Placement Requests – Sandie enquired about student class placement parent requests. Mrs Burans said that requests could not be guaranteed but would be considered when student class allocations were made. The importance was for classes to be balanced and that the professional opinion of the teachers was paramount. There was a request to remind all parents of the process and Mrs Burans confirmed information will be made available.

Appreciation of Parent and Volunteers – Megan suggested a June date for an event to celebrate the contributions of teachers and all volunteers at the school. Jen said that in previous years a breakfast had been organised starting at about 7 am which allowed parent volunteers that work an opportunity to participate as well as teachers prior to students arriving.

The event includes contributions from teachers with a sign-up sheet being placed in the teacher's room. Further contributions were made by the Council. Mrs Burans to bring up with the staff and a Friday date will be put forward.

Brian requested that it be made clear to parent volunteers what the nature of the event was, ie informal breakfast without presentations. The teachers will be able to send invites to the parent volunteers and it is hoped that they will be able to explain the nature of the event in the invites.

Parent volunteering – Karen expressed a concern that parents be advised of the Board Policy that preschool children are not permitted to attend with a parent volunteer any volunteering opportunities at the beginning of the year.

School Council Gifts – Gifts to teachers leaving the school was raised. Books donated to the library on behalf of a teacher or potted plants were suggested.

Daily Physical Activity – Brian had been asked by parents about the DPA requirements and whether break time activities were included in this. Mrs Burans said that 40 mins a week were allotted separately to recess and PE (100 mins/week). Mrs Burans will be ensuring that the timetabling is accurate and provides the required DPA.

Council Teacher Representatives - Sandie announced that Mrs Holano and Mrs Jorgenson were to share the Teacher Rep role in the school council as of the next school year starting in September.