



School Council Meeting Minutes May 21, 2014 7-9 PM

Executive Attendees

Chair Katherine Cole
Treasurer Wendi Mosher
Secretary Lisa Vandermeer
Communications Coordinator Sarah Orsini
OCASC Reps Tara Finlay and Danna Campbell
Director at Large Pam Cameron

Principal Kim Power
Vice Principal Monik Beauchemin
Teacher Rep Sandra Sheedy

Total number of persons present (including above): 17

1. Welcome and introductions (Katherine)

Approval of February meeting minutes and today's meeting agenda

	Moved	Seconded
Approval of Minutes for Feb 2014	Lisa Vandermeer	Magda Andrchuk
Approval of May Agenda	Anne Windle	Pam Cameron

2. Review of financial statements and fundraising highlights (Wendi Mosher)

See financial summary attached

- Yearbooks - 221 sold (250 ordered) so we will continue selling until they are gone
- Spring Fling - \$700 from online orders so far
- Arts Appeal - \$2313 was donated which is up \$500 from last year. This is due to a \$500 donation from the Ski & Snowboard Club that had a surplus of money left over, which they donated to the Arts Fund.
- Suggestions to create a play yard budget line to better track the \$10,000 donated last year for the play yard. The same for the PRO budget item to show that the total grant money is all spent within the year (Board rules).
- Wendi will do a breakdown report of what is included in Special Projects (Scientists in Schools, Severn outreach, etc)
- **Teachers' Wishlist:**
 - Money has been spent (\$4000)
 - Full list of items purchased to come in June meeting but includes more classroom books for Primary and Junior grades (readers, book in a bag), whiteboards and special markers for Kinders, games and manipulatives for booster groups including wiggle cushions, hearing protectors (to block out classroom noise when teacher is working with smaller groups)
- **Movie Nights**
 - Movie night – 45 tickets sold for upcoming movie night

- \$2500 raised to date from 3 movie nights
- Plan is to have movie nights every month except Dec and March next year
- Thank you to Winkey Wong for doing a fabulous job at organizing the movie nights this year. We hope you will continue next year!!

3. Spring Fling (Katherine for Nicole Duguay)

Forms went out (thanks to Dan Duguay for doing a wonderful job of re-designing the info page!!)

Thanks to Gemma Mascioli for photocopying all the forms that went home with students.

Thanks to Paper Sign Man for printing our outdoor banner, as he does every year for free. Please consider supporting his business.

Blog post to go out tonight with all the same info and links to forms/online ordering.

Kim requested that Nicole/Anne send her an "Indoor plan" (in case of rain) for how rooms and tables etc should be set up.

- **Book sale** (Katherine for Nancy Segal)

Collected books from 3 sales so far –

Student can shop on June 4/5 with teachers

Parents and community members can only shop the night of the spring fling

Volunteers needed (email request sent yesterday by Lisa Nicol)

- **Food** - coordinated by Winkey Wong and Jason Wagle

Pizza will be from House of Pizza

- Student Volunteers – coordinated by Scott Gordon at Woodroffe High School

- Bake Sale – coordinated by Kristann Rose

- Silent auction – coordinated by Pam Cameron

Any new unused items of interest or donations of gift cards or business services will be accepted.

Suggested that Pam contact Dovercourt, JCC, new YMCA for vouchers for camps/services

- Free events include Drum circle, Firetruck and fire safety visits

4. OCASC (Ottawa Carleton Associate of School Councils) update (Danna Campbell)

- Meeting on Extended Day Program – confirmed that children that attend the Whitehaven Daycare program will continue to be bussed there after school (since the location is within the school boundaries).
- OSTA boundary changes and bell time review: assessments and consultations ongoing with changes coming in 2015. **No change** to bell time at Woodroffe Avenue Public School. Kim mentioned that revising bell times will allow for more time between bus runs, which will hopefully reduce late buses in the morning and afternoon.
- Safe Welcome Program – many discussions on locking doors during school hours (ex: locking back doors in schools with pass card access for students in portables). Police checks for construction workers that work on site. Feedback went back to the board about suggestions for extra training for children/staff on what to do if a stranger is seen in the school rather than simply expecting locked doors to keep everyone safe.

5. PRO (Parents Reaching Out) Grant (Tara)

The emotional intelligence workshops on Worry-Taming were a huge success. The team ended up organizing 3 workshops due to demand and excellent feedback. The speaker was wonderful and many parents took home valuable information on anxiety in kids. They have re-applied for another PRO grant to include community involvement (since D. Roy Kennedy is rolling out WITS next year). Agreed that remaining funds (\$267.53) to be used to create/add to a parent section in the school library for parent resources.

6. School Library Diversification (Josephine Dyrkton and Denise Wei)

The goal of this project was to better reflect the cultural and ethnic diversity in the school library collection. Many parents (of various ethnicity, race, and religion) participated and did extensive research on what books were available and recommended. Additional topics such as adoption, single parent families, bi-racial families, immigration were suggested.

The group were given a mandate by last year's Council to spend \$500 on a more diverse book collection and \$200 specifically for dual language books (ESL learning and suggested languages were Mandarin/Cantonese, Somalian, Arabic, Russian to start); the latter was suggestion that came from School Administration. The group had specific criteria for the book search: needed to have informative value, good engaging stories and excellent visuals and ideally incorporating cultural beliefs and religion softly into stories.

Josephine and Denise did a brilliant presentation of some of the books on their list. A huge thank-you to the team for all the reading, research and enthusiasm. The list of books to be purchased is attached. Agreed that if there is additional money left over from 2013-14 that more money will be given to the project to buy more books for the library. An initial cheque of \$500 was issued to commence purchasing.

7. Scientists in the Schools (Lisa Vandermeer)

Workshops were booked for 24 classes (8 in March, 9 in April and 8 in May). MacArthur Millen purchased some worm composting equipment as part of the grade 3 allocated funds. We still have to mail a cheque to SIS for the May workshops but the final program total will be \$4688. Last workshop is booked for May 23.

8. Arts & Culture update (Katherine)

All bookings are done. Program targeted to getting diversity into each classroom via artists/dramatists/experts. Each grade has a different presentation/artist. (ex Japanese Tea Ceremony, Chinese Lion Dance).

9. Updates from Principal, Vice Principal and Teacher Representative

Principal report (Kim)

- EQAO starts on Monday (2 hours available each session)
- School travel planning (final year) – Alice Hutton (parent) still participating and new principal has been updated. Construction vehicle access: proposed truck traffic along fence (on the church side) instead of through the current double gate at Lockhart (this would end up splitting the yard and roping off access to the primary yard). Please note the construction will affect front/back access. Raised issue with Retirement centre about current fencing which is across the city easement and how many parents access the front of the school. During construction, student line ups for the buses will hopefully go through the school rather than lining up in courtyard.
- New Full Day Kindergarten equipment has arrived and many volunteers are needed to help assemble water/sand tables, doll houses, puppet theatres, etc. Kim will choose a day in the

next month. **Please note that volunteers need to be able to read instructions and provide your own tools!!**

- This year's pizza and milk money was used to purchase 5 laptops (in a kit) and 2 tech tubs (each comes with 5 iPads) which will hopefully allow classes on the ground floor (Kinders and Grade 1s) more access. Each class has currently has access to a Ladybug camera/projector or iPad and Document Camera.
- New screen arrived for installing at the front of the stage in the gym. Staff very excited about this!
- Reminder to parents of the policy on electronic devices in schools. The policy is that students may only use their phone/iPad/iPod with direct teacher supervision and therefore they are not allowed during recess and lunch time. If students are found using electronics without teacher supervision, the device will be taken and stored in the office until a parent comes to retrieve it.

Vice-Principal report

- Highlights of Education week:
 - Music Monday
 - Art Gallery (Aboriginal art) – visited by members of the new retirement home
 - Talent show (raise \$1850 for our Wish Child, Victoria, who wants to visit the Queen in London, UK)
 - Music presentations and science project presentations
 - Volunteer breakfast was well attended.
- Thank you from the teachers for the Multicultural/Art programming and Scientists in School
- Public Health nurse presented on Puberty for grade 6 students
- Cyber-bullying workshop planned for grade 6 students.
- Some grade 6 students also attended the Me to We conference with Mme Pascale.
- Student agendas: it has been decided that we will be purchasing the agendas from a professional printer (like we have done in past years) now that they have lowered their printing cost.
- Running Club has started on Wednesdays during the first.

10. Chalk it Up

- **Fitness Week is June 16-20** - organized by Julie Finlay, Liz Burgess, and Michele Shaffer
Phys ed periods will be replaced with instructors for activities such as tennis, yoga, hip hop dance, obstacle course race. Also a take home flyer on skin cancer; Olympian Cody Sorenson is coming back to speak; and volunteers from Dovercourt will be coming to do recess activities.

- **Question about Extended Day program –when will info come and how?**

Those that signed up for the Extended Day Program should be receiving an email from the Board (specifically the Early Learning Office). Please contact them if you have not received anything from them in the past 2 weeks. There are 90 children pre-registered for EDP at Woodroffe Ave PS.

- Question raised about communications to families about school clubs

How can parents get current information from the school if it's not coming home with their child. Noted that it's challenging for School Administration because decisions about clubs are made by teachers and there is not always a lot of lead time to communicate. School Council offered to provide their website for current updates to parents. Children hear announcements every day at school and parents should encourage responsibility with children to bring messages home in agenda. Also, information

can always be found in the newsletter, though it was noted that it is not always the most current information.

- **June 8th is World Oceans Day (celebrated internationally)**

June meeting is Wednesday, June 18th, 2014 7-9pm

Please note that the June meeting will be more of a town hall format with question and answer opportunities and more discussions rather than an in-depth look at school council business. We will be highlighting programs and projects that were accomplished this past year. We would like to invite the Superintendent and Trustee to come join us for a celebration of School Council accomplishments and Kim's accomplishments in her 4.5-year term as principal.

We will also discuss 2013-14 spending, fundraising for next year, a preliminary budget and executive for next year. If you have any comments, questions or want to volunteer for next year's executive, please join us at the June meeting.

Chair adjourned the meeting.

	Moved	Seconded
Approval to adjourn	Anne Windle	Pam Cameron