

Elizabeth Simcoe School Council Minutes – Nov. 24, 2016

Attendees:

Karlyn Tunbridge, Alicia Edwards, Tanya Massad, Anita Wright, Lara Pingue, Sabrina Hayden, David Paton, Kim Rogers, Shirley Bernardo, Renato Ciancusi, Joe Pochodyniak, Maria Pochodyniak, Melissa So, Kevin Willan, Kim McLennan, Kathy Karakasidis, Lucy Medeiros, Stuart Rogers, Kerri Commisso, Maria Christopoulos, Arlene Knights, Cassandra Lake, Stuart Rogers, Aleksandra DiPietro, Maaja Eichfuss-Clarke, David Knight

1. Welcome

2. Approval of Sept 2016 Minutes

- Review and approval of Oct. minutes

3. Principal's Report – Arlene Knights

- Reporting and interview process recently wrapped up—learning goals highlighted, opportunity for parents, students and teachers to discuss development, etc.
- A number of extra-curricular activities underway including the equity student committee – this group has been very busy over the last number of years – In addition to the recent “Scare Hunger” campaign, the group has developed a report discussing the activities they will be involved with including arts and Indigenous culture – workshop and art activity has been organized with students (rock painting) This committee has gone from staff modeling to students organizing—all these actions benefit the greater school community.
- Annual school budget has been presented – \$51,033 –covers all expenditures for the year. Slight increase from 2015/2016 budget – \$49,000. Each TDSB school is provided funds based on a formula factored in part by student enrollment.
- Budget allocations include: Professional development, instructional supplies, textbooks, furniture, technology, field trips, sports equipment, library, telecommunications, music
- **Questions:** *Would donations help with the budget? – Yes, they are greatly appreciated – Kleenex, books, toys, craft supplies, etc. (toys and books dependant on condition).*

Is there a system/procedure in place to handle the donations – If you can't find a teacher to benefit from it directly, you can leave the items with the office.

Do you have preferred suppliers or can you source supplies anywhere? – We have board approved vendors.

Does the occasional teacher release cover sick days? No.

Do you combine classes when there are larger events to cut down on occasional teacher release costs – yes.

Where do the funds come from for tissues, toilet paper – Caretakers have a small budget but not tissues and hand towels – now those items come from instructional supplies.

Do you have spend the entire budget each year or can you carry the dollars forward? – we can carry over if there is a specific need with highlight – notice to the board

In terms of monetary donations – is there a max amount – any donation from parents goes directly into the line item with the TDSB – the money stays within the Elizabeth Simcoe budget.

- Council will post items in need on the school website.
- Financial assistance is provided when needed to students for field trips. School Council also provides financial support for those in need for pizza lunch.
- Parent Council fundraising plays a key role during the school year in order to facilitate special equipment purchases and/or special programming.

4. Sunshine Childcare – Kim R

- Christmas Break registration now underway
- Popcorn fundraiser huge success – raising funds for new gym equipment
- Thank you to Melissa for hosting a great dance class with the kids

5. Treasurers Report – David

- Current council budget: \$55,293.29
- Paid for jerseys from money from last year
- **Question:** *Has the School Council considered off- setting the costs of field trips? – All of the funds are currently allocated to programming and the playground purchase/installation – Council will review budget allocations in June for the upcoming school-year.*

6. Communications Report

- Website updates ongoing—be sure to check the calendar for events, updates etc.
- Heather has organized logistics for the first parent community workshop – Anti-Bullying
 - Workshop will be facilitated by Gary Crossdale – who will speak to the *Safe Schools Act*
 - Funds from the grant money will cover costs associated with childcare and refreshments
- **Question:** *Is there anything material sent out to parents/families that discusses conflict resolution? Expectation from the board is that communication is going to be respectful – develop understanding – Code of Conduct can be found on the TDSB website and in the student agenda.*

7. Other Business

- **Nitwits:** Alicia has organized two visits for the school—Jan. 23 and Mar. 27
 - Two visits will cost \$750 (\$3 per student) and they bring the supplies
- **Movie Night:** Moved back to original date of Jan. 27
- **Upcoming School Activities:**
 - Scholastic Book Sale: Dec 6-8
 - Holiday Concert: Dec. 8

- Rocks and Rings – Dec 13, 14
 - Duffle Bay Theatre – Jan. 27
- **Simcoe Ice Rink:** Bill Wilson coordinating the construction – school council to help offset the cost of new tarp
- **Spirit Wear:** Clothing ordered – items expected to arrive week of Dec.12
- **Valu-Mart:** Rebate program for parents to kick-off in 2017 (5% discount card offered with funds matched by store)
- Ren to reinstate **Flip Give** program in time for the holidays
- **Staggered Start Time:** Further discussion regarding the current staggered start time for students to take place in Jan. Council to discuss and decide at the next meeting should a sub-committee need to be organized for this topic/issue. If this is the case, a motion will be presented and a vote held, per the operational procedures for School Council.
- **TDSB Pupil Accommodation Review:** Jerry Chadwick presented current recommendation which includes having Elizabeth Simcoe JPS designated a capital priority project. New build proposed on the existing site which will house 452 students and transition to a K-8 school with gifted program. If the Board approves the commencement of the Pupil Accommodation Review, the process will begin Jan.2017. Further information is available via TDSB website.

Next Meeting: Jan. 12