

# School Council Meeting Minutes

04 Mar 2024 / 6:30 PM / Hybrid

## Attendees

- Parents (In Person): Jennifer Reitsma (Chair), Thanusha Jeganathan (Treasurer), Amanda Ryan, Renee Chang, Andrea Chin, Shehara Jayasinghe
- Parents (Virtual): Michelle Hale, Stephanie Whittamore, Anna Leung, Lang Vu, Kristy Lutley, Marianne Tang, Arslan Ghani (Secretary)
- Administration (In Person): Vivienne Baines (Principal), Chunha Park (Vice-Principal)
- Staff (Virtual): Stephen Neate, Stephanie Neveu, Danica Taylor
- Student Representatives: N/A
- Regrets: Daniel Martin-Weaver, Reshma Khan

## Agenda

- Land Acknowledgement – Jennifer Reitsma
- Approval of the agenda – Jennifer moved; Thanusha seconded
- Approval of the minutes of Last Meeting – Jennifer moved; Amanda seconded.

### Admin Report – Vivienne Baines

- Clubs and activities are ongoing.
- Two teams attended robotics earlier in February, juniors and intermediates. Juniors were placed 4<sup>th</sup>. Intermediates came in 16<sup>th</sup> out of 19 teams. Thanks to Mr. Neate and Ms. Kirk for their hard work with the robotics teams.
- Ms. Neveu provided update on the basketball tournaments. The school hosted 4 basketball tournaments this year. Both the intermediate boys' and girls' tournaments were a huge success. 4 schools participated in the girls' and 5 in the boys' tournaments. Last week the school hosted the intermediate boys' and girls' East area tournaments. The girls came in 4<sup>th</sup> place, the boys came in 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Not much information available for next year yet. The school is growing, the school might be using the new portable next year depending on the student numbers.
- Ms. Taylor provided update on parent townhall. These townhalls are an extension of "every student counts" data where the information is collected from the students in their own words. This data provides valuable feedback about the programs being run by the school, what's happening in the classrooms and how students are being impacted by all this. This data is used to gauge interest in programs, clubs, and how the classrooms are being run. Two years of student data has been collected, now the aim is to extend this program to parents. The goal is to gather data from the parents and the wider community. The townhalls are facilitated by the peer groups. The next step is recruitment for parent townhall facilitators where they will sit with the local parent community and ask questions. Ideally, the townhall will be paired with an event so the parents have a reason to come into the school. If the facilitators speak multiple languages, it'll be easier to collect this data from parents in their mother tongue. This will enable parents to be more expressive in communicating their needs and

challenges. Perhaps this will be paired with food trucks to make it a fun event. Parents can facilitate in shifts to collect as much details as possible from the parent community. Ideally, 10-15 facilitators are needed to make it a success. It's important for parents to ask these questions to other parents to get honest response in a comfortable setting so their voices are included in school planning. Target is to arrange the townhall for end of May or beginning of June, school is looking into providing childcare so parents can provide their uninterrupted input. Facilitators need to be found in the next few weeks, facilitator training for the parents is slotted for the second half of April.

### **School Council Report – Jennifer Reitsma**

- Parent Engagement and Advisory Committee (PEAC) is a group of parents which meets and advises the board on different issues being faced by the parents in the York region. One meeting is held in spring while the other takes places in the fall. The spring meeting is scheduled at the Sheraton hotel on Highway 7 on April 18. Due to the literacy evening the Principal and VP cannot attend. There are various learning opportunities for parents such as Edsby, traffic safety, cyber safety. There are several workshops the parents can choose from during these meetings. There is space for 2 more people, if anyone is interested in joining, get in touch with Jennifer.

### **Grade 8 Memory Book – Jennifer Reitsma**

- Update from Reshma Khan on Gr. 8 memory book. Crew of 4 parents and 2 teachers are assisting in the creation of the memory book. Google drive has been setup to help staff share photos. Meeting planned after March break to discuss the content and layout.

### **Fundraising Update – Jennifer Reitsma**

- Movie night was held on Feb 22 for fundraising. 165 tickets were sold. The next one is scheduled for Thursday, 80 tickets have been sold so far. One more movie night needs to be held within the calendar year (Feb-Feb) to break even on licensing costs.
- New Pizza and Pasta round will run from Apr-June. There's an option to add 5 chicken nuggets, 3 carrots, 3 celery stalks, 1.5 oz ranch, and 1.5 oz plum sauce. It will cost \$6.50, same day as pasta as an added option. Unfortunately, no halal options are available for the chicken nuggets, however there are vegetarian options available.
- Board offers cost sharing option once a year where it matches dollar for dollar towards the purchase of tech. Current cost sharing is from Mar 1 to Apr 15. The maximum amount allowed is \$4,425 which comes up to be \$8,850 after the contribution by the board. Ms. Baines requested to earmark future funds for this purpose to maximize the available funds for tech purchase. Suggestion to do a different type of fundraising such as toonie for tech.
- Jennifer motioned that the current balance of \$1,500 in the school council fund be earmarked for cost sharing for tech. Shehara seconded.
- Jennifer motioned that to reach the full amount of \$4,425 allowed for cost sharing with the board to pay for tech; the balance of \$2,925 will be the first expense paid out towards cost sharing from the next round of Pasta Pizza lunch money coming in. Amanda Ryan seconded.

### **Treasurer Report – Thanusha Jeganathan**

- \$3,000 in the account. \$1,500 has been earmarked for the purchase of the tent in the last council meeting. These funds are inclusive of the Pizza and Pasta money until March break. The movie night fundraising money details will be available in the next meeting.

**Next Meeting:** May 06 (Hybrid - 6:30 pm)