

## **Elmdale School Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, 30 January 2019, 6:00pm**

### **Welcome and Open Meeting**

The 4th Elmdale School Council meeting of the 2018/2019 Academic Year was called to order by the Co-Chairs, Jordan C. and Larry S., at 1805 hrs.

#### **In attendance:**

Adam B	Bryce C	Erin H	Jeanette S	Larry S	Rita C
Alison Z	Caroline H	Holly	Jordan C	Lindsay W	Suzie M
Andrea A	Carolyn L	Holly K	Julie N	Meghan M	Trevor F
Anne-Marie B	Christie M	Isabelle F	Kimberly P	Monique S	Vanessa S

### **1. Welcome and open meeting**

Co-Chairs reviewed minutes from the meeting that took place on 21 November 2018. Caroline H. moved to accept minutes; Christie M. seconded the motion; the motion was carried and the minutes were accepted.

### **2. Chair's Report and Comments**

- Co-Chairs have been very busy with multiple meetings regarding Renew Elmdale since the last meeting in November. Larry G. recapped the community meeting that took place on 10 Dec 18.
- A meeting took place at City Hall last week with city officials, school board employees and citizens. Three main points were raised regarding the renovation: 1) safety, 2) esthetics, (i.e. type of fencing involved, moving green space from one part of the yard to another; and 3) traffic flow. The meeting was more for Jeff Lieper (Ottawa City Counselor) to gather information from various stakeholders. Another important meeting, an 'Open House', will take place at Fisher Park School in a few weeks (date TBC) that will provide a forum for parents, residents and others to voice their concerns.
- There will be a meeting on 4 Feb 19 at the School Board; it is a budget meeting to finalize the budget for the renovation. The current estimate is approximately \$11M; more to follow with regards to attendance at that meeting.
- Transition to Century: Council is starting to brainstorm a list of activities and events that we could facilitate the transition to Century. Principal Flannigan advised that Council can use the rooms or grounds at Fisher Park to host events if there isn't sufficient space at Elmdale.
  - WRT Mothercraft – plan is to have Elmdale Mothercraft take place at Hilson Public School for the duration of the move to Century. More to follow with regards to this plan (i.e. numbers of students, bussing times, food preparation area, etc).
  - Pizza lunch: this is a major fundraiser for Council, but we won't be able to get this program going at Century because it will be too difficult to get volunteers. We will need to have another meeting to discuss this activity, as well as the other

- fundraising events.
- Principal Flannigan's ideas / banner for Century: a transition group has been formed with teachers and staff to help plan the transition to Century.
  - There will be in-school training about riding the bus. This will take place in mid-May for all students.
  - Some art that was produced by Elmdale students for the calendar could be made into posters and brought to Century to bring some familiarity and Elmdale school spirit to the new space.
  - Could make a few banners to bring to Century to add Elmdale school spirit.
- Update on Grade 6 Survey: more to follow during another meeting; Council has not received any information to share at this time.
- Final Scope and Visit to Broadview: Co-Chairs and Principal visited Broadview recently to see some ideas and best practices that were incorporated into the school. Devonshire was also mentioned as a school that is more similar to what the renovated Elmdale will be like once completed.
- Update on timelines, decisions etc: all indications at this time are that the renovation will be accomplished within the planned timeline. In other words, all planning is that this relocation will be for only one school year.

### **3. Principal and Vice-Principal's Report**

- 40 registration packages were given out at the Kindergarten night.
- 27 JK registered as of today, compared to current enrolment of 71, but this is not unusual at this point of the school year.
- Student cap is 0, which means there can be no students from outside the zone.
- Message from Coach Pete (not present but sent a note with Principal): thank you to Council for helping to fund Tier 2 spots. There were 72 students involved, many of whom had never played any competitive sports before. The sports also had tremendous positive support from parents. Would like to continue to include Tier 2 athletics, in order that twice as many students can participate in sports.
- Scientists have been in the school
- Grow Towers – there will be an update at the next meeting about these.
- Pixelart was very a popular activity in the school and was very well received by students and teachers alike.
- School learning plan – continuing to work with math
- Slide show with some photos of Century and the schoolyard. Very large outdoor space; park across the road. No furniture – we bring Elmdale furniture.

### **4. Presentation from Jeanette Sautner – Scouting Commissioner**

- Jeanette thanked the parents and school for the support (including the storage space!) over the past few years.
- 90th anniversary of Scouting this year, and many of those years were hosted at Elmdale.
- In light of the move to Century next year, she is looking for other places to meet. She would like to stay local for the transition year and then the group would like to come back to Elmdale when it opens again next year.
- She is looking for a new Group Commissioner, as she is moving overseas next

year.

## **5. Committee updates and Discussion**

- a) Finance: See the enclosed Treasurer's report.
- b) Fundraising: Bookfest is coming up in a few weeks. Lots of volunteers will be needed.
- c) Communications: a lot of communications in preparation for Bookfest. There will be an article in the Kitchissippi Newsletter
- d) Education: workshop coming up on 28 Feb, emails have been sent out to sign up. Usually around 60 parents come. There's pizza and babysitting.
- e) Safe Travel Planning: Tracy came to the mtg with Jeff Leiper a few weeks ago and she was very well aware of the concerns, and able to speak about the safe commuting aspect. She was able to reiterate that these issues exist currently at Elmdale, and will continue to exist after the renovation; commuting challenges are therefore not necessarily linked to the renovation.
- f) Healthy Earth: will do another reminder for colour recycling, seems to be very popular with the kids. The idea of a Mud Kitchen in the primary yard was raised; this was an idea from a few years ago, but Council decided that this is probably not a good idea for now since we are going to be moving in a few months.
- g) Arts: Pixilation and Comic workshops recently; very good feedback from the students. They are planning similar idea for next year. Always looking for new ideas and feedback from previous ideas. Idea to bring in a dance troop in March. Perhaps a drumming session and some Improve. We will potentially participate in "Music Monday" (May 6?).
- h) OCASC: Minutes are not posted yet, but they would like OCASC members to be prepared to vote WRT the Modern Health and Physical Education curriculum. The issue at hand is which curriculum schools will teach – what was taught in 2015 versus the current day situation where the curriculum from the 1990s is being taught. Council voted: more than 50% of parents concurred that our OSCAC rep can vote on Elmdale's behalf at the next mtg for OCASC to take further action on this point.
- i) Elmdale Cares: more follow up to come at next meeting. *Me to We Club* raised approximately \$1,000 in December. They chose some very deserving causes to support; thinking they may support a mental health initiative with their next events.

## **6. Close meeting and Points from the Floor**

With this very cold weather, concerned were raised about skating at Fisher Park. Recently, the portable at Fisher Park was locked during a class skating trip; it was expected to be open, but since there was no access, some kids were very cold. The Principal reiterated that the School Board has established a lower limit of -25 (it was -20 on the day in question) for staying indoors during recess.

The meeting was adjourned at 1950 hrs.

**Next meeting: Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the library.**