

ELIZABETH SIMCOE SCHOOL

COUNCIL

BUILDING ON SUCCESS



School Council Minutes – Oct. 1, 2015

Attendees:

Arlene Knights, Alicia Edwards, Kim McLennan, Angela Dattoli, Tanya Massad, Cassandra Lake, Maheshi Thailakasena, Maaja Eichfuss-Clarke, Jo-An Wong, Shane McDonough, Sabrina Hayden, Stuart Rogers, Tanya Shahriar, Marialeisa Willan, Maria Christopoulos, Heather Lin, Lucy Medeiros, Rich Holt, Tara Kimberley, Anita Wright, Shirley Bernardo, Kathy Karakasidis, Roza Mangos, Karlyn Tunbridge, Renato Ciancusi

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of May 21, 2015 Minutes

- Review and approval of the May 21, 2015 meeting minutes

3. Principals Report - Arlene Knights

- Currently enrollment sits at 290 students (increase from 2014/2015 school year which had 272 students).
- Students are settling into the new school year – adjustments for Grade One students going well.
- Staffing – no reorganization required.
- First week welcome back assembly was held -- staff were introduced to the students – reviewed the school's code of conduct.
- Aussie X Movement (curriculum based initiative funded by School Council) visited the school in September and hosted multiple dance/activity session for all of the students. The group also participated at the "Welcome Back BBQ".

Labour Negotiations – EFTO

- A number of the Elizabeth Simcoe clubs and teams have started – the current labour negotiations haven't impacted activities with the exception of Wynne Wednesdays. Activities which have started and those soon to begin include:
 - Cross Country, Softball (2 teams), Kilometre Club, Flag Football, Borden Ball, Primary and Junior choir, and
 - Mad Science, Fun Factory and the Chess Institute are scheduled to begin in Oct. -- all activities may eventually be affected by the labour negotiations.
- Additional/extra teachers have volunteered to help out with extra-curricular activities.
- **Question:** What does a "Wynne Wednesday" look like at Elizabeth Simcoe?—*Extra-curricular activities are postponed on those days—the school's cross country team would have been affected however the TDSB has reorganized the days and all is working out at the present time.*
- TDSB is trying to work/manage the activity schedules as is the Union to minimize the impact on students.

- **Question:** What about the 3rd party activities? Are those affected? *At this time only the extra-curricular activities are being impacted.*
- **Question:** What is happening with the annual Kearney Outdoor Education trip? Has the trip been cancelled or rescheduled? *Arlene has contacted organizers. The school's allocated date was scheduled for the second week in Sept. Arlene made contact in August and indicated that was not a feasible date and has asked if there would be another time available during the year when the students will be able to attend—organizers are hoping to accommodate Elizabeth Simcoe students—parents and students will be kept informed of any developments.*
- **Question:** Is it possible for parents to meet with teachers? *Yes, but only during the school day 8:30-3:15—may come to become teachers only allowed to meet with parents with kids who have issues.*

Labour Negotiations – CUPE

- **Question:** Support staff work to rule—is there anything parent volunteers can do to help out with? *No, unfortunately parents cannot substitute in for this work—Arlene and her staff filling in with admin work and where necessary, caretaking issues.*
- Eco club may be able help with twig and garbage pick-up (school yard/exterior).

4. Sunshine Childcare Update

- Kim Rogers currently on vacation – no report issued.
- Should any parents of children currently attending Sunshine have questions or concerns regarding the EFTO labour negotiations please contact Kim directly (i.e. does the daycare stay open in the event of a strike?)

5. Treasurers Report – Anita Klubal

- Year-end summary report as well as the current school year budget shared with attendees
- Current balance of the school council account is approx. \$28,000.
- Major equipment purchases from Council fundraising initiatives in 2014/2015 school year included – sound equipment and Google Chrome Books.
- Motion to allow \$40 float to stay onsite with school administration passed.

6. Review of 2015/2016 Approved Activities

- Proposed activities originally presented and discussed at the May 21, 2015 meeting were reviewed.

School Council Funded Activities and Initiatives for the 2015/2016 School Year

Activity	Description	Cost
Spirit		

Website	Renewal of URL registration	\$150
Toronto Foundation for Student Success	Donation to Emergency Fund – addresses emergency needs of TDSB students	\$250
Grade 6 Graduation	Contribution to celebrations (yearbooks, medals, etc.)	\$850
Pancake Breakfast	Shrove Tuesday Breakfast (Feb. 15 2016)	\$150
School ECO Club	Contribution to school to support ECO needs	\$300
Staff Appreciation Gifts	Mid-year appreciation gifts to all school staff	\$280
Curriculum -Related		
Scientists in School	Hands on science workshops – classroom learning (one per classroom)	\$2716 (2015 cost—2016 cost subject to change)
Classroom Funds	Supplement incidental expenses for classroom materials	\$100 per teacher
Arts and Culture		
Choir Accompanist		\$500
Alice in Wonderland Production		TBD
Health & Wellness		
Physical Activity Equipment	Ongoing support for class recess bags	\$250
Anaphylaxis Education	Awareness workshop for staff and students	\$0
Physical Activity Workshop -- Rocks and Rings	December 2015	\$395
Physical Activity Workshop -- Variety Village Wheelchair Basketball Instruction	April 2016	Approx. \$5 per student
Physical Activity Workshop -- Aussie X	<i>X Movement</i> is a curriculum based program focused on exploring movement in a high energy, safe and fun environment. (all students involved over two days)	\$3135.75
Other		
	TDSB liability insurance; cheques; deposit materials; postage; etc.	\$300

- Grade 6 graduation costs exceeded budget as a result of Year Book revisions.

- **Question:** Can the year book be done for the entire school—*unfortunately it is very difficult to coordinate this project to involve the entire school at this time. Moving forward, should a teacher and parent volunteer come forward the potential for this could be discussed.*
- Eco club did not spend any of its allotted funds during the 2014/2015 school year.
- Staff appreciation gifts are also provided to support staff.
- The 2016 production of *Alice in Wonderland* will use the same budget as proposed for the Glass Slipper production.
- **Question:** Did parents know the school council paid for all of these discussed activities? *No—a number of parents assume the events and initiatives held throughout the school year are paid by/ through TDSB.*
- Council needs to promote itself and the activities it organizes and fund more—perhaps the council needs to have a communications coordinator—maybe do a parent council blog—it needs a volunteer to come forward to facilitate these activities—Stuart suggested we need to brand ourselves.
 - A subcommittee may need to be formed – Heather, Joanne, Rich, Maria, Kathy will further discuss –report back next meeting.
- Pizza lunch forms will be distributed during the week of Oct. 5—volunteers should contact Angela and/or Karlyn
- Shirley, Tanya, and Alicia will be shadowing Anita during the 2016 Dance-a-Thon
- **Question:** What is the current school operating budget –*Elizabeth Simcoe has been allocated this year we have \$52,000 for the 2015/2016 school year.*

7. Fundraising report

2015/2016 Fundraising Goals

- 2015/2016 fundraising efforts to be allocated to the ongoing activities and initiatives presented in addition to the proposed playground structure purchase and installation.
- \$20-25,000 is required to purchase the playground structure (this price is highly discounted by an identified supplier who has offered to discount the equipment for Elizabeth Simcoe JPS) Arlene is currently negotiating with TDSB with regards to the structure installation.
- Council provided \$15,000 in the 2014/2015 school year to purchase Google Chrome Books for the school – moving forward Council is refocusing its efforts on the playground fundraising.
- The annual silent auction fundraiser will need to be replaced for 2016. This event is typically the major fundraiser of the year.
- School Council received a \$500 donation at the “Welcome Back BBQ”—private donation
- Arlene and others are also working with the TDSB to secure the donation of 10 trees
- Fundraising options associated with the trees and playground structure includes plaques for trees, benches, etc.—all of these can generate dollars for the school
- QSP campaign has been postponed for the current school year.

Direct Donation Option

- Suggestion of direct donation presented – more discussion is required to flush out the logistics associated with this fundraising option.

Sub-Committee Meeting

- Stuart to host a sub-committee meeting to further discuss current and proposed fundraising and marketing activities .

8. Upcoming events

- Pizza Lunch – forms to be sent home with students w/o Oct. 5.
- One pizza lunch per month for the remainder of the school year.
- Angela Hetherington once again coordinating – anyone interested in volunteer please let Angela or Karlyn know.

9. Elections for 2015/2016 Council:

- There are currently four executive member positions on the School Council (Chair, Fundraising/ Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary) in addition to the position(s) voting member at large.
- Council must always maintain a quorum.
- Parents not wanting to hold a voting or executive role are still encouraged to participate in the monthly meetings – share ideas, suggestions, etc.

2015/2016 School Year School Council Executive Positions

- The following executive positions were acclaimed:
 - Vice Chair/ Fundraising Chair: Stuart Rogers
 - Treasurer: Anita Klubal
 - Secretary: Kim McLennan
- Two candidates have been identified for the Council Chair position: Karlyn Tunbridge and Maria Christopoulos.
- Following notification (e-blast and “take-home” notices) to the school community a vote will be held to fill the position.
- The entire school community (each parent) is encouraged to participate and is provided with the opportunity to vote for their preferred candidate (vote to be held Oct. 16, 2015).

10. Other Business

- Basketball hoop(s) – need to get a removable/breakaway frame – Kim and Anita to source
- Spirit wear – discussion postponed to fundraising meeting
- Karlyn to pick up bulk supplies needed (i.e. paper plates, stamps, envelopes, etc.)
- ***Next council meeting TBD following Council Chair elections.***