



W. Erskine Johnson School Council

November 9, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Meeting commenced at 6:30pm.

Attendees: Principal Marilyn Burans, Vice Principal Colleen Robazza, Co-Chairs Shawn Armour & Ling Tian, Co-Treasurers Laura Cui & Julie Li, Secretary Lili O'Reilly and 15 parents. See attached attendance list.

Treasury Report

There is a balance of \$4067 in the school council bank account. No bank statement is available yet.

Teacher School Supply Grant

Discussion of giving teachers money from council for expensed items used in the classroom for educational purposes, approved by the principal. There are 36 full time teacher plus part time teachers (exact number unavailable) and approximately 550 students at WEJ. Discussion on how to distribute funds in a fair and equitable manner either by number of students or by classroom.

MOTION: Council resolves to reimburse teachers for expensed items for up to \$50 for classroom use. Estimate a maximum of \$2000 in total for all teachers. **Motion Approved.**

Hot Lunch Program Report - Brian

The Hot Lunch Program started this week. Online ordering system has 4 accounts unpaid. All 4 have been contacted, no previous non-payments, and have until the end of the month to pay up. Diana L. has the parent volunteers all scheduled.

Q: *What programs/services are available to those students unable to afford Hot Lunch meals?*

Staff is aware of which students with financial hardships and has some food staples set aside. In addition, there is usually an extra pizza and a few pitas available for mishaps, staff and needy kids. This question has been raised multiple times in past meetings.

Q: *How were Hot Lunches affected by the leaving of grade 7&8 students?*

Roughly about 60 pizzas per week last year (14 pizzas for gr 7&8s) versus about 40 pizzas this year.

Discussion: Introducing of other vendors to offer more food choices for students was debated. Vendors need OCDSB approval, volunteers needed, fundraising to council, impact on existing meals, how is food distributed, etc.

Discussion: Can we bring Lunch Lady to WEJ on Thursdays? A parent present at meeting was very familiar with the program and how it ran. 35 cents per meal is donated to council, no volunteers needed, online ordering system is different than HotLunches.net.

MOTION: Council votes to approve Lunch Lady for Thursdays as a third lunch option starting as soon as possible. Overwhelming majority approved. **Motion Passed.**

Ontario's Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant for 2015-2016

Parents Jennifer Ljungstrom & Megan Cornell's proposal of a Math Night for WEJ for \$1000 grant was accepted. They are looking for ideas and suggestions to implement a math night at WEJ.

Earl of March Intermediate Donation?

Council decided to give funds to teacher supply grants instead.



Poinsettia Plant Fundraiser/Hat Sale

Plants fundraiser through local Richmond Nurseries is starting this Wednesday. Flyer will be distributed tomorrow. Fleece hats will also be sold on online ordering system. Fleece hats are leftover inventory for a fundraiser two years ago. Fleece hats will cost \$10 each. Principal offered to make announcement over PA system this week.

Movie Night in December?

Pre-release movies available to rent include Hotel Transylvania, Minions. There is no Friday PD day is scheduled for December, which works best for movie nights.
No movie night planned for December.

Fundraiser Event in December?

Discussion on having a fundraiser in December included a Bake & Book Sale, Craft Fair, Gingerbread House Auction, and Cake Walk during school. Events like these require lots of parents to help and a parent(s) willing to invest a lot of time/effort.
No fundraiser event planned for December.

Principal's Report

Principal Marilyn Burans's report included:

\$700 raised for cancer by students, Remembrance Day ceremony in gym later this week with all 550+ students attending, tentative agreement with teachers union reached but not yet ratified, IEP info/notices sent home, progress reports w comments go home on December 11th, teacher-parent conferences likely will not take place.

Parent Discussion & Questions

Q: *Are there security issues of access with the front doors unlocked?*

Principal: All other school doors are locked with the exception of the front door. Having the door locked and using the doorbell to be buzzed for entry would be very disruptive to hallway area and office staff. Staff is vigilant using the camera to monitor who comes in. Newer schools are much better equipped to deal with locked doors and window views.

Q: *How are the busing issues (switching drivers, late drivers, wrong routes) being addressed by the school?*

Principal: The school has no control and limited means of addressing school bus issues. Parents are encouraged to contact the bus company directly at Ottawa School Bus Authority (www.ottawaschoolbus.ca).

Q: *What happens to students who don't send in the requested \$6 fee for primary grade student to attend a soccer workshop? Why is this soccer workshop being offered?*

Principal: Non-paying students will not be sent to the office during the soccer workshops. Teachers thought it would be a fun activity to engage the students.

Q: *Why don't the Kindergarten students get to order from the Hot Lunch program?*

Teachers choose not to participate, as the SK/JK students are too young, insufficient time for them, and very messy.

Q: *Can the school and school council communicate to the Chinese community via WeChat app?*

Principal: We [staff] are extremely busy and do not have enough time to communicate with parents beyond the website updates.



Council: Council has the website, <http://wejcouncil.ca>, an electronic newsletter parents can subscribe to, and a Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/WEJSchoolCouncil>. Co-Chair Ling uses the WeChat app, and can liaison to non-speaking English parents on WeChat.

Next school council meeting will be **Monday, January 11th** (the 2nd week of the month) at 6:30pm in the school library. THERE WILL BE NO DECEMBER MEETING.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.

Meeting minutes by Lili O'Reilly

Attendance



WEJ School Council Meeting 9 Nov 2015

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