

Elizabeth Simcoe School Council Minutes – March 2, 2017

Attendees: Alicia Edwards, Anita Wright, Cindy Kosa, David Paton, Denise Byard, Fritz Toch, Heather Lin, Janna Solman, Joe Pochodyniak, Karlyn Tunbridge, Kathy Karakasidis, Kim McLennan, Kim Rogers, Lara Pingue, Larissa Bholaramsingh, Lucy Medeiros, Maaja Eichfuss-Clarke, Maria Pochodyniak, Melissa So, Ren Ciancusi, Roza Mangos, Shirley Bernardo, Tanya Massad

1. Welcome

2. Approval of Jan. 2017 Minutes

- Review and approval of Jan. minutes

3. Principal's Report – Janna Solman

- One month complete – thank you the students, staff and parents for the warm welcome
- School council sponsored activities and regular school programming/clubs are keeping the students/school community busy – Dance-a-thon, pancake breakfast, mental health workshop, diversity committee, games club, volleyball and hockey teams, etc.
- 2017-2018 staffing numbers to be released in March – more information to be shared at the April meeting
- March 9 – students and staff will be participating in FoodShare's *The Great Big Crunch* <http://foodshare.net/program/crunch/> – supporting food literacy
- May 8-12 – Children's Mental Health Week – looking to include specialized programming for students (i.e Toronto Public Health)
- **PARC Update**
 - TDSB has presented the PARC Committee with a number of options to review
 - Each option includes pros and cons all of which will be discussed and reviewed with appropriate data/rationale
 - TDSB concentrating on options that present the least amount of disruption for the students
 - Recommendation to be presented Spring 2017
 - New schools to be opening Sept. 2021
 - Upcoming public meeting scheduled for April 20 at Wilfred Laurier High School
 - Both of the new school designs (Elizabeth Simcoe and Poplar) will include day care facilities

4. Sunshine Childcare – Kim R

- Staffing changes underway
- Recent dance class with Melissa was a great success
- March break programming and trips planned
- Summer Camp and Fall programming information will be available in April

5. Treasurers Report – David

- Current council budget: \$53,545.07
- Using funds acquired through fundraising efforts – recently purchased a spotlight and sound board to be used in productions and assemblies – approx. \$1,750 spent from the \$3,000 allocated for the purchase

6. Communications Report

- Website updates ongoing—be sure to check the calendar for events, updates etc.
- Sabrina working to maintain a consistent communication flow with the school community (promoting upcoming events, initiatives, programming, etc.)
- Reminder for parent to sign up for the Valu-Mart discount program running until April – parents receive a 5% discount on purchases and Elizabeth Simcoe receives matching funds

7. Fundraiser – Simcoe Social

- Scheduled for May 13 at Aces
- Event committee organizing logistics
- Smaller scale event this year but will still include raffles and auction items (i.e. classroom baskets, silent and live auction and 50/50 draw)
- Event promotion to begin April 1st
- Ticket price: \$10 each or 2 for \$15
- Anyone looking to donate items or assist with the event should contact Karlyn
- Melissa and Kathy to look into a few additional items for a potential Mother’s Day raffle item

8. Playground Update

- Janna and Maaja followed up with the TDSB regarding concerns raised with the PARC committee – installation of the new playground will begin Spring 2017
- Design plans have been finalized and TDSB will pay for installation and AODA required equipment modifications
- Council fundraising will cover the equipment purchase
- Thanks go to Maaja for all her efforts to move this initiative forward
- Recognition plaque will be created and displayed for the support provided by Play Power
- New trees provided through the grant program expected to be delivered Spring 2017(replacement of the ash trees previously removed)
- Future fundraising efforts may need to focus on experience based rather than tactile /rejuvenation in light of the ongoing PARC recommendation

9. Upcoming Events/Updates

- **Workshops**
 - Mental health workshop – fairly well attended (30) great speakers, lots of great information and resources provided – handouts will be posted on the Elizabeth Simcoe website

- Next workshop (April/May) will focus on internet security and cyber bullying
- Heather researching potential speakers
- Heather to begin drafting the grant application for the 2017-2018 school year – application due May 25
- Any volunteers interested in helping out to organize next year’s workshop series should contact Heather
- **Dance-a-Thon**
 - Very successful fundraising event – approx. \$4800 collected after expenses, students and teachers had a great time, thanks to all of the volunteers
 - Lucy researching options to purchase branded canopy(s) -- fundraising dollars
- **Basketball Nets Installation**
 - As backboards are now required to have the two new outdoor nets installed, Janna and Ren will follow-up with suggested suppliers to purchase the appropriate boards – Council to provide necessary funds
 - TDSB will install the nets/backboards in Spring 2017
- **Foot Hockey Mini Nets**
 - Council to provide funds for two sets of foot hockey nets to be used by the students during recess/lunch periods – Janna to order
- **Spring Concert**
 - April 27 – selected classes and both choirs will be performing
- **Orff music Program Equipment Request**
 - Council to provide funds for the purchase of a bass xylophone
- **Wizard of Oz**
 - May 25 – Karlyn and Cindy working with the students – Janna suggested a Wizard of Oz teaser at the spring concert as a promo for the show
 - A concession will be set-up once again this year
- **Movie Night**
 - Originally scheduled April 28 – Karlyn looking at alternative options and will discuss at April meeting
- **Big Box of Cards Fundraising**
 - Rosa to contact organizers to schedule our fall fundraising request
- **Digital Yearbook**
 - Kathy and Rich to research options – further discussion at April meeting

Next Meeting: April 6