

**MINUTES**  
**Castor Valley Elementary School Council Meeting**  
**October 15, 2015 6:30-8:30pm**

Meeting began at 6:35pm.

Meeting was chaired by Cynara Corbin

**Attendance:**

**Voting Members (reached quorum):**

Cynara Corbin, Deanna Morris, Debbie Hill, Eli Kapsalis, Jenni Bell, Kierra Lennox, Lesley Parker, Leslie Segal, Maria Armas, Melanie Ritchie, Melissa Ekdom-Delorme, Nicole Eisnor, Tara Starzomski, Tina Clarmo, Trish Bezaire, Tamara Legris

**Non-Voting Members & Guests:**

Chris Toivonen (Principal), Alison Vigneault (Teacher Representative), Angie Bickmore, Gloria Mackie

**1. Welcome, Attendance**

Cynara Corbin opened the meeting and noted that we had reached quorum.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Jenni Bell made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Leslie Segal. Motion carried.

**3. Approval of September Minutes**

Maria Armas made a motion to approve the September minutes, seconded by Leslie Parker. Motion carried.

**4. Co- Chairs and Vice-Chair's Report**

**School Council Website**

Melanie Ritchie presented the new look and layout of the Castor Valley School Council website. While it is still a work in progress with old minutes and resource links to be added, it is much more user friendly and already contains many useful tools/references. An on-line business directory has been added where Castor Valley families who own businesses are welcome to add their listing. Other ideas discussed include: Creating a facebook group for School Council, blogging twice/week (Melanie), Pinterest posts, including common forms, noting upcoming events and identifying fundraising initiatives (example:. Mabel's Labels). All in all, the vision is for the website to be a one-stop-shop for parents. Efforts now need to be made to raise awareness of the new website!

**Council Logo**

A new school council logo was unveiled. A suggestion was made to change the colours to those of the school – teal and black. Tara Starzomski motioned to approve the logo, which was seconded by Maria Armas. Motion carried.

### **Pro Grant**

Leslie Parker noted that the School Council had once again applied for the PRO Grant and was approved for \$1,000 for an event to bring parents into the school. Council is now welcoming ideas for use of the funding, such as Raz-Kids which came forward as a suggestion.

### **Thank You letters**

Melanie Ritchie read several thank you notes from teachers to CVESC in appreciation of the \$100 classroom resource fund that was allocated to them at the start of the school year.

### **Volunteer Surveys**

A request for parents to complete an on-line Volunteer Survey went out in recent weeks with 26 surveys being completed to date. CVESC will send a reminder to encourage more responses. It was also suggested that a better response might result if a list of the ways that people could help was communicated (example: could be something small).

### **School Council Training Day**

Melanie Ritchie spoke about a recent School Council Training Day held by OCDSB where 4 key lessons were shared in helping your kids succeed in school: Have high expectations (not about marks, but rather to work hard); talk about school with your child (not just their day, be more specific); build positive attitudes and strong work habits where kids learn persistence and how to navigate difficulties; and, read together until they leave home!

An OCASC seminar was also recently held on the subject of how to lead councils effectively.

### **Flashing light**

A flashing light is now operational at the corner of Greys Creek Road and Snake Island Road. It should be flashing when the children are at play (to double check the times, and if does not align with when flashing light is required, City Council needs to be advised).

### **Metcalfe Community Association**

Elli Kapsalis attended a Metcalfe Community Association (MCA) meeting which was attended by a few others including our councillor George Darouze. Mr. Darouze indicated that he would like the MCA to be the first point of contact for residents, with the MCA then feeding into himself. One of the attendees was Mark Sauvé with the Metcalfe Business Association. Mark indicated that if we provided him a copy of our corporate letter (re: the KinderYard initiative), he would send to all 43 businesses in the Metcalfe Business Association.

## **5. Principal, Teaching & Support Staff Reports**

### **Teachers Report**

Angie Bickmore read additional thank you letters aloud from teachers for the \$100 classroom resource fund.

Regarding sports, the cross-country meet is scheduled to take place next week, while football, junior soccer and intra-murals are either starting up or underway. The chess club is meeting tomorrow. Junior and intermediate vocal groups are also underway, and the primary choir is starting up.

Ambassadors – a club that promotes doing good for society - has just started. The club consists of 59 grades 7 and 8 children. Some initiatives being discussed for this year include a food drive and a snowsuit drive. A guest speaker from the Shepherds of Good Hope is scheduled to come to the school next week to discuss homelessness (what it is and what do we want to do to respond). Also, the vision for the club this year is to focus on acts (rather than strictly raising money).

Grades 8's are being paired with Grade 2's for reading. The lunch monitor program - consisting of grade 6 students monitoring the grades 1-4 classes during lunch - has also begun. Madame Abboud coordinates this program.

## **Principal's report**

### **Early French Immersion program**

Chris Toivonen indicated that the OCDSB is considering a change to the Early French Immersion program with a proposed 50/50 french/english split day in both JK and SK. If approved, this change would be effective September, 2016. The OCDSB is currently surveying parents for feedback on the proposal.

### **GoodLife**

GoodLife is sponsoring a Grade 4 program across Canada called GoodLife4Kids School Program and CVES is fortunate to have been chosen as one of the participating schools. Every Friday until May, GoodLife will visit the school and teach fitness skills to the Grade 4 students.

### **Projectors**

Projectors are going up across the school, so there will no longer be a need to wheel projectors in and out of the classroom.

### **Morning recess**

Morning recess has been moved 20 minutes back to get kids moving. From 9:05-9:25, music plays over the intercom to encourage students to dance and be active.

### **Programming**

Chris Toivonen spoke about starting to look at popular initiatives in previous years for the 2015-16 school year such as M.A.S.C. presentations and Mathletes (usually funded as an Ad Hoc item by School Council).

### **School pictures**

This is the final year of the school's existing contract with Earl Havlin photography. The school will be looking at the possibility of making a change for the 2016-17 school year.

## **6. Treasurer's Reports (attached)**

### **Financial Reports**

Tina Clarmo discussed the treasurer's report included in the Appendix.

### **Proposed Budget for 2015-16**

A proposed budget was presented with much of it comparable to the prior year with the exception of a projected \$10,000 from fundraising to be designated for the KinderYard Improvement project. Of note, this \$10,000 was sourced from a \$7,000 Ad Hoc surplus last year, along with additional proceeds from Fun Night.

The classroom resource fund of \$100 initially given to Chris Toivonen was given back for the KinderYard initiative. Leslie Segal also indicated she would determine whether any memberships other than OCASC were included in the Budget last year.

A motion was put forward by Leslie Segal to approve the opening budget. This was seconded by Elli Kapsalis. Motion carried.

### **Ad Hoc request deadline and Ad Hoc meeting**

October 20, 2015 was communicated to be the deadline for Ad Hoc requests. The Ad Hoc meeting is scheduled to take place October 22, 2015.

### **E-payments**

Per a recent OCASC meeting, it was relayed that there is a possibility of using "School Cash Online" next year. This initiative would offer parents the option of paying for CVESC initiatives using an electronic payment system. OCASC is working to secure a license with School Cash Online, and is aiming to provide schools with this license by the end of the school year. Roll out to councils would follow for the 2016-17 school year. It is not expected that there will be a fee to councils.

## **7. Fundraising/Programs/Events Report**

### **KinderYard Improvement project**

Direct ask letters were sent home with students (corporate letters to go out separately with a sponsorship package). Before proceeding with additional fundraising initiatives for the KinderYard initiative, CVESC will first determine what comes from the direct ask campaign.

In terms of other funding, CVESC has been approved for a City grant of \$7,500. An application for OCDSB funding is to be submitted in November, 2015 with approval by January 31, 2016. The corporate ask letter will also be uploaded to the CVESC website.

CVESC is planning to approach the first of a dozen businesses shortly. It was communicated to Council that if anyone is going to approach a company, to first check with the KinderYard e-mail address to determine if the business has already been approached.

### **MacMillans**

We will be running a MacMillans campaign again this year. Final collection of money and orders will be November 6<sup>th</sup>, with delivery on November 24 in the gym. Volunteers will be needed for sorting.

### **Samko and Miko Toy Sale**

Flyers will be distributed the week before the sale which will take place November 4-8. For all receipts that are brought forward, a percentage of sales will come back to CVESC.

### **FundScrip**

Five dates are planned for this year. Orders forms will be due on Thursday Nov. 5, Thursday Nov. 19, Thursday Dec. 3, Thursday May 12 and Thursday June 2. Delivery will take effect a week after the due date.

### **Entertainment Books**

It was agreed that CVESC will not sell entertainment books this year.

### **Milk Program/Lunch Program**

The program is up and running and everything is going well.

### **Other Fundraising possibilities**

Cedar Bush creations – Council approved a fundraiser where wooden decorations made by Cedar Bush Creations would be purchased at wholesale prices and then resold to Castor Valley families at retail prices. All profit is to go to the KinderYard initiative. Efforts will be made to align the delivery date with MacMillans.

Papa Jack's Popcorn – An idea was raised to sell Papa Jack's Popcorn on Tuesdays or potentially at a movie night. Could sell for \$2 and bring in profits of \$1 per box.

### **8. Inclusive, Safe and Caring Schools**

"Castor Valley has Courage" will be coming to the halls of CVES during the third week of November. This aligns with bullying awareness week.

### **9. Round Table**

#### **Environment**

The possibility of a fall clean-up of Castor Valley's yard/ flower beds was discussed. In past years, a date/time was set up for families to come by and work on beautifying the grounds. This included a barbeque for all the families who attended. A coordinator is needed to come up with a date for this year. Cynara indicated she would get back to all.

### **10. OSCASC**

At the most recent OCASC meeting, the Board's 2015-2019 Strategic Plan was presented where key priorities were outlined. Key points include the Board's intention to investigate the use of parent portals to access grades, anecdotal feedback, etc. School websites will also be revamped to include social media. There is a potential to integrate council and school website info.

The president of OCETF also gave OCASC a Labour and Job Action update. ETF feels class size is an issue particularly in younger grades because of exploding autism rates and sometimes increased violence in JK-2. Also, class size is generally not an issue if the group of students is more homogeneous.

### **11. Adjournment and Next Meeting: Thursday, February 12th**

Jenni Bell made a motion to adjourn, with Tara Starzomski seconding. Meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.