

Elmdale School Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, 17 April 2019, 6:00pm

Welcome and Open Meeting

The 6th meeting of the 2018/2019 Academic Year was called to order by the Co-Chairs, Jordan C. and Larry G., at 1807 hrs.

In attendance:

Alison Zinni	Amanda Ethier	Anne-Marie Bouchard
Bryce C	Carolyn LeBlanc	Christie McInnes
Erin Heatherington	Holly Kardish	Isabelle Flannigan
Jen Allen	Jennifer Cavin	Jessica Shehan
Jordan Clark	Kelly Voros	Kimberly Patriquin
Larry Shamash	Monique Sack	Natasha Beg
Suzie Munrow	Tracy Davidson	

1. Welcome and open meeting

Co-Chairs reviewed minutes from the previous meeting. Christie M. moved to accept minutes; Natasha B. seconded the motion; the motion was carried and the minutes were accepted.

2. Grow Towers

Presentation from Kelly V.: The Kindergarten classes have had a very positive experience with the Grow Towers that were purchased with funds from this Council.

They've had numerous harvests, eaten lots of the greens themselves and even sold some bags of kale. She is requesting further funds for a third Grow Tower because it has been so successful and well received thus far. Motion was unanimous to support the purchase of a third Grow Tower.

3. Art Club

Artist in the Hallway: a local artist has been painting in the hallway and classes have been coming down to visit. It's been very well received by students, staff and parents alike.

Each grade in the school has had (or will soon have) some Arts related activity. After all expenses were paid, there is 300\$ remaining in the Arts budget, so this amount will be contributed towards bringing a Stilt Walker from the Ottawa Circus School come to Fun Fair. This required a small transfer of funds (\$82) from the Healthy Earth Group to the Art Club to pay for this. There was a motion to approve the use of the remaining funds for Stilt Walker, as well as the transfer of funds from Healthy Earth to the Arts Club; motion was carried.

4. Renew Elmdale – Reno Update

Larry S. provided an update on the renovation. The Site Survey is not yet approved; there will be a traffic analysis conducted next week. The Site Survey is the next milestone, and our point of contact at the OCDSB was optimistic that the project is still on track to start in July.

The Open House at Century School will take place on May 19 from 5-7 pm. There are tee shirts on order that the Principal hopes to give to all Elmdale students on their first day of school (in Sept 19). The plan is to have white shirts for JK-grade 5 and grey shirts for the Grade 6s for school year 2019/2020. For the Open House though, grey shirts will be given to the current grade 5 students, (who will be grade 6 next year); they will be tour guides for the parents and families during the open house.

Some art from Elmdale will be brought to Century prior to the open house so that there are some familiar sights at Century. The school will be mostly empty of furniture during the Open House.

There's a banner / sign being ordered, and communications have gone out to neighbors around that school to make them aware this Open House is taking place.

2. Chair's Report and Comments

- Recently, the Co-Chairs went through all the previous Minutes to ensure there are no outstanding items that were noted in previous minutes but are not yet actioned. There are a few minor items that require action, most notably a review of the Charter. This is the notice to all that the next meeting will include a review of the Council Charter.
- Principal's Assessment: this is an annual requirement. The report needs to be updated for our Principal – this will be done for the next meeting; the points of contact are Natasha B. and Erin H.
- Hot Lunches: there was question raised WRT Hot Lunch payments, and why this is done in sessions as opposed to lump sum. Jordan provided an update that explained why this is done. The practice will continue, though the next year's Hot Lunch program will be different due to the move to Century.
- Update from Hot Lunch provided by Amanda E: An average of \$15,000 is raised each year by Hot Lunch program (Subway, pizza, coffee and calendars). It's always the same individuals (group of ~10), so this is heavily reliant on a very small group of people. In consideration of the upcoming move to Century, the current Coordinators have some ideas: one/two person from Council could each take a week to coordinate that week's meal. The Grade 6 students could possibly take care of some of the delivery of the food, but a parent/council member needs to coordinate this. There are 40 weeks of school, so there are approx 18 weeks of pizza and 13 weeks of Subway.
 - An idea is that we could use Google docs to coordinate volunteers, because that would be a more visual document that could hold people more accountable to volunteering once they've signed up.
 - Approx 400 students order pizza and approx 60 students order Subway each time.

- Suggestion to open it to grandparents / others vice only parents (fully supported by the current Coordinators).
- An idea from the floor to get the grade 6 students to be more involved.
- An idea is to pay the pizza delivery driver a bit more to ensure he'll deliver to the new location which is further away.
- For now, Amanda E. will discuss the pizza contact to see if he is willing to drive out to Century; perhaps we'd pay him more to deliver further (noting that he needs to make two trips in order to fit the 96 pizzas in his vehicle).

3. Principal and Vice-Principal's Report

There are 22 classes now, and we anticipate having 22 classes next year. It will likely be 5 blended kindergarten classes. 50 JKs are expected, compared to 74 SKs (so fewer enrolled next year compared to the number who started this year).

There are currently two classes that have more than 20 per class; the cap is 20, but 10% of classes in the entire OCDSB can break the cap, up to 23 kids.

Projected vs actual numbers are quite similar so far. The Principal is looking to assign teachers, but this info is not known/published yet. It's technically still considered tentative by OCDSB HR until end October.

There are 19 classes at Century, meaning we will need 3 portables for the student population. We've also asked for 2 extra; one in case class population grows, and one for storage (because there's no basement there). They will likely transport the ones from here to the new location.

There's Bus Evacuation Training for the kids coming up soon; this is an annual drill, but is even more pertinent this year since more kids will be riding the bus next year.

Principal of one of schools in the district, Arch Public School, has asked for assistance from other schools in the districts; many students are having trouble meeting provincial standards and the school in general has a lot of social-economical challenges. The Principal of that school is asking if any more fortunate schools would be willing to donate funds in order to purchase items for some of that student body (ie. Sports equipment, sunscreen etc).

Discipline: when students are referred to the office, the office staff try to phone home but there are often confidentiality issues, so the office staff can't disclose all events. The children however can go home and tell their parents their own story. They use an approach called Progressive Discipline; sometimes the consequence is difference for different kids. Sometimes there is remorse, other times the child is not accepting responsibility.

Educational Assistants: Every year, schools need to apply for the educational assistants; these are assigned to the school, and the school administrators can assign these resources internally.

5. Committee updates and Discussion

- a) Finance: See the enclosed Treasurer's report. Highlights: opening balance was \$75K; closing balance was \$83K

- b) Fundraising: Bike sale is coming up 4 May 19; emails have been sent to all parents. Tracy D. provided an update on what is happening during the Spring Bike Sale.
- c) Communications: Fisher Park school recently asked for more info about how we used social media – we are seen as leaders in the community as to how communication is done.
- d) Education: no update at this time.
- e) Safe Travel Planning: The Winter Walk to School day took place (after two postponements due to bad weather). Kids had fun and wrote on a large poster about how they would stay active next year when they bus to school. Bike to School Week is coming up; dates will be circulated, as well as some grade 4-specific activities for bike safety.
- f) Healthy Earth: Earth Day is Monday (which is Easter Monday so school is closed). Many presenters coming into the school to speak to classes about a very wide range of topics. Each class will go to at least one presentation.
- g) OCASC: The main issue at the Feb meeting was the new physical education curriculum; revised budget was discussed. Liability and risk were discussed at length by some guest speakers (i.e. as they related to Bouncy castles, climbing walls). Parents Lifeline of Eastern Ontario (PLEO) did a presentation to share more info about the services provided by that organization.
- i) Elmdale Cares: update not available; Principal will talk to the point of contact regarding the possibility of the Elmdale Care group sponsoring Arch Public school.

6. Close meeting and Points from the Floor

The next meeting will be held 22 May (4th Wed of the month, vs the usual 3rd Wed of the month) because the May 14th is the Open House at Century school. As that is our last meeting of the year, it will be a Potluck.

Next year we'll likely have our meetings at Fisher Park – this will need to be booked asap in order to reserve that for next year. Principal will look into this.

The meeting was adjourned at 1945 hrs.

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 22nd at 6pm in the library.