

# Legacy School Council (LSC) Meeting

Wednesday April 5th, 2017

## Attendees

Shama Ansari, Dayo Babalola, Sanjay Bhatia, Nandita Bhatia, Irene Dimov, Leeanne Hoover-Joy, Francine Mathai, Tricia Mohammed, Lori Nickerson, Nimisha Patel, Adela Pinnock, Zahra Premji, Michelle Probert, Laura Ryckman, Saumea Thayalan

## Agenda

Sandy Acquaviva, Sonia Babra, Melina Lavasidis, Sofia Pollastrone, Altaf Patel, Sukhjit Randhawa, Simone Reali

Minutes taken by: Irene Dimov

## Meeting Minutes:

### January 16th Meeting Minutes

Nandita emailed minutes to all members of council for review. A Google Form will be sent to all members to approve minutes.

### Treasurer Update

Michelle updated council on balance of funds; Junior STEM night: \$300 (entry fee) + \$92 (raffle ticket sales) were accumulated, bringing the total remaining balance to \$3733.00. This is excluding the \$5000 earmarked for the Outdoor Experiential Space.

### Recess Safety Committee Update

Sanjay briefed council on meeting held on December 13, 2016. Main Focus of the meeting was adding clarity to the boundaries. Actions and discussions; cheat sheet for teachers, perimeter walks, additional walkie talkies. Laura confirmed that all these actions had been completed last week of March and these actions need to be taken every season.

Meeting held on February 14, 2017: main focus was street traffic and safety concerns. Biggest risk area is Russell Jarvis Drive. Very chaotic just before bell rings in the am. Safety of students and parents/caregivers and safety in general needs to be addressed. Discussed to improve signage -potentially adding a Stop Sign and/or a crosswalk in front of the school entrance to force drivers to slow down. However, these are all issues that need to be brought up at the City of Markham. Therefore, Nimisha got involved with City Councillor and presented it at a General Mtg. Unfortunately, it did not go anywhere. Nimisha then brought it to Traffic Department. We will now be getting a "NO STOPPING ZONE" sign at exit of bus loop and 4 way stop all the way to the

Daycare. Nimisha is also looking at getting details from David Suzuki P.S. with regards to getting actual "KISS 'n RIDE" signs.

Discussion with regards to school parking lot. After school it is 'BEDLUM!' Tricia mentioned about parking at park and walking across the field but during the winter months it is icy/snow. Look at potential path to be used all year long. This will be further discussed at the next Safety meeting.

### **Teacher Update**

Mr. Babalola represented Ms. Gardner. School is introducing space in the library for kids to catch up and get help - 'STUDY HALL'. This will be available to students on days 2 & 4.

- Grade 1-4 students will have volunteers from the Grade 8's along with 3-5 teachers for 40 minutes. Grade 5-8 will have 3-5 teachers and NO volunteers.
- Study Hall will happen 5 times between now and end of year. PILOT Period
- 5 passes/class will be made available to teachers to hand out in their respective classes.
- Pilot to start after Easter + marketing of the space/time to the students.
- This is NOT to be looked at as Detention or Stay in for Recess.
- Homeroom teachers are to monitor number of times students use this space to ensure it is fair.
- Laura talked about the designated "Reading Rangers" program. This was headed by past reading recovery teachers and will now have Grade 8 Rangers. Teachers have volunteered their time for this program.

### **Principal Leadership Profile**

Nandita suggested that a survey go out in June or September to council members and the parent community to obtain feedback to update profile for next year. As for now, 9 out of 15 members present at the meeting have voted on current profile which will be submitted to the Superintendent for our school.

### **Principal Update**

Leeanne Hoover-Joy - New Vice Principal introduced herself to the council and briefed the group on her observations thus far. Started February 6th. 1st appointment as a Vice Principal. Her first impression when she arrived at Legacy was that she thought she 'hit the jackpot'!

She felt the warmth from students, staff, parents, council etc as they welcomed her to the school.

She has been learning and training on school routines etc.

She is working on Student Climate Surveys - perception of areas in school- with grade 5-8 students and staff and any parents that are interested can join. Focus is on Mental Health, Math and Modern Learning.

Getting ready for EQOA - end of May - beginning of June for Grade 3&6's. This will be addressed in e-bulletin and a letter will go home with students.

Attended Parent Symposium at the end of March along with 3 other parents - there was valuable positive feedback from these parents.

Part of Healthy Schools Committee

Laura Ryckman-Principal discussed school budget. Budget comes out at the end of November and is per Capita + money for school council + lunch room assistants.

Provided a hand out at the meeting which was a snapshot of the current spend as of April 4th, 2017. 56.4% of the budget has been used as of April 4th, 2017.

Money had been put in for professional development this year.

Money has been put in for kindergarten furniture this year.

Money has been allocated for materials for the 1st 2 weeks next year.

Never have gone over budget and spend full amount by end of year.

School can carryover UNDER \$7,000.00 without asking for it.

Special Education is pulled out of the this as it is funded differently.

Less money is being spent on textbooks and more money on software and technology.

Budget is different every year.

\$5.00/student is allocated for school trips.

Staffing Update- after winter holidays, school gets numbers for next year. Next year, student numbers are going down 1 classroom therefore, 1 teacher.

Only 22 JK students have registered so far for next year. School has allocated for 41 spaces in JK. New work/live condos/towns on Copper Creek will increase these numbers in the near future as the development is ahead of schedule. This development has projected for 64 additional spaces in the school.

Letter to parents for input into their child's class for next year will go out in May. Students will have the opportunity to create a "4 friends list". School will guarantee 1 child from that list will be their class.

In January, a survey went out to staff to prioritize what class they want for next year.

Encourage staff to move to update skills and experience.

Until the numbers are solidified, will not know final details on staffing.

Students will know at the end of the year who their teacher will be for next year.

Outdoor Classroom-School board took a turn in the middle of our planning for this project.

This project was survey with staff and they have all approved the concept and would use it if it were available.

Caja Planters were discussed and Laura inquired with another school who had an outdoor classroom built and it was \$18,000.00 for prefabricated concept.

Grant from the Ministry is \$1500 + \$5000 council allocated = \$6500 + any fundraising money.

Once we have TOTAL funds, we can move forward.

Laura is looking into obtaining grants from different companies to support the project.

## **ProGrant Update**

Irene updated group on recent STEM night. Had a great turnout of people but unfortunately, Logics Academy was 'underwhelming'. Irene has negotiated a discount with Logics for the first STEM night - \$250 discount from the \$750. Invoice has gone out to the school.

For the next STEM night we are looking at changing the concept and calling it "Passport to STEM". Instead of have stations in the gym and it being like a free-for-all, we would structure it more to a classroom setting with set times per classroom and involve the teachers to participate.

The gym will be used at the end of the evening to bring everyone together and will have representatives from the Markham community to showcase their groups/committees/business etc. Leanne and Nandita have already received confirmations from select businesses.

For next years PROGrant, a suggestion to bring in a company called "X Movement" (formally known as AUSSIE X) was proposed by Laura. This company is like 'Grow Interactive'. See hyperlink for more details on this company.  
<http://www.xmovement.com>

## **Annual Fundraiser**

### **THE SILENT CHALLENGE**

Leeanne and Laura worked with the Healthy School Committee as well as the Mental Health and Wellbeing Committees to figure out something that the staff thought would be beneficial for the students with a focus on "Mental Health and Addiction" - part of the board plan on 'Mindfulness' and create a challenge for students to get excited about in raising funds for the Outdoor Classroom and Technology.

Idea came out 'organically' as meetings and discussions were happening with the school Child Psychologist - the importance of Silence.

100 minute challenge for students and staff to be silent. No technology is to be used.

Happening during mental health week.

It is also Dress Loud day for impaired hearing.

Concept was shared with the council and other parent groups in the school to get feedback.

Staff worked on the initial kickoff, announcements, activities for the day, ballots, forms etc.

Council members were asked for support in the areas of prizes, money counting, and organization of ballots.

The initial request/thought of amount of money to spend on prizes was \$100 but after further discussion, council members in attendance thought it was not enough and settled on \$500. Members of council in attendance were: Lori, Adela, Irene, Shama, Francine, Nandita, Michelle. NOTE: an official vote to spend the \$500 was not conducted.

Adela was tasked to purchase the prizes as well as, council members were asked to donate prizes.

**Next and Final Meeting Date: June 5th, 2017**