

Minutes

Castor Valley Elementary School Council

September 17, 2015

Meeting began at 6:40pm.

Meeting was chaired by Leslie Segal and Cynara Corbin.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Leslie Segal welcomed everyone to the first Council meeting of the 2015-2016 school year. Leslie listed the individuals outgoing on Council; Leslie Segal (Co-chair), Jen Danby-McDonald (Vice-Chair), Lynn Mills (Co-Treasurer) and Alka Moorjani (Co-Treasurer). Leslie noted that Shannon Oaks would be remaining as Secretary.

Leslie Segal introduced Angie Bickmore (Teacher Representative) and Chris Toivonen (Principal) to Council.

Leslie stated that there were many formal items to discuss. Leslie noted that Chris Toivonen will dissolve the old council, self-nomination forms will be handed out and completed, voting and non-voting members will be decided. Council can have up to 30 voting members, 12 present voting members are needed for quorum. This enables Council to vote on items and pass them. Leslie noted that there are MANY volunteer options. It is not necessary to be a voting member to play a role in Council.

2. Dissolution of 2014-2015 Council

Council was dissolved by Principal Chris Toivonen.

3. Icebreaker Activity conducted by Jen Danby McDonald

4. Explanation, distribution and collection of Self-Nomination Forms.

5. Nominations and Elections of 2015-2016 Council Members

The new members were formally noted and voted in. Cynara Corbin (Co-Chair), Melanie Ritchie (Co-Chair), Lesley Parker (Vice-Chair), Tina Clarmo (Treasurer), Tara Starzowski (Treasurer), Shannon Oaks (Co-Secretary) and Debbie Hill (Co-Secretary). Leslie Segal made a motion to accept these changes and all were in favour.

Attendance:

Voting Members (reached quorum):

Cynara Corbin, Melanie Ritchie, Lesley Parker, Tina Clarmo, Tara Starzowski, Shannon Oaks, Debbie Hill, Trish Bezaire, Sarah Slater, Nicole Eisner, Melissa Ekdorf-Delorme, Maria Armas, Lisa Multari,

Leslie Segal, Lesley Parker, Lesley Chen, Keira Lennox, Kaitlin Bedford, Jenni Bell, Elli Kapsalis, Deanna Morris, Alka Moorjani, Alex Surrect

Non-Voting Members and Guests:

Chris Toivonen (Principal), Angie Bickmore (Teacher), Sandra Howell, Kim Parsons, Danielle Whalen, Jen Danby-McDonald, Jonathan Miller, Gail Spencer, Jane Desrosiers, Tammy Beaudry, Peter Weylie, Johan Rathwell, Josee Dalglish

6. Approval of Agenda

Cynara Corbin made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Tara Starzomski. Motion carried.

7. Approval of June 2015 Minutes

Leslie Parker made a motion to approve the June 2015 Minutes, seconded by Jennie Bell. Motion carried.

8. Chair's Report

Leslie Segal noted that she has enjoyed her role tremendously. She will stay on Council as a voting member as she has some items she would enjoy finishing up. Leslie stated she believes new ideas, fresh perspectives could make Council even better.

The P.R.O Grant has been applied for. Reporting to The Board on behalf of where Council spent its funds will be done. Teacher Resource checks are ready to go and about 10-12 teachers have requested class reps. The reps are no longer automatically assigned as many teachers are happy to take on the task of communication with parents themselves.

The Constitution does need updating. The changes will be made with Leslie Segal and new Council members.

Cynara Corbin thanked Leslie Segal for the introduction and stated that last year she was a new parent as well. She has a daughter in Senior Kindergarten.

Cynara noted that the large project for this Council will be attempting to get the Kinder Yard updated. (This structure is 30 years old and fears are it may soon face demolition. Demolition is done throughout the summer, on Play Structures deemed "unsafe". If no plans are in place to replace the structure kindergarten children return to school in September possibly without a play structure.)

Council also would like to update the website and reach out to parents via twitter and Facebook. Council welcomes parent involvement here.

Elli Kapsalis suggested adding email addresses to the self-nomination forms for next year so that Council quickly has volunteer addresses.

9. Principal, Teaching and Support Staff Reports

Angie Bickmore (Teacher) reports that the first weeks of school went well. Cross Country is on for grade 4 +, Art Club with Ms. Merryl for 6,7,8 and reading buddies with the grade 8 and kinders, grade 7 and 2's.

Elli Kapsalis wonders where this “stuff” is written down. How can parents find out what is going on in the school? What is offered by teachers and for whom? Angie Bickmore notes that all of this is fluid and cannot easily be assumed year by year. Linda Clarmo (Parent) noted her child was in a club all year and she had no idea. Angie Bickmore had the same thing occur.

Chris Toivonen (Principal) notes that new siding will be going up on the school. No change in color.

The Primary Yard fence will be extended by the end of fall, the kinder shed will move.

The number were projected at 590, there are 615 children at the school, 157 kindergarten children. The Board suggests number of classes as per cap regulations. There are 8 portables on sight, 7 are in use. Next year we receive influx of grade 6 Early French Immersion students from Osgoode Public School.

Two fire alarms have been completed. Three required for the year.

Ms. Sarah of Grade 4 is a good life instructor. This is a cross country program teaching grade 4 students about health, fitness as this age is deemed ideal to instill these values.

Meet the teacher is not on the table right now.

Ms. Kemp is teaching more music as we have latitude with dual qualified teachers. Ms. Kemp is qualified in music and language.

Cynara Corbin noted that the flashing light on Snake Island should flash to correspond with when the children are outside. She has seen to that.

The administration staff is settling in. Campo bus lines is handling transportation. They do the Saint Mark's route first and this helps punctuality.

The Librarian notes that the book sale to correspond with Meet the Teacher will not occur now. All students need a large clear Ziploc for library books and must sign a library pledge to combat book damage.

Chris Toivonen notes that as for strike information. There is nothing to share at this point. The Union makes decisions, notifies members, The Board and then The Board notifies The Principals. Families and Children are not as of yet affected. Further information to come. Angie Bickmore noted that Friday September 18th will be a day where there may be some changes happening.

10. Treasurer's Report – see Appendix

Alka Moorjani notes that any parents with any questions regarding Council finances are welcome to contact Alka or Tina Clarmo the incoming treasurer.

Alka Moorjani states that the statements are fairly self-explanatory. The fiscal year end is the end of July. Highlights include Fun Night revenues of over 5000.00 and an ending balance of 17000.00. Alka Moorjani lets council know that because of the success of last year there is 5000.00 available to be used for the new Kinder Play Yard and that may be earmarked now or in the near future. There is no rush to earmark the funds.

The bank statement is included with the reports.

Tina will bring a proposed budget to council next meeting.

Tina Clarmo made a motion to have Leslie Segal, Tara Starzomski and Lesley Chen for signing officers. Everyone was in favour, motion passed.

Ad Hoc Committee meets Thursday October 22, 2015. The deadline for staff to request Ad Hoc funds is Tuesday October 20, 2015. Executive attends the Ad Hoc meeting and grants requests for funds for unique and enriching activities for students. All are welcome at the Ad Hoc meeting. Ad Hoc spending is traditionally where council spends 10000.00 to 14000.00 on student activities.

Alka Moorjani examined Pay Pal as a means for parents to pay for fundraising. This would cost the school upwards of 2000.00 for the hot lunch, milk and MacMillans programs. It is too expensive. E transfers will be examined.

11. Fundraising, Programs, Events Report –see Appendix

Elli Kapsalis spoke to the Fundraising Kinder Yard Project. The speed limit has been lowered on Snake Island, trees have been planted for wind barrier and protection in case of car accident. A mud kitchen has been added made by Osgoode Township High School Shop Class.

Next steps are the replacement of the Play Structure. A highlight of the plan is a direct ask program, approaching corporate sponsors.

Fund script will be run by Melanie Collins. Tammy Beaudry will oversee MacMillans once again. Christmas shopping day will be headed by Kiera Lennox. Fun Night is looking for coordinators. Milk Program runs for grades 1-8. Eleanor Robinson organizes volunteers. Hot lunches are organized by Johan Rathwell and Tara Starzomski.

Melanie Ritchie's proceeds from 31 Bags sales will go towards the Kinder Yard Project.

Kinder Yard Project meeting one week from today. All welcome!

12. Inclusive, Safe and Caring Schools Committee

The focus for Castor Valley is on communication. All schools have a committee yet they may all focus on something different. The school works with a communication circle. It is in the agenda. Jen Danby-McDonald is involved, Vice-Principal Dianne Abboud is involved. New members welcome.

13. New Business

No new business to report at this time.

14. Important Dates

Terry Fox National School Run Friday September 25, 2015

Photo Day/Family photo day Wednesday September 23, 2015

15. Adjournment and Next meeting

Leslie Segal made a motion to adjourn, all in favour. Next meeting date Thursday October 15, 2015

