

# Meadowbrook School Council

## Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 10th, 2019 6:30pm

**Meeting called by:** School Council

**Facilitators:** Lorraine Doran, Chris Johnstone, Trisha Phillips, Jill Kyle

**In Attendance:** Trisha Phillips, Jill Kyle, Lorraine Doran, Andy MacQuarrie, Marie Garbens, Rachel Cuthbertson, Louanne Gettel, Michaelle Davis, Frances Chard, Angela Longland

**Total time:** 2 hours and 10 minutes (approximately)

Topic	Presenter and Time allotted
<p><b><u>Land Acknowledgement:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>“We would like to acknowledge the land we are on and thank the First Peoples of the Williams Treaty First Nations and other Indigenous Peoples for sharing this land with us. We would also like to acknowledge the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation as our closest community and partners in education.”</li></ul>	Jill Kyle (3 minutes)
<p><b><u>Introduction to Zucca’s Ristorante (and taste testing ☺):</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Sebastian Zucca and his mother, Josie, visited the Council meeting to introduce us to their business and the potential to fundraise with them. They represent a family-owned business that serves about 18 schools in the area. Their business was originally based in the Mount Albert area, but they recently expanded to open a restaurant in Newmarket (in the Newmarket Plaza).</li><li>All of their meal offerings are homemade and meet PPM 150 (Healthy Schools requirements) and they are willing to offer entrees varying from pasta to chicken fingers to salads. The food is served in individual containers that are fully recyclable. Meal offerings include: lasagna; penne with tomato sauce; penne with meat sauce; chicken fingers with salad; chicken fingers with pasta; meatball sandwich. They use multi-grain bread as well, so it is healthier.</li><li>The cost per order/entrée is \$3.75 plus tax, but most schools mark up the price to \$6 for fundraising.</li><li>The food is delivered in insulated bags to keep it warm and the food comes in separated, labelled bins so it is easy to sort. Orders can be changed weekly (if needed) and they have gluten-free options available. Ordering is done through email.</li><li>There is a possibility to run the meal program weekly, bi-weekly or otherwise and they are very accommodating, taking field trips and snow days into consideration.</li><li>The Council seemed very much in favour of adopting this new fundraising option. Lorraine asked: “Should we try this program once a week?” The</li></ul>	Trisha Phillips, Jill Kyle, Sebastian Zucca, Josie Zucca (20 minutes)

Council seemed in support of this idea (or of doing it at least bi-weekly). The discussion then moved to choosing an appropriate day to hold the fundraiser. It was decided to leave our pizza lunches on Wednesdays and to take on this new idea either on Fridays or Mondays. A further discussion ensued about what would be the best days and it was decided that if it was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of the month, fewer fundraising days would be missed (due to holidays and P.A. Days). Council was in favour of this.

**Approval of May minutes and Introductory Letter:**

- May minutes were reviewed. Motion made to approve minutes. Minutes approved.

**Introductory Letter:**

- Trisha Phillips presented the idea of creating an introductory letter to go out to parents early in the next school year to give them a pre-emptive heads-up about what happens on the Council, fundraising initiatives, etc. She asked if this is something the Council would support. The Council seemed in favour. Lorraine Doran requested that she read the letter prior to it being sent out to parents.

Trisha Phillips,  
Angela  
Longland  
(8 minutes)

**FAMILY PALOOZA EVENT REVIEW:**

- Frances reviewed the fundraising results from the Family Palooza event (held on June 6<sup>th</sup>). A total of \$657 was raised to help fund the Sensory Room. This donation is going to be matched by TS Tech, to bring the total to approximately \$1300!! Frances just needs the official receipt from the school in order to go get the donation from TS Tech. Lorraine and Chris indicated that this should not be a problem and to talk with the administrative assistants in the office.
- Chis Johnstone said a big thank you to all of the volunteers at the event. All in attendance seemed to really enjoy and appreciate the event and the work put into it. 😊

Frances Chard  
(8 minutes)

**SPIRIT WEAR DISCUSSION:**

- A total of \$82 was raised as a result of Spirit Wear sales at the recent Family Palooza event, which was great since it was an easy-to-run table and did not require much planning (as leftover Spirit Wear was easy to collect and set up for sale).
- Trisha Phillips would like to have a company set up early for Spirit Wear sales next year and is looking for suggestions from the Council for providers. Sew Perfect was suggested as a provider, as was NCM. No formal decision was made.  
The Council decided that they would also encourage any gently-used Spirit Wear that families had could go to the Care Room at the school (to help provide clothing to those students/families in need).

Trisha Phillips  
(5 minutes)

**PLAYGROUND UPDATE:**

- The total cost for the playground was \$44773.99. The pathway and culvert construction will cost \$5429.65.
- The requisition for the board portion went through today and \$5100 was saved for the pathway and culvert (to be installed over the summer).
- Trisha Phillips stated that the playground needs benches. A question about whether or not we can memorialize benches came up. Chris Johnstone replied that it is not possible to memorialize things like this, due to board rules around legacy projects.
- Three-person benches cost around \$2000 and must come from board-

Chris Johnstone,  
Lorraine Doran,  
Trisha Phillips  
(10 minutes)

approved vendors, as there are liability issues.

- A discussion arose about creating a fundraising plan for the benches for next year's budget.
- Lorraine Doran revealed to us that the painted lines for the tarmac will not be happening this year (as previously planned) in order to save some money in the budget (as we had a bit of a funding shortfall).

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### **BUDGET, FUNDRAISING, AND FUTURE COUNCIL CONCERNS DISCUSSION:**

- Trisha Phillips made a proposal to raise the cost per slice of pizza for our fundraising lunches by 25 cents (to \$2.25/slice) to help cover the higher cost of the pizza (from our new provider) and perhaps offset some of our other costs and fundraising shortfalls?
- Lorraine Doran brought up the concern regarding fees for families with less money and multiple children and trying to keep costs down for families. A discussion arose regarding the possibility of changing payment plans, etc. to help ease this difficulty and how complicated it would be to change dates, timing of sessions, etc. It was brought up that other schools do this and that Lauren (the secretary) could help set it up. The fundraising could be broken up into 3 sessions (if that would help make it easier for families).
- Lorraine Doran indicated that there was still money due to come out of the budget for Grade 8 graduation, for the mural, and for busses, so Council needs to be aware that there is not as much money left over as it may seem...
- Louanne Gettel let the Council know that the Board has made the decision to remove 26 desktop computers from the school as they are older and will not support the new required software updates to come. The computers will need to be replaced (in order to maintain our current level of technology available to our students and staff). Louanne Gettel let the Council know that the Board is offering a discount on chromebooks, but we are not sure what the funding tradeoff for the computers will be (either 1:1 or 2:1). The Council will have to wait and see what our school attendance figures are and what the cost sharing numbers will look like in the fall (in order to make the appropriate decision).
- Rachel Cuthbertson asked the question: "How much is actually left out of what was budgeted?" (i.e., exactly how short of funding are we?). Exact dollar amounts were still unclear at the time of this meeting, due to receipts still coming in...fingers crossed!
- Lorraine Doran asked the following question to promote discussion and planning for next year's Council: "How can we build more inclusion in the Council?" A variety of ideas were suggested by Council members, such as making the Council's email address more visible; taking a photo of Council members at the October meeting (once they were elected), in order to help make the Council and its members more visible and approachable; providing surveys to the parent community to find out how we're doing; establishing a regular coffee hour with the Council Chair and the Principal, to help provide a built-in opportunity to provide a voice for those who don't always attend meetings or who don't always speak up.

Chris Johnstone,  
Lorraine Doran,  
Trisha Phillips,  
Louanne Gettel,  
and others  
(20 minutes)

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## **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

**The following important information about upcoming school events was shared with the Council:**

- **Chris Johnstone** will be moving full-time to Armitage P.S. for the 2019-2020 school year ☹ Jennifer May, a new Vice Principal will be coming to Meadowbrook to replace Chris Johnstone.
- **A number of staff are retiring** at the end of this school year and will not be returning to Meadowbrook full-time: Mrs. Gettel, Mrs. Jodoin, Mrs. Smith, and Mrs. Saunders (who is retiring in September).
- **A number of other staff will be transferring schools** and will not be returning to Meadowbrook in the fall: Ms. Hill, Mrs. Love, Ms. Fronte, Mrs. Aldridge, and Mr. Sharples
- **Freezie Fridays** will continue through the month of June.
- **York Regional Police officers have been joining the Girls' Running Club** at Meadowbrook of late. Ms. Hill reports that the students have been very engaged in this and the officers are really enjoying the opportunity to connect with students in Grades 6 to 8.
- **Grade 8 graduation** will take place on June 26<sup>th</sup>.
- **Primary Play Day** will take place on June 24<sup>th</sup>.
- **Jump Start Day** will take place this Wednesday (June 12).
- A few classes are going on **trips to the zoo** this month.
- **Area Track and Field** events will be taking place this week. Wednesday is the day for the Intermediate students and Thursday is the day for Junior students.
- **The Pride Flag** will be hung on the school's flagpole. This will help to start much needed discussions about the issue and to help demonstrate our school's commitment to equity and to creating safe spaces.
- Lorraine Doran let the Council know that the Lions Club will be donating \$2000 to help fund the school's **Breakfast Program**. Lorraine asked the Council members if they or anyone they know would be able to help run the school's Breakfast Program or Snack Program. The Breakfast Program needs a volunteer for 1 morning a week. Frances Chard said she may be able to help. Trisha Phillips said she would put a post on the Council's Facebook Page to see if anyone is interested in helping.

Lorraine Doran,  
Chris Johnstone  
(20 minutes)

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**Next Meeting: The second or third Monday in September 2019 (exact date T.B.A.) @ 6:30pm**