

D. Roy Kennedy
School Council Meeting
November 24, 2015
Minutes

Present: Sara Lytle, Catherine Donnelly, Marc Laliberté, Eva Matyas, Ingrid Viktorinova, Krista Grey-Donald, Valerie E. Martelock-Crawford, Paz Blundell, Asha Kurian, Stephanie Houwer, Sandy McIntyre, H Peter White, Laura Frisby, Kathy Laffin

Google Docs Presentation: Michelle Lawrence of the OCDSB was present to demonstrate Google Docs (software that children use at school) and answer related questions. Google Docs for the OCDSB is hosted on a separate platform which cannot be approached by outsiders. She showed some features of Google Drive and explained all the help functions to guide children. She showed how files can be shared with either fellow students and/ or teachers. Students in grade 4 and up get a Gmail account, until grade 7 they can only use this email account within the OCDSB.

International Baccalaureate Program Presentation: Karen Walker was present to discuss the International Baccalaureate Program in an effort to bring this IB program to Ottawa's West End. This program, with a different approach to learning, receives a lot of appraisal and helps students prepare for their exams and tests. Though it is available for every school age, in Ottawa it is available for grade 9 to 12 only and at specific schools. Only 80 spots are available for the 600 to 800 students who apply every year. The request is to encourage parents of the grade 9 to 12 students to sign a petition at ibwestottawa.com. The School council promised to put it out to the parents.

School Trustee Report: Since Theresa Kavanaugh wasn't present, no new update this month.

Principal Report: Catherine Donnelly spoke about the strike actions. The teachers are back to work. Only the Support Staff still have strike actions in place. There is some concern about a possible strike by custodians, which would result in the closure of schools.

Catherine presented the school budget and clarified the different elements of the budget and outlined the intentions for this school year. The school budget is \$28,828. Last year there was a short fall of \$6,000 due to the extra need for Supply teachers. Five new Chrome books will be purchased and a \$1,000 is allocated for science.

On the day of the meeting a message was received from the OCDSB that another \$7,000 was allocated to our school to be spent on technology equipment. The OCDSB has arranged tenders to get a good price, including the supported software and necessary licenses.

A paragraph about allergies has been added to the School Handbook for the next year.

Only one more case of head lice has been reported, which is considered low.

Rules for the Holiday celebration: there will be no access to the upstairs level and all children must be accompanied by their parents.

All clubs are up and running.

Vice-Principal Report: Marc Laliberté has no additions to the Principal's report.

Teacher's Report: no teacher present this time.

Financial Standing: The "Position of funds" for November 2015 was distributed among the attendees. Kathy shared that part of the Savings Account Balance is for concrete anchors for the benches that are going to be placed around several trees in the school yard. The Committed Expenses for Athletic Shirts are under review. Kathy will find out how much it costs to replace the old shirts. A total of \$300 has been set aside for a permanent plaque for the elementary school yard.

Recess Rescue: The elementary playground opening was a success. The speech was well received. Only thing still missing is the permanent plaque.

Blanket Exercise planning: Sarah suggests a Blanket Exercise, taught by an aboriginal elder, for the School Council. During this exercise the history of Canada will be told through the eyes of the indigenous people. The Blanket Exercise has been scheduled for February 2016 and will take about 30 to 45 minutes with the possibility for discussion afterwards. The honorarium will be donated back to the school. The idea is to bring a friend and to open this experience up to a broader public.

Winter Celebration update:

- Fourteen volunteers have signed up so far.
- A box for winter clothes and a box for trinkets and treasures have been placed in the hallway outside the office.
- There will be a performance by the school band and the ukulele class. The possibility of grade 8 and high school volunteers are discussed.
- If anyone hears about possible donations for the silent auction or the basket raffle, please contact someone on the school council.
- The Mayor and Counsellor have been invited.
- The Conference room can, and will be used for storage.
- Kathy will bring shirts/vests for the raffle ticket sellers.
- Twenty books will be offered for sale during the celebration for \$10 each. 50% of the proceeds will be donated to the School Council.
- Additional tissue boxes are needed.

Fundraising Committee:

- Almost \$1,000 was raised this month.
- The sale of bagels is slow, but they're delicious and easy to prepare.
- Thirty-six additional bags of popcorn were sold on popcorn day.
- After the Winter Celebration new popcorn needs to be bought.

The School Council will fund DRK stickers if the school will buy/ find them.

OCASC : Jena, Kathy and Nancy have been to the meeting. The meeting was on 50/50 French and English in Kindergarten and Math. There was a lot of concern about the introduction of 50/50 French/English, mostly due to unknown answers to possible effects and the decision on this subject was postponed.

From now on Kathy and Krista will take turns to go to these meetings.

Next Meeting: the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 25th at 6:30 PM