

WEJ SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 29, 2013

Attendees

Brian Turner	Co-Chair	
Megan Cornell	Co-Chair	
Maggie Huang	Treasurer	
Shelley Ma	Secretary	
Joanne Irwin	Arc Transition Team	
Marilyn Burans	Principle	
Gail Campbell	Non-Teaching Staff Rep.	
Zhong An	Ling Wang	Catherine Roberts
Brenda Campbell	Karen McBurney	Julie Zboril
Terri Heffernan	Rehana Rizwan	Chong Wang
Jennifer Ljungstrom	Sarah Machan	

Welcome

Brian and Megan welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Agenda

Agenda was approved for the meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of September 24th, 2013 meeting was accepted.

Volunteer Recognition

Megan Cornell on behalf of the 2013-14 school council recognized:

- Jennifer Ljungstrom and Sandi Cramm for their past year school council volunteer works
- Sarah Machan for her current year volunteer work to set up for school council web pages

Megan thanked them for their time and efforts spent. She would also like to get the message out to all parents and school staff to send council note for anyone they would like to recognize.

Update on Activities of Council

International Walk to School Day

Jennifer Ljungstrom updated on International Walk to School Day. More than 650 juice boxes handed out to participating students. Thanks for all volunteers' help to make it successful.

Walk to School stickers arrived late. School Council can use them for next year.

Pizza Lunch

Jennifer also updated on Pizza Lunch. On-line order worked well this year and was welcomed by parents. On average, 65 pizzas are distributed on a weekly base. Thanks to all the parent volunteers in helping out.

Communications Update

Brian Turner spoke on council communication issues. Thanks to Sarah Mechan for setting up School Council Face book and email distribution list.

School council webpage needs to be updated and linked to school page. School council would like to reduce paper notices if electronic communication methods can be used in reaching parents. Parents are encouraged to subscribe/like WEJ Council Face book page.

Parent Resource Library

Jennifer Ljungstrom spoke on the subject. We are waiting for the funding cheque to arrive. Bookcases are being offered and will be placed in the library. Please send Jennifer book ideas.

Inter-School Council Update

Megan Cornell gave an update on Inter-School Council

Megan attended Kanata South/North meeting the week before. On the meeting it was mentioned School Board has two Committee of the Whole meetings per month, plus a full Council meeting once a month. Parents can find agendas for meetings online and can attend in person and make representations on issues.

Boundary Review

Starting in December, school board will review school boundary for Kanata North. There is a possibility to build a new school in Kanata Tech area.

The 7th and 8th grade transition to Earl of March is underway. School assets will be proportionally transferred. Ear-marked funds will not be affected.

Transportation

Bus related transportation hazards to be brought to school attention. Snowplowing at bus stops is to be coordinated with city. Parents are encouraged to raise questions if any.

Earl of March Expansion Update

Joanne Irwin highlighted on Earl of March Expansion.

The addition for Grade 7 and 8th students will be built at the south end of current Earl of March school building along Campeau Drive. There will be a communication meeting to be held at Earl of March on Oct. 30th Wed. at 7pm. Parents are encouraged to attend the meeting to get more detailed knowledge of plan.

Plan to be submitted to ministry in Nov. If approved, construction will start in spring of 2014. Targeted date to finish is summer of 2015. School will receive its first students in September 2015.

Music room funding is still pending. If it is not approved, there is alternative design but it will affect the use of other classrooms.

Events Committee Update

Megan had spoken on the Events Committee:

Movie Night

It is scheduled for late Nov. Licensing to be approved. Children are to be accompanied by parents.

Winter Celebration

Committee is considering having an evening of music and fun for kids as well as parents. Date and format are to be discussed.

Family Dance

Committee suggested holding a family dance in Feb. Date to be announced.

BBQ

Committee suggested having a BBQ event in May. Funding and actual date are to be determined.

Fundraising Priorities and Ideas

Megan (or Brian both) updated on fundraising.

Fundraising Committee has yet to be formed. Council had distributed Input Requests to teachers for funding project ideas. Council will work with school to prioritize allocation of raised fund.

Projects suggested:

Paint in the Gym behind stage

IPads with Apps
Smart Boards for classrooms
Outdoor music instruments

While prioritizing fund allocation, Council needs to know more about school technology use across the Board. Tech policy for WEJ is to be discussed by parents.

Other fund raising ideas:

Seek computer donated from outside
Grocery store partnership

Alternative Lunch Program

Brian spoke about parents' interest on alternative lunch programs. Options to be considered:

Lunch Lady
Pizza: Additional of current once a week
Pita
Quiznos

Council will evaluate cost to parents, volunteer coordination request and fund raising value to determine if new lunch program be added.

Last council meeting, parents had shown interest to extend pizza program to Kindergarten class. Feedback from kindergarten classroom teachers is not to have it.

Treasure's Report

Co-signing of new chairs has yet to be updated. Brian and Megan will contact the bank to have it done.

\$500 grant for Parental Involvement and \$1000 grant Parent Reaching Out will be received soon. Per past year experiences, they were received around this time of the year.

Past year council raised fund (Pizza and Milk/Juice) were managed by the school. This year, council is looking into policy for allocation.

Allocation of Funds Motion

Megan spoke on the subject.

Motion: Move that four council executives can unanimously decide to spend up to \$50 per month to a maximum of \$300 per year.

Seconded: Rehana Rizwan

Passed: Unanimously

Principle's Update

Principle Marilyn Burans thanked those attended the meeting.

Terry Fox Walk September 26 was very successful.

Primary and junior students enjoyed Carp Fair Field Trip on September 27th.

Photo Day October 17th went off very well. Possible spring session if enough requests within school and would arrange for family photo opportunity at next year's photo day after school.

There have been a number of extra curricular activities: Cross Country, Football, Soccer, Band, Gr.8s attended World of Work Workshops at the Ernst and Young Conference Centre; Gr.5&6 English visited Museum of Nature.

PA day October 11th staff worked on School Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (SIPSA). Focus was Numeracy. Discussion on EQAO results was also part of the PA day. Staff discussed writing could be the focus for next SIP.

There will be a number of spooktacular activities planned on October 31.

Elementary Progress Report will be going home Thursday November 7th. Parent Teacher interviews will be on Thursday November 14th and Friday November 15th. Some Kindergarten interviews will be scheduled on other days to accommodate the number of students in FDK. On line interview scheduling will be continued this year.

School Fund Raising

Current programs are pizza lunch and milk/juice programs. WEJ's prices on these items are within the range in comparison to other schools. Fund generated from the two programs go into the School Generated Fund and reported on by the Principle at SC meetings. This year generated fund will be directed to technology, in school presentations/workshops, reading resources and to assist students in need.

On Remembrance Day, Monday November 11th, Gr. 7 & 8 students will be participating in the Remembrance Day Ceremony and Parade in Village Green Memorial Park. Gr. 1 to 6 students will attend Remembrance Day assembly in the school gym in the morning. Parents are invited to attend. Kindergarten students will remember with a short activity in the Library.

Meeting adjourned around 8pm.