

School Council Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2019 from 6:45 PM – 8:15 PM

Attendance (underlined are voting members): Kathleen Griffin, Penelope Ortega, Apurva Talsania, Sonia Breen, Abhishek Jotangia, Amanda Kelly, Gina Pappas, Julie Horne, Maple Kyriacou, Mary Haitas, Melissa Pellegrini, Tony Koubridis, Jaclyn Sutton, Raymond Zyg, Trish Dynes, Nadia Mackinnon

Regrets sent by: Kate Hishon, Phil Whissel, Dawn Gallagher Murphy

Welcome and establish meeting norms

- Meetings begin and end on time
- Consensus decision making
- Be open minded, objective, and respectful
- Individual students, parents, and teachers are not to be discussed in meetings
- Refer parent or student issues to the teacher or principal

2. Introductions & welcome to any newcomers

- Apologies from the Principal that there are no teacher representative – all are sick

3. Adopt minutes from October meeting

- Minutes were sent TODAY, so no time to review and approve them
- Minutes will be posted online after they have been reviewed and approved by voting members

4. Chair's Report

- **School Council Award:**
 - o Final Form (picture of each student) was presented
 - o Will be posted shortly;
 - o Award called the Community Spirit Solidarity Award
 - o Plaque to change each year
 - o Annual cost will be minimal (cost of printing the picture and updating the plaque)
- **School Council Bulletin Board**
 - o We need a new picture of our new school council (will be taken at the next school council meeting)

- School council languages spoken will be updated
- Will display fundraising information and other relevant information that parents might not otherwise have knowledge of
- If you would like to be Bulletin Board Ambassador, contact Gina or Kathleen
- **Learnings from the School Council Forum**
 - Parent Engagement Opportunities: Parent Reaching Out Grant – a grant that is awarded to parents for activities that bring parents together
 - Grant was cut by half – it was \$1000; now it is \$500;
 - We'll write our proposal for Multicultural Night;
 - Approval is through YRDSB (not through the Ministry as it was in the past);
 - Once approval is granted, funds are given upon presentation of receipts
 - School Council Membership: Discussed parent involvement vs parent engagement; Challenge: change the perception of school council as just a place for fundraising; Survey to identify barriers to participation
 - Mental Health: Discussed how there is a social worker and a psychologist assigned to each school – they work with a group of schools. They come here one morning a week and they work with students that have been identified and have needs that need addressed
 - Vaping: YRDSB video was shown. There is a YRDSB Vaping protocol in place.
 - Age appropriate content is being prepared for students

5. Fundraising for 2019/2020

- Pizza lunch program (starting Tuesday October 15th)
 - Pizza is slightly behind (about \$1200) in terms of sales
- Hero Burger (starting Monday October 28th)
 - Hero burgers \$700 net
- Cookie Dough (\$1905 in profit for school, delivery on Nov 14)
 - Down from previous years
 - We raised approximately \$800 less than what we budgeted
 - Brainstormed the reasons why – cookie fatigue (we've done the same fundraiser for several years); we are earlier in the year; Demographic of our school is changing (could be a language barrier/communication issue – 30% of our students are learning English); The dates that everything went out – too much too quickly (everything was released all together and it's a lot of money – many families with multiple children so it gets expensive); Timing – consider releasing it in the second semester
 - Consider not doing cookie fundraiser for next year and doing something new – someone suggested offering something that can be used by families – something they already need
- Lunch Lady

- Mable's Labels

6. Treasurer's Report: see accompanying financial report for details

Motion to Approve the Budget

- Kathleen moves to approve the budget as outlined by the treasurer
- Second – Julie
- All in Favour: Motion carried
- BUDGET IS APPROVED

Learning curve for Hero Burgers – it is now running smoothly

- Discrepancy between posted prices in fundraising package and first invoice – credited moving forward and they've honoured the original pricing (we'll have to consider whether we want to continue with them next semester)

Feedback re. Hero Burger:

- Some have said Junior burger is too small
- Some didn't like the multigrain bun
- Some were expecting cheese, lettuce, etc.
- Nevertheless, overall feedback is positive

7. Principal's Report – see accompanying Principal's Report for details

8. Student Dress Code (Amanda & Dawn)

- They compared and contrasted our policy with other schools in our area
- Presented the wording for our dress code (suggested that Dawn and Amanda get together with one or two staff representatives to get their feedback)
 - o At Oak Ridges Public School, our dress code is aligned with Ministry of Education, *Safe Schools Act, 2000*, subsection 302(5). It:
 - o Respects the rights of persons of all cultures, faiths and abilities.
 - o Is consistent with the Human Rights Code and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
 - o Addresses issues of compliance and affordability.
 - o To maintain a positive school tone and learning environment, we ask that students refrain from wearing clothing with inappropriate messages. Items of clothing must be whole and must bear no vulgar, profane or disrespectful symbols; no images or wording that promotes substance use in any form, including images associated with drugs, alcohol, or vaping, or that are racially, ethnically, sexually, or religiously offensive. No headgear is to be worn inside the school, other than that required for accepted religious practices, medical conditions, or school programs. For reasons of security, hoods and masks are not permitted.

- We also ask that students dress modestly, in a manner that does not expose undergarments, navels or midriiffs. During warmer weather, clothing must maintain appropriate modesty in that.....If such clothing is worn, students will be asked to change. A call home may be necessary.
- It is also important to note that proper footwear must be worn at all times; non-marking soles for gym areas and outdoor wear suitable to weather conditions.
- Deadline – before the warmer weather in the spring

9. School Council Events & Family Engagement

- Mathletes Family Math Night (Oct 17)
- Family Movie Night (Nov 19 and Feb?) – Jaclyn, Gina, Sara, Abhishek
 - Flyer went out
 - Additional supplies will be purchased this week and next
 - Electrical outlets have been tested
 - Popcorn will be ordered and picked up the day before the event and pre-bagged
 - Will test the equipment that will be used to show the movie to ensure it plays
 - Need a ballot to give away two movies (last year’s movie and this year’s movie)
- Social Media Education night (Jan 21) – Kathleen, Louella, Penny
 - Student presentation in the afternoon from 1:30-2:30pm for grade 4 to 8
 - Committee will work on coffee hour before the evening event for parents, speaker will begin at 6:30pm
- Staff Appreciation Breakfast (Jan 31st PA day) – Penny
 - Sign-up at December meeting
- Multicultural Night (April 7) – Sara, Maple, Melissa, Mary, Louella, Abhishek

10. New Business

- Spring Fair (Gina) – possible date Tuesday, June 9th
 - Early evening event
 - Another opportunity to bring the community together – could be part of the 2020 celebration
 - End of Year Barbecue
 - Activities, games (no bouncy castles), face painting, food trucks, we can have vendors (karate school, for example, that will do a demo), raffles (each class can create a basket that is raffled off), bracelet for each child for one fee
 - Could possibly take place inside the school, if it rains, and the parking lot and field if it’s a nice evening
 - Connect with Wyndham Ridge, who also does something similar, to get their list of vendors
 - General consensus to move forward with this event and we will support it with our active participation – everyone agreed

11. Next meeting date: Monday, December 2, 2019 – with Holiday Potluck

- Everyone agrees to bring something for potluck (no nuts, no shellfish)
- Change to January meeting date: Monday, January 6, 2020

12. **Adjourn** – meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM