

YORKHILL E.S. - SCHOOL COUNCIL

Oct 7, 2014

Attendees:

Nereo, Bonomo, Karen Birnie, Brook Jacobs, Corinne Szulansky, Alan Morris, Jennifer Angel, Ellen Bosco, Hantzakos, Stella, Janice Niss, Jason Swaye, Jennifer Lui, Kim Sparks, Lina Vaxman, Liv Corriero, Robyn Badner, Natasha Parsotam, Sharon Rosenzweig, Tewfik Zitouni, Shakufe Virani, Louise Lewis

Time	Item	Purpose	Responsibility	Time	Notes
7:00	Welcome & Approval of Minutes	- Review and accept the minutes of September's meeting	Alan/Robyn	5	Everyone introduced themselves. Nereo passed around the information sheet to verify or add names and emails in order to be on the distribution list. Minutes from September 10 were reviewed. They were accepted by Sharon and Janice.
7:05	School Elections	- Determining and electing positions of council members for 2013-14 school year & Subcommittees: - CultureFest 2.0 -	Alan/Robyn	30	<p>Each year we nominate 2 chairs for chairing meetings. There can be up to 10 voting members of school council according to Yorkhill's current School Council Constitution. Nereo looked through policy and procedures and handbook: number of people who have come to meetings has increased. Members had functions/jobs due to acclamation but now we have to follow procedures to be fair and equitable. Nominated people are required to attend today in order to be put in particular roles. We have to see who is here compared to who signed the forms. Nereo described a secret ballot procedure. Whoever is elected, goes to the next stage – voting who will be chair, treasurer...</p> <p>Alan: Role of a voting member of council: agree to put certain amount of funds towards something at school. Other people can share opinions – voting is done only by the members on council. Majority have to be parents.</p> <p>Jennifer: constitution may be amended to increase the number of voting members to accommodate increase in students.</p> <p>Community members are allowed to come but parent numbers must be higher. There needs to be a commitment to be here and regularly attend. There are 22 people here tonight. Forms were</p>

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					<p>checked. Current members can vote to amend the Constitution to expand the maximum number of voting members on council.</p> <p>We currently have nomination forms of 12 individuals who are also present at the meeting. Three additional individuals present at the meeting were nominated: Lavinia Corriero, Louise Lewis, and Kim Sparks. We propose that the constitution allows for up to 15 voting members (including 1 teacher and 1 community rep.) The majority of who is voting must be parents. There was a motion to amend the constitution to increase the number of voting members from 10 to 15. The motion was passed by the voting members of last year's council.</p> <p>The School Council members for the 2014/2015 school year are officially: Nereo, Bonomo, Karen Birnie,, , Alan Morris, , Ellen Bosco, , Janice Niss, Jason Swaye, Jennifer Lui, Kim Sparks, Lina Vaxman, Liv Corriero, Robyn Badner, Natasha Parsotam, Sharon Rosenzweig, Tewfik Zitouni, Shakufe Virani, Louise Lewis Additional members (up to the maximum of 15) may be voted in at a later date.</p> <p>Subcommittees must include at least 1 member from council. Council positions may include: 2 co-chairs, a treasurer, secretary, head of fundraising, communications, community liaison.</p> <p>Co-secretary positions: Natasha and Lina self-nominated and were acclaimed; treasurer: Ellen Bosco was nominated was acclaimed ; Co-chair positions: Alan Morris and Kim Sparks were nominated and acclaimed.</p> <p>Chair position was described (Nereo).</p> <p>Teaching staff will get back to us as to who will represent ETFO staff on council. Teachers will meet with membership and discuss which teacher can be a voting member on behalf of ETFO members.</p> <p>Fundraising positions: Robyn and Sharon were nominated and</p>

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					<p>acclaimed to share the position.</p> <p>Communications positions: Natasha P was nominated and acclaimed;</p> <p>Community liaison: empty. No one was nominated or self-nominated.</p> <p>The teachers will get back to us.</p>
7:30	Principal's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update on EQAO Results - Parent Workshops at YES 	Nereo/Karen	20	<p>Data was shown. EQAO in Grades 3 and 6 were explained.</p> <p>Grade 6s have remained static.</p> <p>Grade 3s have gone down. Nereo released 8 teachers last week and tomorrow as well – to discuss student difficulties on the EQAO assessments.</p> <p>Staff has started looking at what the questions looked like as well making comparisons to what was difficult for students in the previous year.</p> <p>Before looking at the testing questions and student responses – staff has began with looking at attitude and behaviour surveys that students completed (<i>how do they see themselves as readers, writers?</i>) . This data has an impact on achievement so we don't want to ignore the students' attitudes.</p> <p>French Immersion – Grade 3 – next year, will complete the EQAO testing in French and only in math, not reading and writing.</p> <p>Nereo showed graphs which showed the percentage of students who achieved level 3 or 4 in the three strands.</p> <p>Grade 3 showed - 55% in reading, 64% in writing, 45% in mathematics.</p>

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					<p>Students who are exempt (special needs students) are still included in the scores.</p> <p>Grade 6 showed – 78% in reading, 84% in writing, 72% in mathematics.</p> <p>Tomorrow, staff will analyze results of the EQAO tests to see what can be done to improve scores. Results will show the kinds of questions that teachers will need to address (this will inform our school improvement plan). Scores are also reviewed at the provincial level to look at things like funding, curriculum and pedagogy.</p> <p>Parent engagement is also very important to help students work through school work.</p> <p>On Thursday, November 20, YES will host the first of three workshops – <i>Parents as Partners 6:30-8:00 - developing relationships between parents and school</i>. This is a good opportunity to help parents understand and navigate the education system. We want to help parents understand the rationale behind the way things are done at school, current pedagogy, safety policies, etc. This can all be explained to parents in a non-threatening and supportive ways.</p> <p>Nereo explained how the music teacher was surplus last year. Each teacher is now required to teach music and is required to report on it at least once in the year. Music consultants can be called in to assist with the program – it's up to the teachers to request an itinerant.</p> <p>Ellen Bosco may be interested in providing music support (maybe after school). She will think about it.</p>
7:40	Fundraising Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current update: - Subway and Pizza days 	Robyn / Sharon	15	<p>There is no official tally – Robyn did not get a report. Last balance is \$20,300. Morag gets a report around the 15th of every month, then she has to reconcile. Janice: about \$17,500 according to the report Morag had. We have now \$37,915 before expenses. Drama money</p>

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					<p>was \$1000 – it's money Robbie uses for making costumes and props and pay for theatre. She donates a lot of her time. \$10,339 pizza but not confirmed with Morag Wright – Subway: \$6518.25 – all of this totals the approx. \$17,000.</p> <p>Our first social event this year - Thursday, October 30 – Halloween Dance.</p> <p>We are no longer allowed to send emails about these events because it is considered to be of commercial nature. On the school website – indicates where to give consent for getting emails from the school. Potentially consent for receiving emails from School Council has already been obtained from parents via the Book of Forms; Nereo will confirm.</p> <p>Movie night – TBA at a later date. December - MacMillan's (cookies) Feb. 13 – dance-a-thon Gift Cards can be ordered – we get a percentage We can do blitzes throughout the year to fundraise. Shop and Support – offers a percentage Pizza Pizza – for every pizza order – we get 10% in club dollars – on 11th order will go to pay for 11th day pizza – (10%) – and we can still pay with gift cards. Book Fair - made over \$4,200 – 60% goes back to the school (library, literacy staff).</p>
7:55	AOB		Chair(s)	10	<p>Nereo – School Council Forum was cancelled for fall; to be confirmed.</p> <p>Culturefest – great event but requires effort – if anyone is interested in organizing it – talk to Alan. Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.</p>

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 5, 2014 @7pm – school library

Nereo is suggesting that we book Dec. 3rd as our December meeting. Upcoming meetings will be discussed in the November meeting.