



Parent Council Meeting
November 20, 2023 – 6:30pm
Edmison Heights Library & WebEx

Attendance:

Jackie Mercer
Mary Heenan
Kim Docherty
Tonya Cowle
Noni Chowdhury
Samantha Dennis
Becky Mills
Lauren Fitzsimmons
Amy Campbell
Kate Dunford

Sarah Harvey
Matt Maloney
Beth Morgan
Ashley Graham
Katie Jones
Matt Maloney
Luisa Magalhaes
Jill & Bryan (online)
Trista Rutledge

Agenda:

- Welcome – Kim Docherty
- Land Acknowledgement – Gabi McCann
- Approval of, and business arising from the previous minutes – Kim Docherty
- Student Nutrition Update – Samantha Dennis
- Fundraising Update – Ashley Graham
- Regional Council Update – Becky Mills
- Principal's Report – Mary Heenan
- Teacher's Report – Jackie Mercer
- New Business
 - Holiday Social Meeting
 - Playground Update
- Adjournment

Start Time: 6:32pm

- **Welcome** - Chairperson Kim Docherty welcomed everyone in person and online to another parent council meeting. Passed along Lorena Haley-Twiss regrets today as she is dealing with a difficult family matter. We send our thoughts and care to her during this time.

- **Land Acknowledgement (Read by Gabi McCann)** – *We would like to respectfully acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the treaty and traditional territory of the Mississauga First Nations. We are grateful for our relationship with the First Nations of this territory, for their care for, and teachings about, the land, the water, and all our relations. As people of the Williams Treaty we continue our journey to strengthen our understanding of our Treaty relationship and of how to move forward together in a good way. We acknowledge the contributions and accomplishments of all Indigenous people across Turtle Island, current and throughout history.*

- **ADDITION: Student Council Representative – Gabi McCann**
 - We have 10 Grade 5s attending PAL training this week. Marjolane LaPointe will be answering questions about the Land Acknowledgement in preparation for council members to take the lead whenever necessary – including parent council. And behalf of the students, thank you for the food in the bins!

- **Previous Minutes – Kim Docherty**
 - Kim asked the group if there is any questions or concerns from the previous meeting that requires discussion. No additions or revisions noted. Minutes approved by Lauren Fitzsimmons and seconded by Amy Campbell.

- **Nutrition Program – Samantha Dennis**
 - The Fresh to the Farm Fundraiser was successful! We raised \$900 for the school and donated 412lbs of food to Kawartha Food Share. We will be doing this fundraiser again. The produce was fresh and well received.
 - Global News was in the school to film about volunteering on Tuesday. It aired on Thursday. You can check it out here at the 1:54 minute mark <https://globalnews.ca/news/10098451/volunteer-peterborough-match-volunteers-groups-in-need/>
 - Financially the student nutrition program is doing okay this year, but we will need to discuss fundraising for the next school year.

- **Fundraising Update- Ashley Graham**
 - A fundraising committee meeting has occurred since our last council meeting. Discussions were focused on the silent auction baskets for the Winter Open House. Each classroom has been given a theme for their baskets so parents should see that information come out shortly.
 - Parents will not be in attendance to win; phone calls will be made once the winning bid is determined.

- Pictures of the final baskets and a brief description posted to EDSBY prior to the Open House date would be appreciated to ensure all parents are aware.
 - In order to help accommodate the silent auction we would suggest having the open house open for at least another half and hour (making it a total of 1.5 hours) so parents are able to see classroom(s) and partake in bidding. Purpose a time of 6pm-730pm. Even if the classrooms are closed at 7pm and the gym can stay open until 730pm that would be helpful. Mary Heenan will speak to Lorena Haley-Twiss about this and confirm.
- **Regional Council Update – Becky Mills**
- Most of meeting was voting members for regional council as well as PIC (Parent Involvement Committee)
 - **A few resources that were shared:**
 - Pro Grants
 - [Parents Reaching Out \(PRO\) Grants - Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board \(kprschools.ca\)](#)
 - PRO Grant is due by December 22, 2023. This is a grant that can give up to \$1000 for a speaker/presentation on a variety of topics for parents. This would need to be chosen and completed by an individual ASAP. Kim Docherty asked if anyone was interested in completing this. No volunteers.
 - Lotto application
 - [Applications Licences and Permits - City of Peterborough](#)
 - Regional Council guide
 - [Regional School Councils - Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board \(kprschools.ca\)](#)
 - EQAO results
 - [Find My School - EQAO](#)
 - **Topics for future discussions at regional council this year:**
 - Academics - Reading/Writing/Math
 - Budget
 - Grants
 - Collaborate with other councils for support and ideas
 - If there is anything that anyone would like to know about; reach out to Becky Mills and she will bring them to the next meeting.
- **Principal Report – Lorena Haley-Twiss**
- See attached.
 - Posting for SERT/Planning French role was posted. No applications were received. Posting is now for English.

- Question: How come other school boards are hiring non-certified French professionals to help fill these roles and KPR is not? Answer from Mary Heenan: I do not know – that would be a question to ask the board.
- Adam Scott is not able to accommodate us this year for the play due to their AV equipment being unreliable. The cost to replace their equipment is \$40,000 plus and they can not confirm that they will be able to have it replaced this school year. Administration has been contacting other high schools and venues to try and find a new place to hold the play. Churches and catholic schools are not allowed due to KPR board rules. Discussions of other places to try included high schools, PACE, Showplace, The Venue, KPR Board Office etc. Some of these are not cost prohibited for our production. Last resort plan is to have it in our gym, but we are hopeful to find someplace else. A post on EDSBY to the school community about helping find a venue (or a donation of a venue) was suggested if something isn't found soon.
- Book Fair is December 4 – 6. Children will have the option to shop during a designated time in class. Parents are welcome to come Tuesday night until 6pm. Volunteers are normally needed. Laura Gunning has sent out an email to past volunteers asking for assistance. Mary Heenan will reach out to see if anymore are required.
- **Teachers Report – Jackie Mercer**
 - No official report as the principal's report touched on most of it.
 - A few questions she was asked to bring up:
 - The hot lunch team wanted to know if parent council was interested in taking over any hot lunches. They are good to go with pizza indefinitely however they wanted to reach out to council. Council lacks the volunteerism to do the hot lunch, so the hot lunch team has our blessings to continue (we love not making lunches).
 - Hot lunch funds go into a communal school fund this year to help wherever it is needed.
 - Kids have asked if there were other options for hot lunch: their ideas are East Side Marios, Pita Pit, Chicken Strips, Kernels, Subway, Pizza & Smoothies. Council knows that some of these are not a viable option due to allergies, but we will take these into consideration.

- **New Business**
 - **Holiday Social Meeting**
 - Typically, our December meeting is a social event at a local restaurant. Date agreed upon is Thursday December 7, 2023, at 6:30pm. Snow Date is Monday December 11, 2023 at 6:30pm. Kim will send an email out with the location once confirmed.
 - **Playground Update**
 - Bid closed on November 18, 2023. The playground came in under budget and **will be installed in APRIL 2024!!!!**
 - Council may see some funds be returned as we are paying for the equipment and the board is covering the rest, no further details have been provided.
 - **Open Discussion**
 - We have been asked if we could switch our funds to pay for Jimmy Chapman instead of Nature Nancy as discussed last meeting. Nature Nancy has funding/grants that can be used towards her time. The amounts for both parties are close to the same. Motion to approve the same funding allotment but for Jimmy instead of Nancy raised by Lauren Fitzsimmons, seconded by Ashley Graham. Motion approved.
 - Superintendent John Ford has offered his presence at one of our meetings in 2024 if we wish to have him attend. An explanation was given about our last encounter with Mr. Ford to new council members. A consensus was made that we encourage Mr. Ford to come back to a meeting. We will have a set of questions for him prior to his attendance of items we wish to have answered as well as a timekeeper. An invite to Associate Director Drew McNaughton will also be extended. Questions include:
 - French positions being filled by non-certified teachers like other boards, to ensure French language continuity.
 - Re-drawing of school boundaries – what is occurring and how will this effect our school and surrounding schools.
 - Elementary schools utilizing secondary school spaces and equipment – is there funding for this? (Ie. Adam Scott AV equipment situation)
 - Any additional questions should be directed to Kim via email to be added to the list. Confirmation of questions will be addressed at the January meeting.
 - Attendance: A situation has occurred recently where a parent was not notified until 10:30am that the student was missing from the

classroom. This is a big concern, especially those that walk to school. This timeframe is unacceptable. A discussion was had, and the probable cause was that it is due to having supply teachers complete paper attendance. This takes longer than the normal digital practice on Aspen. Ashley Graham (who works with a different board) says that there is a way that supply teachers can have a code for the day and complete their attendance the same way as a full-time teacher. Ashley will continue the discussion with administration in hopes to have this resolved.

- A point was brought up about other schools have text message alerts in addition to emails etc. Can this be set up for Edmison Heights? These are done through SchoolMessenger. There is a personal setting that can be set for each individual account to receive text messages, however there may also be a setting on the administrative side that needs to be activated. This will be looked at for the future.
- A Grade 1 student has come home and asked some questions about ethnicity. Parents want to know if the world news is being talked about in classrooms or if this is a school yard conversation. Mary Heenan has confirmed that there have not been any controls about what to talk about or not talk about in the classroom. Typically, world news is discussed if questions are asked. If there are any concerns about what students are hearing in the school yard or classroom, please reach out to Mary Heenan & Lorena Haley-Twiss and it will be dealt with accordingly.
- Are there lights in the front area (kiss and ride) that need to be repaired, or can we have some installed. It is very dark in that area for evening pickups. Mary Heenan will investigate this further. This may be brought up in the board Health & Safety inspection later this month.

Next meeting is set for Monday January 15, 2024 at 6:30pm– EHPS Library & Online

- **Adjournment** - Motion to adjourn – 1st Lauren Fitzsimmons 2nd Ashley Graham

Meeting Adjourned at 7:48pm.