

IN PERSON AND ONLINE PARK AVENUE COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, January 25, 2024

7:00pm

In attendance:

Kevin Lillico	Win Combaluzier	Robyn Pisano	Crystal Stewart
Katie Cook	Shauna Wenzel	Kris Maye	Tracie Blakslee
Aaron Noordhuis	Ashley Warner	Michelle Puddy	Jeremy Blakslee
Jen Wilson	Lauren Aleito	Amber Preston	Ashley Watts
Karolina Blioumenfeld	Olly Grishin	Invesca Gareev	Julia March
Natasha Arczewski	Brent Weir	Meaghan Potts	

On-line attendance:

Leslie Santorelli	Andrew Corry	Helen Blackwood
Robyn Francis	Alanna Oddleifson	
Lisa Masen	Ryan Watts	

Regrets

Allison Gold
Chris Weston
Jess Krystal

Teacher Representative

Jennifer Greenham
Kelly Barbarich

Administration

Crystal Mott
Gillian Cousineau

ITEMS

Welcome

- Land Acknowledgement
- Connection Activity

Chair Report and Update

- Reviewed Norms
- **Ice activity** – ice-time reserved for teams currently – EG Arena – 3 options survey to be sent out
 - o Look at ice time in Newmarket
 - o Cancel activity
 - o April ice time at EG Arena
- **Dance-A-Thon** – February 29/24 – Budget allocated \$2K – Approved by Council
 - o Budget – prizes / entertainment / decorations
 - o Primary – 2 stations – yoga / dance in gym
 - o Junior/Intermediate – 2 stations – coloring/reading/board games / dance in gym
 - o Sub-Committee needed
- **Winter Decorations** - \$1K raised – towards field trips / classroom supplies
- **Sparkle & Shine** – Huge THANK YOU to volunteers & staff who assisted – over 500 attendees
 - We used:
 - o 250 snowflake crowns
 - o 600 cookies

- 300 cups of hot chocolate
- 100 cups of apple cider
- 300 snowflake key chain crafts
- 1 blow up gingerbread man costume
- Over 1,100 lights!
- Opportunity for a grant for funds for next year
- Carolyn Butterworth attended – thank you!

Treasurer's Report

- \$16,258.39 current balance
- -\$336.47 towards Sparkle and Shine
- -\$300.00 from the Angel Fund
- +\$50.88 profit from Mabels Labels
- +\$227.00 profit from Works Burgers
- New Account Breakdown:
 - **School Council General** - Day to day activities & events - **\$2,958.39**
 - **School Council Classroom** - Money for field trips / classroom supplies (\$100 per class) - **\$2,600.00**
 - **School Council Angel Fund** - Money to support students in need - **\$700.00**
 - **School Council Event Back Up** - To support overages & additional events - **\$3,000.00**
 - **School Council Playground** - Holding account for money raised towards the Playground - **\$7,000.00**

November Minutes approved

Teacher Update – Jennifer Greenham & Kelly Barbarich

- Chess club
- Pokemon club
- Sign language club
- Youth S.P.A.C.E – YRDSB initiative – Phase 2 - continuing to meet – Grades 5-8
 - Cookie fundraiser February 14, 2024 – contribute to playground – Grade 6
 - Teacher Supervisor – Jennifer Greenham – supported students when sourcing/ordering product – phone discussions/demonstrations – real life experience
- Arts club happening for grades 6, 7 and 8s
- Drama club
- D&D club (Dungeons and Dragons)
- Students are initiating clubs
- Intermediate Boys & Girls Basketball
- Chess tournaments are happening Grades 1-3 and 4-8
- Upcoming Lunar New Year
- February – Black History Month
- Forest of Reading will be beginning

CODING Presentation – Mrs. Greenham

- Coding has been a part of the curriculum – updated in curriculum as students are behind in math especially – outcome of COVID
 - o Curriculum – Blue Bot - Different levels – Unplugged, Icon-based, Block-based, Text-based (not a Elementary level)
 - o Demonstration – Microbit - Organization is in UK - \$30 each
 - o 10 Chromebooks in library – others – students bring down from class

Administration Report

- Toy and Food Drive for the holiday Season
- Playground – Benches arrived – not installed yet (weather permitting)
- Cell phone – RIBS submitted – Survey to be sent out to parents, staff & students – results to be shared & reviewed at next council meeting
- Discussion about cell phones held during meeting: Some of the points made:
 - o Admin rolled out unsupervised access to phones during 20 minute eating period advising students directly without any prior input from parents/guardians – concerns raised about the issue that there are many negative impacts of cell phone use, social media use on youth - especially youth in this age group
 - o Guidelines provided but students still on social media, filming/posting during school hours – Concern about managing/supervising guidelines
 - o Parents sign no image of minors to be posted online yet images are on social media for pictures taken at school – how is this managed?
 - o Concerns raised about the mental health of students overall and the negative impacts of social media on youth – Concerns further raised about the unsupervised use
 - o Discussion about student behaviours prior to new rules & after rule change – Have behaviours changed?
 - o Concerns about distractions, student knowledge about repercussions of online activity, and online bullying occurring
 - o Other schools have implemented no phone policy – contracts b/w parents & students w/school
 - o Concerns raised about enforcement/punishment for improper phone use
 - o Noted that students didn't have access in September but given access December 1/23 – students had behaviours but were adjusting
 - o Discussion about students interaction and concern about lack of talking to each other/interacting during eating time – social interactions are regressing in smaller non-structured groupings – social peer to peer pushback
 - o Equity – what about kids who don't have cell phones and are made fun of as a result
 - o If students/families need communication – Can school offer a place in office to use?
- Online concerns from closed Park Avenue Parents Group brought up by Admin:
 - o **Mice in school** – pest control – increased presence in Kindergarten room – public health clearance November 24/23
 - o Smell in Kindergarten classroom – moved class to library

- Notice sent to families of students affected afterwards – concern raised about timing and if this can be sent in a timelier manner
- Pest Control – PCO Services – green, environmentally friendly, nothing sprayed – come in every 2 weeks
- **Safety in School – SAC** – concern re: location of SAC in Kindergarten Hall – location due to enclosed bathroom – Kindergarten students are coming home and telling parents they are were not allowed to go into hall/use washroom due to “Hold & Secure”
- Parents concerns are for their children, do support all students right to an education
- Admin proposed reaching out to Principal of Student Services for further discussion with group
- School has staff who are trained and are supportive of students – ensure safety of all students

Subcommittee Work Time

- Notes were not taken at this time

Next meeting; Thursday, February 29th, 2024 – 7pm