

Stittsville Public School Parent Council Meeting Minutes - February 17, 2015

Present:

Jacqueline Davis
Sabrina Kemp
Ryan Dawe
Donna Edwards
Maura Cuffari
Donna Boyle
Jenny Guth
Michael Malek
Deanne Evans
Janet Starkes
Shannon Helleman
Fiona Livingstone
Lorrie Hayes
Jessica Sultan
Debbie Goodleff

Indicated Absences:

Melissa Aitken
Amanda Wittebol
Angela Viktora
Julie Smith
Michelle Legault
Megan Baker

INTRODUCTION

1. Welcome - Jacqueline opened meeting at 7:04pm.

- Agenda - Jacqueline would like to add Graduation Funding under New Business - motion to approve agenda with additions (Donna, Jacqueline) - motion approved.
- Minutes - Sabrina has a couple minor changes to minutes, but motion was made to approve minutes (with the minor additions) (Sabrina, Donna) - motion approved.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

2. Chair Report - Jacqueline Davis

- There has been a lot of public discussion about immunization in light of the increase incidence of measles. All children attending school between ages 4 to 17 need to be immunized according to Ontario's Immunization Schedule. Starting in the 2014/15 school year, children need to have proof of immunization against meningococcal disease, whooping cough and chicken pox as well as tetanus, diphtheria, polio, mumps, measles and rubella. Learn more from this immunization checklist. Children who are not fully immunized may not be allowed to attend school.
- Crystal Bay Centre for Special Education is a finalist for the GoodLife Win 4 Kids contest! The more votes they receive the more money they win for their physical education program! Help them win the top prize of \$XX,XXX and VOTE for them today! In this contest, participants can only vote once, so we need many people to make a small investment of time to make a huge difference!

- Do you have a child who is interested in a Career in Aviation? Ever want to fly planes? Build or fix them? Work in business aviation? Or how about flying with the military? If so there is an Aviation Expo geared to students. - feel the need, the need for speed? Date: Saturday, Feb. 21, 2014, Location: Canadian Aviation and Space Museum, Ottawa Students can register online at: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/ottawa-careers-in-aviation-expo-registration-12729248525>
- Middle French Immersion Registration - MFI starts in grade 4. If your child has completed the grade 3 English/Core French Program, together you can choose to enter your child in the Middle French Immersion Program. All subjects are generally taught in French in grades 4, 5, and 6, except for English Language Arts. For further information on Middle French Immersion, please check our website for detailed information on our French programming.

3. Principal's Report - Michael Malek

- Kindergarten Registration: We have 48 JK students. We are projected to have 634 students for next year.
- The Ottawa Student Transportation Authority is seeking input from the school community regarding a proposed policy and procedure to deliver transportation services to students in a joint custody arrangement and having two homes. Both homes must be within the attendance boundary and eligible for transportation. A formal application process requires that both parents and/or guardians sign the application and provide a schedule. Weekly or bi-weekly access schedules may be limited to ensure student safety. Other safety and operational risks will be assessed prior to approval or denial of each application. Members of the school community are invited to complete an online survey (see link below). Please review the proposed policy and procedure, as well as Frequently Asked Questions on OSTA's website (www.ottawaschoolbus.ca) prior to completing the survey. Public consultation closes March 13, 2015. Members of the school community are invited to complete an online survey OSTA thanks you for your input. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/variabletransportation>
- We have a Twitter Account: SPSprincipal . Please feel free to join. We will use Twitter to share good news stories and to capture the day and life at SPS.
- September 2015 School Bell Times will be 8:30-3:00 pm

4. Vice Principal's Report - Donna Boyle

- The Ontario Focused Intervention Partnership (OFIP) Tutors began last week. We have expanded from just Math, to English and French as per request due to student needs. 14 Tutors, 44 students.
- Through a discussion with our School Resource Office, Const. Genevieve Hupe, we were provided with a contact at the Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre, Colleen Taylor. She is the Children's Community Developer. She is willing to provide us with a FREE Parent Presentation on internet safety. I spoke with her to let her know I was providing our School Council with this information. I also asked if she would do one at school during the day for our students. She said they would. The first visit would be 1 hour for the presentation, another 1/2 for questions. The second time they would come into individual classes for 45 minutes to 1 hour. Just let her know! 613.591.3686 ext 228.

5. Teacher's Report - Maura Cuffari

- JKs and SKs have been graphing and counting with candies.
- Primaries - Chinese New Year presentation by Mrs. Lam.
- Juniors - French public speaking finals, 2 of our grade 5s will represent SPS.
- Grades 5, 6 will do cross country field trips next week
- Hair Donation raised \$XXX, the winning class was Mme. Reed's class who raised \$XX. Assembly has not happened because teacher had baby early.

- Free the Children was now raised \$XXX, \$XXX is still on hand from September. They are sending a cheque for over \$XXXX!
- Twonie Tuesday is on now, \$X to support emergency clothing, food, etc. (board run)
- "Charlie Brown" cast has been selected for the grade 5 and 6 students. Production will happen mid-May. Likely will cost \$X/head to attend a show.

6. Fundraising Report - Janet Starkes/Donna Edwards

- Last day for pizza today - last check was about 75 kits
- Movie night profit was \$XXX - Movie was Rio 2, very poorly attended
- Fitness Bingo is coming soon. Date to be chosen soon, there are great prizes in the works! Trying to move away from food-based rewards, and instead move toward activity and movement (ie. Xtreme Trampoline certificates, etc.)
- E-Recycling to happen on April 11.
- We need to decide on Friendship Bench and whether or not we want to connect that with the t-shirt drive selling pink t-shirts for anti-bullying day on April 8. Decision, yes we do!
- Clothing Recycling - paid by weight for clothing donated. Fundraising team is looking into this one. Overall response was very positive!
- A woman wants to do a Valentine's fundraiser (dance) and another person wants to do a Halloween Dance. We will investigate these possibilities for next year and ensure dates are booked with Mr. Malek for next year.

7. Treasurer's Report - Ryan Dawe

Only update is the technology plan. We had looked at shared cost of 20 iPads with cables and cases - 6 existing projectors (keep 2 mobile), we buy 16 new projectors and ceiling mount 20. We estimate that they are about \$XXXX each but are still investigating how the timing will go for installation. This won't happen in a week or even a month. iPads can be ordered and implemented, but still waiting on final details for projectors. The whole project will be about \$XX,XXX. If we vote on second \$XX,XXX tonight, we should put a qualifier on that money based on final costs and timing of project. Question of speakers being purchased as part of this as well, there are a few things to be determined.

Motion to approve second vote of \$XX,XXX (Fiona, Jacquie) with qualifiers that we won't spend more than that, that the final amount will depend on final costs, and that some may be pushed to next school year based on installation timelines - motion approved.

Fiona made new form for teacher allocations. Form indicates that purchases need to enhance curriculum and not purchase regular school supplies. Form needs to be signed by principal and treasurer. We currently have 34.29 full-time educators.

8. Food Program Report - Lorrie Hayes

Nothing to report, everything running smoothly.

9. OCASC Report - Coreen Tyers

Coreen not present to report.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS

10. Update on Parent, Children and Technology Talk by Natalia McPhedran - addressed in chair report. We will use school resource officer that was mentioned in CP report instead (she's free).

11. Volunteering with Young Children - Michael Malek

- There are declining numbers of volunteers available to run council programs in the school. Council asked Michael to find out if we could allow parents with younger-than-school-age children to accompany their parents while they volunteer. Michael reported that the board insurance doesn't cover injuries to young children present during volunteering.

12. School Email Communication - Sabrina Kemp/Michael Malek

- Is it appropriate for school to send out council updates to email addresses given to school on registration forms? Michael will chat with Gisele. Sabrina indicated that it would make sense to use complete address list from school, instead of our council list. Fiona indicated that she will add a "sign up" button on website (to be added to the council list). Maybe we could use school email list to remind parents of council email list, website, Facebook page, etc. Michael to investigate and we will discuss at next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

13. Lunch Garbage - Sabrina Kemp

Discussion on Facebook page about kids coming home with maple syrup-covered lunch bags, etc. Parents are quite upset. Michael says we do have green bin program in school. We are responsible for a waste audit, and need to determine ways to reduce waste (because it is costly). We fill 4 bins with paper towels and pizza boxes every week. It was investigated last year to look into composting and overall it was not well received due to concerns about mould, fruit flies, how to collect it, where to store it, etc. Peter Hammell, chief custodian, does not have additional time to coordinate this. Litter less lunch program is board-wide. Composting is just not feasible. Parents present at meeting suggested sending a plastic bag along in the lunches for kids to put their garbage in, it could be rinsed out each night and used again the next day.

14. Safe and Caring Schools Council Link - Jenny Guth/Maura Cuffari/Virginia O'Halloran

- Committee was looking for a parent volunteer, Jenny Guth and maybe one other parent have indicated interest. There was a parent volunteer who has helped, Sonia Donovan, but her schedule has been inconsistent lately. This volunteer would sit on council and the committee and report to both. Jenny is willing to take on this role.

- Buddy Bench Update: we need a roll-out plan. We need to figure out how it will work, how to present it to kids, etc. All that is on hold until we raise the funds to buy the bench. Jenny will look into grants from the city.

- When rolling it out, it is important to consider how it is presented. Discussion was had about a student voice, maybe getting student council involved in the roll out.

- Black Belt Excellence Bully Busters - Jenny's son recently started tae kwon do and his instructor does assemblies or class presentations on self confidence, anti-bullying type themes. As a fundraiser, we could have kids sell his book (\$XX) with 50% of the profits coming back to school. Workshops are free with booking of an assembly. Jenny circulated handout on Bully Busters and passed around a copy of his book. This man is great at building self confidence, connecting with the kids, and teaching self confidence. This is an idea Jenny wanted to raise. Donna and Michael are worried that this may interfere with existing anti-bullying programs already in place. Jenny and Donna will present to Safe and Caring School Committee. Could he come in and reinforce the WITS program and anti-bullying culture already in place? This item will be left to be addressed with the Safe and Caring Schools Committee.

15. Graduation Committee - Erin Bowditch is wondering what the budget is. There are 67 graduates.

Budget is \$10/head for cakes at ceremony and picnic for grade 6s. If they do t-shirts or yearbooks, that is on the parents and not council-related.

CONCLUSIONS

15. Adjournment - motion to close meeting at 8:46pm (Shannon, Jacqueline) - motion approved.