

St. Elizabeth School Council Minutes - Monday, Sept 24, 2018 @ 6:30pm

**In Attendance**

<u>EXECUTIVE:</u>	<u>MEMBERS AT LARGE:</u>		
Alison Wills (Chair)	Cecilia Toonk	Leigh Anne Simpson	Nicole Nedelko
Jo Goossens (Principal)	Constance Guglielmo	Lindsay Reis	Pauline Martin
Jennifer Venditti (Teacher Rep)	Danielle Thibeault	Lori Humphrey	Sigrid Collas
Michelle Bowman (Treasurer)	Katrina Aravelo	Nelly Osmar	Tara Patterson
Jennifer Newton (Fundraising)	Kim Zilinski		
Sheri Urquhart (Spirit)	Kim Myatt		

**Welcome and Prayer**

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm with an opening prayer.

Alison welcomed new members and everyone introduced themselves.

Alison gave an overview of the types of things Council supported last year (Learning commons furniture, Sports team uniforms, Chromebook charging buckets for portable use)

**Executive Positions/Aclamations**

Review of positions carrying over from last year and new acclamations. If anyone is interested in a position (for this year or next), please speak to Alison.

Continuing roles:

- Chair – Alison Wills
- Treasurer – Michelle Bowman
- Secretary – Colleen MacDonald
- Nutrition for Learning (ordering) – Denise Todoroff

New Appointments (Motioned by Leigh Anne, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pauline)

- Teacher Rep – Jennifer Venditti
- Nutrition for Learning (filling)– Taryn Marchant
- Fundraising – Jennifer Newton
- Spirit – Sheri Urquhart

**Fundraising Review – Alison**

**ACTION:** Consider fundraising goals for next meeting – what are our priorities? What is our target?

Proposed items for consideration:

- support for Portable Bright Links board for use in Atrium, Library, Gym
- Lego Wall in Learning Commons
- Chimes for Christian Meditation (in each classroom, part of healthy schools initiatives/wellness and mindfulness. Will become an every day practice in the classroom.
- Exercise Bike for Sensory/Quiet Room
- Fundraiser #1: Halloween Dance-a-thon – Wed, Oct 31, 2018
  - Grade 8's will be at Camp Brebeuf retreat, but dance will continue right to end of day so they have an opportunity right at the end.
  - Grade 7s will learn a dance (by Mrs Boll) to teach other ages at the dance
  - By grades/division, students will go to the gym for their assigned dance time

- Popcorn and frozen yogurt tubes will be available for purchase in the morning dance time slot. Students will purchase upon exit from dance and enjoy back in the classroom. *Consider sale in grade 8 classrooms late in the day as well.* **ACTION:** Let Alison know if you can assist with morning selling
  - Soliciting families for prize donations (re-gifted items, other items), teacher prize donations (experiences, eg lunch out, ice cream party, principal for a day)
  - Students each receive 1 ballot and additional ballots for every \$10 raised.
- Fundraiser #2: Valentine Dance/Silent Auction – Thurs, Feb 7, 2019
    - Katrina has been soliciting donations throughout the summer
    - **ACTION** For those who had specific contacts and got a prize last year, please reach out to your employer/family/friend again. If unsure, touch base with Alison.

#### Treasurer – Michelle

##### Review of Income Statement/Financials/Earmarks

- As of end of June, balance = \$7933.64 but I didn't account for allocations of \$5000 for Learning Commons furniture, Remaining Spirit expense for Popsicle Day. Assuming these used the full amount allocated, our starting balance is close to \$2822.53.
- **ACTION: Michelle** to have actuals for next meeting.

#### Nutrition for Learning – Alison (in Denise's absence)

- Continuing with the program – snack baskets in each classroom. Dairy offered Mondays and Thursdays
- Postcards requesting \$2 donation went home 1<sup>st</sup> week of school
- **ACTION:** Jo will have a Newswire reminder sent out
- **ACTION:** Add to SchoolCashOnline as an Optional donation item. Due to fees for using CashOnline, discussed having an allocation to cover online fees associated with online payments for Council initiatives.

#### Principal's Update – Jo Goossens

- School Council Memo - Reviewed WCDSB memo to school council (Roles and Guidelines)
- Enrolment – currently at 387 students. Many new students this year transferred from Public Board, each citing sense of community/faith as a reason.
- Preliminary EQAO results: Reviewed results. Overall St Elizabeth did well and above Provincial Averages.
  - Grade 3: % of our students at or above provincial standard - Reading: 86%; Writing 88%; Math 90%
  - Grade 6: % of our students at or above provincial standard – Reading 96%; Writing 88%; Math 63%
  - Reiterated that EQAO measures cumulative learning from Kindergarten, not just the learning from grade 3 and 6. EQAO results were reviewed with staff at the last PD Day and plans formed for improvement in areas of weakness
  - Our students do very well in knowledge and Understanding, Application and Thinking are areas for continued focus, with practice for multi-strand, multi-step questions in Math
  - Spiralling in Math is done in Grade 9 at St Benedict's. Along with Board Math Consultants, considering incorporating this in the grade 7/8 years. Currently we do punctuated instruction (revisit topics to bring more along in understanding each time) in all grades.
  - School improvement plans also include continuing with teachers collaborating on lesson plans and on how they evaluate students' success for consistent evaluation regardless of teacher.

- Language improvement plan involves combing terminology from other subjects eg. Before discussing a treaty in Social Studies, ensure from Language class it is well understood what a treaty is. This can include math terms or terminology from any other subject.
- Support for families in need – Through council allocated funds and school generated funds, we ensure no student goes without (covering costs of field trips, etc.)
- Thanksgiving Food Drive – along with St Vincent de Paul / St Mary of the Visitation parish. Sept 30-Oct 8.
- Opening School Mass – all students in grade 1-8 will walk to mass Sept 26, 10am. Parents welcome.
- Terry Fox Run – Thurs, Sept 27 2:30-3:15pm. Older students will walk/run the block; younger students walk/run in the school yard.
- Lego League – New program this year. Being run by Mrs. Deignan and Mrs. Morelli. Themes identified and students solve a problem. Aligns with board pedagogy to use technology for student based solutions to real problems. Fosters teamwork and collaboration. A \$500 start-up grant has been applied for.

#### **Umbrella Project – Alison and Jo**

- The Umbrella Project teaches resiliency and gives students the tools to succeed in all areas of their lives.
- We applied for a PRO Grant to bring in Dr Jen as a guest speaker for the Umbrella project. Unsure if Grant received, however moving forward with parent seminar – Oct 11 @ 6:30pm
- **ACTION** – Jo to send newswire communication of this date and re-send links to subscribe to parent information
- Assembly to explain the program to students was held Tues, Sept 25<sup>th</sup>.
- More info can be found on School Website already – [Umbrella Project](#)
- **ACTION:** Council members to share info with other parents in the school as much as possible

#### **Spirit - Sheri**

- Poster contest planned – what does St Elizabeth mean to you? Optional activity. Will be hung in school (one per division) and featured in yearbook. \$25 Mastermind / Michael's / Indigo gift cards as prizes. Posters due Oct 2.
- Sept 28 – wear Orange to show support for indigenous people
- Oct 5 – wear school colours/spirit wear
- Reviewed list of other Spirit days – will be sent out via Newswire once finalized. Popular dates return (bubblegum blowing contest, pj day, candy guessing, etc)

#### **Mums - Alison & Jen Venditti (Eco team)**

- Mums purchased for open house will be planted by Eco Team next week at lunch.
- Some parent volunteers identified to assist and bring gardening tools.
- Alison/Jen will reach out directly to the volunteers with specific date/time once known.

#### **School Council Meeting Dates for 2018-19**

- All meetings start at 6:30pm
- Oct 22, Nov 26, Jan 28, Feb 25, April 29

**Next Council Meeting: Oct 22, 2018 @ 6:30pm in the Learning Commons (School library)**