

Legacy School Council (LSC) – Meeting Minutes

Monday October 16, 2017

Attendees: Kirstie Andrews, Sonia Babra, Winston Balachand, Nandita Bhatia, Sanjay Bhatia, Susan Budinszky, Victoria Ciceri, Irene Dimov, Vanitha Ghani, Christina de Leon, Leanne Hoover Joy, Thaya Mahesan, Julie Mallinos, Michael Marshall, Natasha Marshall, Francine Mathai, Melody McVey, Tricia Mohammed, Nimisha Patel, Zahra Premji, Michelle Probert, Michael Reali, Simone Reali, Diba Roche, Laura Ryckman, Saumea Thayalan, Peter Tse, Sylvia Vocino

Absent LSC members:

Teddy Kardaras, Gnanavarathan Nagulendran

Guest: Peter Tse, Superintendent (CEC East)

Minutes

1. Welcome by Nandita Bhatia
2. Distribution of June 5th Meeting Minutes
3. Introductions – brief round table introductions were given

Meeting Etiquette – Nandita

Code of Conduct

- Nandita gave a reminder for all to be respectful and mindful of each other during meetings
- Please only one person speak at a time
- Hand-out was distributed and it was noted that By-laws regarding meetings can be found on the school website
- Items not on Agenda can be added at the end (open forum) if time permits

Attendance

- It was requested that voting members give notice (where possible) if they are going to be absent
Voting Members please note:

- *If you are absent for 2 or more meetings you can be voted off*
- *A suggestion was made that if a vote is to be taken during a meeting in which someone is away could they submit their vote by Google form*

Roles, Responsibilities, Expectations

- Legacy School Council gmail account is used to communicate with members – *Please use "reply all" sparingly*
- Tricia suggested: Sending emails that require prompt attention before 6pm
- Active participation is encouraged – it was suggested that LSC members sign up for at least one sub-committee, Nandita will be sending out an email / google form for people to sign up for committees; you do not need to be a Voting Member to join a committee.
- Volunteering is always welcome and appreciated

4. Treasurer's Update: Susan Budinszky

- There has been no activity with the school council account since June.
- Our year end amount reported at the June meeting was roughly \$12,800 however, the actual closing amount is \$13,300. The reason for the discrepancy is the school trip funding of \$500 which wasn't voted on in June
- Susan put forward a motion to spend the \$500. (\$200. on Grade 6 Pine Crest trip; \$300 on Grade 8 Ottawa trip)
 - **Motion was approved**
- There is \$5,000 set aside for the outdoor space, leaving us with an available balance of \$7,800, after the approval of the school trip funding.

5. Principal's Update: Laura Ryckman

Purchased Lunches

- My Little Pizzeria, Subs and Wacky Snacks fit in with Healthy Schools criteria.
- It was suggested that a communication be put out to parents letting them know what Wacky Snacks consist of

- It was noted that lunch sales are good and parents seem keen to expand the lunch program
- Suggestions for Pasta and possibly Sushi lunches have been put forth – Julie is currently looking into working with Mother’s Deli to provide pasta lunch options. This will be used as a fundraising initiative
- Inquiry was made about using a different pizza supplier. Laura said using a different pizza supplier is certainly a possibility but she pointed out that Neil from My Little Pizzeria is very accommodating and assists with the distribution as opposed to just dropping off. As well, the whole pizza is delivered to each class which is in keeping with Eco Schools Initiative – individual pizza boxes would produce more waste
- Inquiry was made if we make a profit from Lunch Lady sales – *yes we do, it is however a very small percentage*

Changed Recess

- This has initiated much discussion
- Nandita brought forth concerns from parents; she has been receiving complaints and emails from parents from all grades mainly juniors and intermediates.
 - Parents are concerned that students don’t have enough dedicated time to eat, snacks are going back home uneaten. Snack eating is being overlooked/missed.
 - Concern for the students who don’t want more time outside and how a longer outdoor time works in the colder weather.
 - Tricia raised the concern of germs - if students are eating while they are working – are they properly washing hands before and after? Are they touching writing materials and other things at their desk while eating.
- Laura said:
 - In the colder weather when outside gear is needed to be put on this further cuts into the amount of outdoor time
 - Laura and LeeAnne felt that thus far Student and Teacher feedback has for the most part been positive
 - More time outside is good for mental health
 - Teachers are now in the classroom during snack
 - We also need 30 minutes if we want to have more clubs.

- Laura and LeeAnne felt confident that any problems with this change to snack were resolvable and the general consensus seemed to be that we continue with the new format and continue to work out any issues
- Some parents said that more time to play is beneficial but that students still need a dedicated time to eat as opposed to eating during a lesson.
- Irene and Nandita discussed how not having a structured time to eat is not good for children. Parents requested Laura to look at 10 dedicated minutes to eat and 20 minutes outside suggesting that this would be a viable solution.
- Another idea that was shared was 30 minutes morning recess with 10 dedicated nutrition minutes
- Laura and LeeAnne agreed to work towards that and discuss it with staff and provide an update on Nov 06, 2017 council meeting.
- Also Tricia said we need a compromise on having both nutrition and outdoor time that I could not support it as it currently is.
- Nandita pointed out how she has found out that not all staff allow kids to eat in their classrooms during instruction time. This creates a stressful situation for the kids.
- Nandita also talked about how the emphasis in the school was too much physical activity, for example; combined time for Grade 6 between gym, DPA, morning recess and lunch recess is over 210 minutes (almost 3 hours in 6.5 hours school day!!)
- Ms. Vocino pointed out how some kids come to school hungry and having a flexible snack break helps those kids.
- Nandita said that then the school should find out who these kids are and maybe look at implementing a breakfast program in the school that benefits those particular kids instead changing the whole snack recess structure.

Peter Tse summarized: Parents would be happy with a dedicated eating time and the increased outdoor time.

This discussion is ongoing

- An inquiry about why we have such a late lunch was raised – this is largely dictated by the board – lunch models are rolled out in May – Legacy administration could possibly look to change it for next year however it was noted that there are only a few options to choose from; it is not a matter of lunch times being wide open.

Elections Committee

- 4-5 members are needed for an elections committee – to examine the school council elections process
- E-bulletin will be sent out

Parent Representatives

- Parent reps. will be needed to assist with various committees – do not need to be council members

6. Pro Grant – Irene gave an overview of what the pro grant is and how it works

- Promotes family learning and well being
- Aussie X was chosen this year
- Some members expressed concern that the letter sent home to parents was not informative and did not say specifically what Aussie X was

Vote was taken to give \$1000 from Legacy School (parent) council for this event

7. Forming various committees: Nandita will be sending out a google form for people to sign up for various committees such as the Charity Committee, School Lunches Committee, School Clubs Committee, Annual Fundraising Committee, Legacy Wear Committee and so on.

8. Holiday Charity Event

- Trish suggested Markham Stouffville Hospital “Love Boxes” as this year’s Legacy Holiday Charity Event
- Love Boxes are given to persons in the hospital – all age groups are supported from NICU to elderly persons
- Students would donate items / money to go towards filling Love Boxes that the hospital would distribute
- A tree of wishes would be set up, similar to the Yellow Brick House initiative where each class comes down and chooses an ornament indicating which age group their class will work to fill a box for

- Food Drive is an alternative
- It is necessary for LSC to choose one or the other – Love Boxes or Food Drive
- Vote is needed but has been deferred until next meeting

9. Vote on future meeting dates:Nandita

Nov 06, Dec 04, Feb 05, Apr 09, May 07, Jun 18

The council voted in favour of these meeting dates.

Peter Tse acknowledged that there has been concerns raised by parents regarding the school boundaries; he would like to discuss this further and will follow up a date / time to gather more feedback.

Next Meeting: Monday November 6, 2017

Minutes Taken By: Julie Mallinos