

# MINUTES

**Nellie McClung Public School  
School Council Minutes  
December 3, 2014  
Nellie McClung Public School Library  
6:30 PM**

## Attendance

<b>Council Voting Members</b>	<b>Present (Y/N)?</b>	<b>Council Voting Members</b>	<b>Present (Y/N)?</b>
Maria Shtemberg <b>(Chair)</b>	Y	Rob Ephraim <b>(Member)</b>	N
Keith Isaac <b>(Treasurer)</b>	Y	Zvi Vaxman <b>(Member)</b>	Y
Roman Kanter <b>(Co-Secretary)</b>	N	Darren Greenspoon <b>(Member)</b>	Y
Avery Zeidman <b>(Co-Secretary)</b>	Y	Heather Moskoske <b>(Member)</b>	N
Mike Kemper <b>(Member)</b>	Y	Lynn Axmith <b>(Member)</b>	Y
Neil Grunberg <b>(Member)</b>	Y		

<b>Council Non-Voting Members:</b>			
Wendy Thompson <b>(NMPS)</b>	Y	Cheryl Urback <b>(NMPS)</b>	Y
Traci Shatz <b>(NMPS)</b>	Y	Brian Stone <b>(NMPS)</b>	N

<b>Non-Voting Attendees:</b>	
Emanuel Schwartz	Y
Shelley Vainshtein	Y
Arthur Vainshtein	Y
Irina Saltanor	Y
Melissa Bianchi	Y

## **Opening**

- Meeting commenced at 6:30
- Mike to chair
- Announces birth of Maria's baby

## **Preliminary Matters**

- Approval of November 6, 2014 Minutes
  - Motion by Darren to approve, second by Rob
  - All in favour, motion passes

## **Principal's Report**

- Bar and Bat Mitzvah Book
  - Parent approached Wendy and suggested
  - Wendy decided not to do it
  - Spoke with principal that started tradition at other school; Wendy thinks that people can do that through Facebook, which was not available when they started tradition at the other school
- French Immersion Registration
  - New school in Block 18
  - To register need to come into office and get office card; if current SK student, need office index card from current school; must also bring proof of residence or ID
  - Our students would register at Ventura because school not built yet
  - Going to open September 2015; south of Major Mackenzie west of Dufferin
- School Climate Survey
  - Results shared; every 2 years occurs; 87 parent responses for over 700 students last year; this survey was done in May last year
  - This info might not be valid because all responses might come from Anne Frank parents
  - #5: Unsatisfied with steps against bullying among students; 68% strongly agree; work to be done
  - #6: 68% agree consequences for student behavior
  - #8: school action against discrimination or bullying; 60% agree
  - Review of other questions and results; 12, 13, 14
  - This will not be posted anywhere or published
  - Equity survey done with staff gave valuable information
- Draft School Improvement Plan
  - Data gathered from variety of sources
  - Need to make sure there is congruence between needs, goals and actions
    - Example, climate survey showed that cyber bullying was not a rampant problem, thus concerted or immediate actions not required
  - Came up with global goals; created challenge of practice
    - Urgent learning need: students are challenged to respond with sufficient relevant detail to share their thinking; teachers goal:

- facilitate model discussions while modeling for students how to use talk to give relevant detail to share their thinking
  - Oral language is a focus, through math or literacy activities
  - Doing think aloud strategies explicitly with students
- Actions literacy:
  - Ensure regular reading in programs, rich talk, thinking through routines, power writing (graphic organizers), talk partners, modeled and shared part of gradual release, etc.
- Action Math:
  - Fosnot kit helps with 3 part math lessons to break down problems and understanding why
  - Teaching teachers and students to use manipulatives
  - Participating in math part 1 and maybe 2 AQ (additional qualifications) – Board in process of writing standards – Wendy will invite staff to participate in AQs after finalized
  - Use prodigy math, (not school-wide yet); demo-ing dreambox in Grades 4/5 and 5/6
- Monitored actions and effect; report card and EQAO data presented where improvement needed
  - Over 20% of students at risk in math and literacy
  - Will be done again in February and June to monitor
  - We are at 75% in primary math, but only 53% in junior math; lot of work to do
- As council, fundraising helps, but volunteerism helps
- Darren suggested that Teachme app is very effective and helpful for home use, whole app bundle costs \$8.00
- Environment, Engagement, and Well-Being
  - Social skills groups
  - Will start a positive space room (PSR), board and card games, no tech, drawing, playdough, blocks, etc.
    - Safe environment for kids to go when they feel lonely
    - Students selected by staff, parents may ask their teacher about their child's inclusion
- Equity and Inclusivity
  - Youth facilitators, peer mentoring
  - Lunchroom monitors
  - School wide tribes
  - Recognition assemblies
  - In process of meeting with community liaison officer to hopefully set up 10-12 week pre-school program to help get pre-schoolers ready for school between January and June (space to do it now); Seneca is agency bringing in ECE to facilitate this
- This is public and will appear on school website
- This SIP format just changed (used to use smart goals)
- Work to be done yet; still to be presented to teachers, although it has been shared with them
- Invited questions

- Neil suggested making a night like math night to introduce this info
  - Response is lack of attendance
  - Wendy suggests perhaps a video conference or presentation

### **Teachers Report**

- Junior Intermediate Wish List (See Schedule Attached)
  - 7 power bars \$132.97
  - Headsets with microphones
    - 6 at \$223.41
  - Microphone from Futureshop
    - \$113 (for use with mystery hangouts – runners take mics over to people asking questions)
  - Silent (visual) timers (helps kids see and visualize time countdowns)
    - 4 in total \$86.50
- Motion to approve all the items on list by Neil, seconded by Darren; all in favour, no opposed, no discussion; PASSED
- Kindergarten Wish List (See Schedule Attached)
  - Stability balls (Wendy revises the request to 40 of them) cost of about \$480 approximately
  - Magnatiles 100 piece set times 8 for \$1,161.12, not including the Mastermind discount
  - Lego Creative bucket 600 pieces times 8 \$451.12
  - MOTION Neil second Darren, all in favour, no opposed
- No conclusive answer about math from last time; volleyballs were purchased because nothing cheaper was found

### **TEACHERS' REPORT**

- Was youth conference coming up, and Cheryl went to that with students; talked about mindfulness; awareness about mental health; excellent workshop
- Primary children Sharon Bram concert went very well, using in literacy
- Battle of the Books; club started this week; April 16, 2015 to compete against other 6 other schools
- Cookie sale grade 8 fundraiser, next coming up next week Wed to Fri; leadership opportunity; count money, manage process; sold at lunch recess
- Mrs. Kurtz grade 7 went to Holocaust education centre; she wrote email because council funded the bus portion of that; moving and information trip to Centre; watched video, saw artifacts, group discussion, survivor shared experiences, post-trip discussions; thank you; powerful experience for all
- Chance to participate in spoken word poetry this year; incorporates rap, hip hop, theatre; grades 6 to 8 Ms. Gordon Rack doing intro work; next Tuesday can take 15 kids for after school training; will select 4-5 students for Poetry Slam team at YRDSB
- Math night is tomorrow night K-3, not with children
  - Neil suggested child care for next time or something in gym

### **Treasurer's Report**

**Keith to provide details**

<b>Opening Balance (November 5)</b>	<b>\$18,906.95</b>
<b>Inflows:</b>	
Pizza	\$153.80
Fundraising Made Easy	0
Other	0
<i>Total Inflows</i>	<i>\$153.80</i>
<b>Outflows:</b>	
FundScrip	0
General Spend	(\$2,683.40)
Lice Squad	0
<i>Total Outflows</i>	<i>(\$2,683.40)</i>
<b>Closing Balance (November 28)</b>	<b>\$16,377.35</b>
Less Approved/not Spent	(\$4,569.92)
Available Funds	\$11,807.43

**Updates on Initiatives**

- Kid Like Me
  - Avery reports that Ms. Tranter's class prepared and posted posters; further posters were provided by Avery and through York Regional Police Holiday Heroes Program
  - Donations were being made and received
  - Holiday Heroes donations pick up was arranged for December 12, 2014, the day after completion of the Kid Like Me Campaign
- Food Drive
  - Mike says there were a couple of bumps in road; barrels showed up early
  - Every time he speaks to person, he does not know which school
  - He showed up with another barrel
  - Pickup will be December 8<sup>th</sup> with a visit for the 10<sup>th</sup> (they are not open for change)
  - In past Bus for visit was free (by Tracy)
  - Rob MOTION to approve funds for bus if needed; Avery seconds === THERE WAS NO VOTE ON THIS MOTION
  - Spoke to Ms. Short and Ms. G, each to have a student from their class; slow in putting together ballots; can do it at random, ask teachers to nominate; total of 8 kids left
    - There were 15-20 kids last year, and 1 teacher and 3 parents, but without kindergarteners
    - Different person last year at food bank
    - 13 classes without kindergarteners (who require too much supervision)
    - Avery mentioned that if Ms. G already mentioned it to class it would not be fair to exclude them
      - Maybe can include them in process of loading the truck

- AUTISM AWARENESS DAY in April 2, 2015
  - Zvi hands out awareness package
  - Need to raise \$250
  - Raise the flag is the event
  - Will get a flag if raise enough money
  - Action TO send email out to families in January or February 2015
    - Suggestion by Rob to do a toonie for type program for this
    - Suggestion for education about the issue
    - Wendy – invite someone from Autism Ontario to talk about it
    - JFCS used to run a program; ACTION that Wendy will contact them to inquire about offerings
- Neil project management tool called basecamp
  - Saw this is available for school for free; possibly someone look into for school for upper grades
  - Wendy to look into it
- Darren motion to adjourn before 8pm, Mike seconded approved
- Congratulate Maria

#### **Action Items (Before Next Meeting)**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>

#### **Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm

#### **Council Meeting Dates**

Next meeting: January 19, 2014