

Elmdale School Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 17, 2024
Hybrid Meeting

In attendance:

In Person

Kimberly Patriquin
Andrea Anastassiades
Firas Nasser
Natasha Beg
Jenny Becker
Lindsay Crawford
Sherine El-Medani
Stephen Froom
Liz Shouldice
Kat Hoysted
Tanya Christidis

Nadine Saikaley
Lynne Belanger
Sofia Robichinsky
Kouka Sawadogo-Lewis
Megan Hamilton

Virtual

Amanda Ethier
Erin Hetherington
Holly Kardish
Rae-Anne Moss
Traceylyn Watchorn
Richard Stephens
Mildred Leung
David Froom
Liz Majic
Teresa Hanna
Jessica Robinson

WELCOME

Co-Chairs welcomed everyone to the meeting. Past minutes were accepted. It was noted that the order of agenda items would be changed to accommodate members who need to leave early.

ARTS COMMITTEE UPDATE:

- Provided additional details on the mural installation “Stream of Dreams” first proposed at last meeting.
 - This is a “mural in a box” that includes a live virtual workshop for each classes, education on rideau valley waterways and all materials for each child to create their own decorated fish. All fish would be attached to fence and face outward to the community.
 - The budget previously estimated at \$3,500 but only included certain grades. The committee is now proposing the whole school participates for cost of \$10,500 (approximately \$15/student).
 - Timeframe could be May/June, with 6 workshops/day, taking approximately 1 week for whole school.
- Given the cross-cutting themes, it was proposed that Arts Committee could share budget with other committees e.g. Healthy Earth, EDI, etc. (approx. \$3,000).
- It was also proposed that dedicated donations could be solicited from the community at bookfest (approx. \$4,000).
- The committee is also looking into grants, though it is unknown how much we could get or for this school year. They will report back at next meeting.
- Question: What would younger students get out of it? How would education be tailored to each age group? Response: There is a different style of information dissemination targeted to each age group.

- Comment: It's a lot of money and we should be mindful of the perception by our community; we want to ensure that we are being equitable with other school councils without this many resources.
- Suggestion: We could solicit parent payment for a portion of the cost, as well as fundraising at bookfest.
- Question: How does organization spend the money? Response: They are a not-for-profit organization and funds go towards office administration, time to prepare program, covering their costs etc.
- Action: Arts committee to take back comments and come up with a plan to be presented at next meeting.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE UPDATE:

- Fundraising is having another great year through pizza, subs, spirit wear, coffee and tea, etc.
- Bookfest kick off meeting was held last night. More information on book collection/sorting to come. Book donations will start January 29th; dates for community drop-offs/sorting nights to follow.
- Update on missing floor mats after move from Century, the school board has agreed to cover a one-time replacement cost of the mats.
- Sophia and Meghan have taken the lead for hotlunches moving forward.
- Motion: Propose that Council approve the purchase of two more square readers. Cost is \$400 each and they will run off school wifi.
 - Liz moved and Natasha seconded. All approved. Motion passed.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

- PA day will take place next week. Focus will be learning on report card writing for educators.
- Swim to Survive – an OCDSB drowning/injury prevention program provided to all grade 3 students. It is run through lifesaving society and is beneficial for kids who might not otherwise have access to lessons. Due to lifeguards shortages, currently two of the four grade 3 classes have been booked. The remaining two classes are expected to be booked soon.
- There will be sessions in March on anti-bullying training for staff (March 19th) and a hybrid presentation for parents (March 28th, 6:30pm).
- Staff wish list update:
 - Books for EDI - compiled list, not fully spent, but solid plan in place
 - Digital resources – no update yet
 - Grade 1 Loose Parts enhancing oral communication – purchased half of what was asked for and already using loose parts to create stories as art, then retelling stories (en français!)
 - Differentiated learning environments - purchase well underway
 - Renovation of body break room as been started
 - Scientists in Schools – all booked, many occurred
 - Math manipulatives, all teachers contributed to order, order placed
 - Kinder team submitted final order; booked zoo crew; looking into Monkey Rock; getting owl pellets for “exploration”; very excited and grateful!
 - Love to groove occurred and was a HUGE success

- Placing order for small speakers (one per division) and a large speaker for events like Terry Fox Run, etc.
- Music order - ordered a class set of keyboards with headsets and the ukeleles and cart; the drums have not been ordered yet
- Visual arts guest presenter occurred for kinders – very successful!
- Arts Alive – will take place on May 9th from 5:30-7. More information to come
- Rocks and Rinks curling workshop was a hit!
- Physical Education - Mme Saunders/Johnston placed a huge order!
- Classroom consumable budget deadline is March 31st and teachers submitting lists
- The staff are well on way to spending most of the allocated money and are very grateful for the opportunities this provides to the students!

EDI COMMITTEE UPDATE:

- A presentation for Black History Month will occur, however, the presenter is only available in April. Dwayne Gibson to present to grades 2-6 on Black Canadians; students learn about passionate black leaders in Canada (e.g., Viola Desmond; Josiah Henson). They are interactive presentations and get kids rapping along!
- Also planning workshops for parents on Antisemitism/Islamophobia. More information to come.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE:

- Social media posts to showcase new EDI additions to school library.
- Committees are encouraged to reach out for communications support.

EDUCATION UPDATE:

- An online mental health presentation for Elmdale parents and caregivers will take place on February 5th on Parenting your Anxious Child. There is no cap on number of participants.
- The date will be confirmed for an in-person presentation for Elmdale parents and caregivers on Helping to Support our Children's Learning on Sexual Reproductive Health.
- Planned Parenthood is also able to provide free presentations for teachers, details to be confirmed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- An overview of Council's sources of funds and spending was provided
- Since the last meeting approximately \$10,000 has been spent for the staff wish list
- The balance in account is approximately \$145,000, minus commitments. The amount left over after proposed spending is \$10,000.
- There was discussion about how to financially support the sister school.
 - The sister school has completed their library renewal project and are now saving for playground structure.
- Motion: Donate \$6608 (10% of excess funds from last year) to the sister school. In addition, going forward, 10% of net proceeds will go to sister school. Council will work this amount into the constitution update.

- Firas moved and Liz seconded. All in favour. Motion passed.
- Action: set up meeting with sister school to discuss.

SAFE TRAVEL UPDATE:

- The snowbanks are back! There will be an email to come with reminders of recommended direction of travel for safety.
- We have been asking by-law to come and address drivers not following no parking/stopping signs. Cars not following signage means buses can't get down the street.

ROUND TABLE:

- Question: Is it possible to have class group photos taken? Class photos are the magical part of school pictures and some feel offer more value than individual portrait. Response: Ms. Saikaley will explore options, such as a spring session or establishing them for next year.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / ANNOUNCEMENTS/ACTIONS:

- **Action:**
 - Set up meeting with sister school

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned 8:05