

MINUTES
Castor Valley Elementary School Council Meeting
April, 2016 6:30-9: __pm

Meeting began at 6:35pm.

Meeting was chaired by Cynara Corbin

Attendance:

Voting Members (reached quorum):

Alka Moorjani, Cynara Corbin, Deanna Morris, Debbie Hill, Elli Kapsalis, Jenni Bell, Kiera Lennox, Lesley Chen, Lesley Parker, Leslie Segal, Melanie Ritchie, Nicole Eisnor, Sarah Slater, Tara Starzomski, Tina Clarmo, Trish Bezaire ,

Non-Voting Members & Guests:

Chris Toivonen (Principal), Alison Vigneault (Teacher Representative), Eleanor Robinson

1. Welcome, Attendance

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

2. Approval of Agenda

Leslie Segal made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Sarah Slater. Motion carried.

3. Approval of September Minutes

Jenni Bell made a motion to approve the February minutes, seconded by Kiera Lennox. Motion carried.

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

Food Services

The recent one-day sale of poppa jack's popcorn was a success with a total of 500 bags sold and a profit of \$496. Leslie Parker led the sale initiative, but encouraged someone else to take the lead role next year. Alternatives to the approach taken were discussed including the possibility of selling to students in the lobby. This would reduce teacher involvement, thereby taking less of their time than the current system in classes. Another popcorn day will be held before the end of the school year.

CVES finished its first week of a 4 week trial with the Lunch Lady. The first week saw issues with coordination where the orders were late. The supplier indicated this would not happen again. There were also reports of some students not receiving their order – to which the provider did not seem overly concerned. It was suggested to check with neighbouring schools on their success with the provider. Next week will be week 2 with the Lunch Lady, with an additional two dates in May.

Ad Hoc Request

An Ad Hoc request came forward from Grade 8 parents collectively requesting \$700 for the graduation dinner/dance to be held on Jun 28. Students will be paying \$30 each. The \$700 cost included a DJ at a cost of \$300. Part of the discussion around whether the request would be supported included a review of historical spending on Grade 8 graduation over the past 4 years

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consisting of \$100, \$270, \$0 and \$180. Council also noted that consideration would need to be given to the notion of fairness - whether it would be prepared to approve this amount for future grade 8 classes as well. It was decided that a total of \$200 would be approved at this time. A decision around approval of any further funds would be revisited in May once there was more info available on the availability of funds.

Library Committee

Melanie Ritchie indicated that the plan is to start fundraising at next September's Meet the Teacher night. Our hope is to raise enough money to update the selection of books and resources and refresh the look of the library. Our next step is to meet with the librarian to develop a plan of action for the fundraising.

Yearbook

As of our last meeting, it was looking like there would not be a yearbook but thanks to the great efforts by Shannon Oaks and Eleanor Robinson, there will be. It is online orders only and the last day is April 22nd.

5. Principal, Teaching & Support Staff Reports

Principal's report

Reading areas

Chris Toivonen indicated that couches and other furniture have recently been added to the common area of the school, now distinguishing between work in the lobby and the library.

Painting

Grade 4 and 8 students having been busy painting! Students came together recently to paint maple leaves on a large sheet which will be sent to Tokyo where like paintings from schools around the world will be stitched together in time for the upcoming Olympics. Once stitched together, it is expected that the sheets will span an area 10 football fields large! The collection of sheets will be stored in a school near where the bomb was dropped in WWII.

CVES is the only known school in the Ottawa area to be participating in this initiative. A picture of the students with the painted sheet will be published in the OCENET newsletter.

Discussion on this international initiative led to a mention of the possibility of international exchange trips for students over a 3 month period in the future.

Secondary School Review

A secondary school review is underway. This follows the notion that all students should have access to programming without a far distance to travel. For instance specialty programming at schools like Canterbury and Colonel By are only offered in the East end currently. The equivalent is now being considered for the West end of the city.

Also being considered is a school system that would mean one transition for students. This would see schools offering programming from Kindergarten to Grade 6 and then from Grade 7 to Grade 12,

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thereby having students transition once between schools from Grade 6 to Grade 7. Alternately programming could be offered from Kindergarten to Grade 8 and then from Grade 9 to Grade 12. The transition between schools in this case would be from Grade 8 to Grade 9.

Volunteer Breakfast

The school is hosting a breakfast to thank volunteers on May 5 from 8:00AM to 9:00AM.

Spring Concert

The Spring Concert will be held on the evening of May 18. This will include the Junior Vocal group, the primary choir and the intermediate band.

Parent Info Night

A parent info night is coming up for Grade 6 students who will be transferring to CVES from Osgoode Public School. This will take place prior to the Honk and Blow night.

On a related note, CVES grade 6 classes hosted a fun gathering with the grade 6 class from Osgoode Public, consisting of a dance and games. The class that will be transferring to CVES from Osgoode Public consists of approximately 25 students.

The school has been busy!

The school has been hopping with activity of late including the yearbook, Talent Fest and the Lunch Lady to name a few initiatives. Great to see the fleury of activity.

Staffing

Mme DeWolf has left and Mme Paquette has returned. Also, Mrs. Gosland is back and Ms. McMurray is leaving.

A new chief custodian – Calvin Ferguson – is starting Monday. Mr. Ferguson comes with Mr. Jeff's approval 😊

School population/housing

Currently, enrollment is at 618 students. It is projected that there will be 668 students next year. With that, two new portables will be added bringing the total portables on site to 9. CVES is equipped to house 10 portables relative to septic requirements, so 9 is not a concern. Once past 10, a minor upgrade to the septic would be required. Once past 12, it would cost considerably more to upgrade the septic system.

Kindergarten program

There will be 6 kinder classes next year (same as this year). Projected to be 80 JK and 70 SK students for a total of 150, therefore 20-25 students per class. JK and SK classes will be together. The unified program will be termed Kindergarten (no JK, SK distinction) and will be a 2 year program. There will be a 50/50 split between French and English.

No staggered entry for SK next year. Final allocation for ECE's will be known by tomorrow (currently there are 10 individuals, and all want to stay). The allocation of EA's will be known by mid-May. There are two part-time staff in this capacity currently.

Sports

Junior basketball and intermediate badminton have both begun.

Student Appreciation Barbeque

Mme Aboud is looking for 6 or more volunteers for the student appreciation barbeque (usually June). Mr Jeff has expressed interest in helping. Alka Moorjani also indicated she could help.

Scholastic Book Fair

The scholastic book fair had sales of \$5627.00 which gave \$3160.00 worth of scholastic products for our school library and teacher's resources.

A special thank you to those parent and grandparent volunteers who assisted with the sale.

Teaching Report

Mme Vignault presented the teaching report:

Math Olympics

On Apr 16, CVES sent a team of Grade 5 and 6 students to the Carleton Ottawa Math Olympics competition at St. Patrick's H.S. Students had 100 minutes to complete as many questions as possible. CVES came in 21st out of 48 teams. On Saturday, the intermediate math Olympics team will be competing in their math competition with the winning team going on to the Ontario Math Olympics competition.

SK Classes

The SK classes have just begun incubating chicken eggs in an incubator bought with funds from the parent council. If all goes well, we should have 60+ chicks between two classrooms by about May 9th!

Primary Choir

The primary choir will be visiting the Osgoode Care Centre, Orchard View and Stanley apartments in May.

Earth Day

This week to mark Earth Day, we are having a spirit day. Children are encouraged to wear blue and green, and all are encouraged to bring a "litterless" lunch.

Ambassadors

Ambassadors ran the canteen at Talent Fest both nights. A total of \$400 was raised which will be donated to the Cahill family Trust as chosen by the students.

Grade 7 ambassadors will be attending a leadership workshop run by Nepean High School in May.

The Grade 8 year end trip has been approved for the end of June.

The Grad date has been set.

Grade 4-6 students

Grade 4-6 students will be going to Carleton Sports Camp on Jun 29. They will also be doing a hike in Pink Lake on Jun 9.

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6. Treasurer's Reports (attached)

Financial Reports

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

7. Fundraising/Programs/Events Report

KinderYard (move nights, other)

A total of \$386 was raised from the recent bake sale. Since the last Council meeting, we have received approval to proceed with the structure. Teachers have recently provided their input on what to include in the play structure. The Board is said to be coming to the school to present options.

The committee is still fundraising for the structure (will use Council funds only if needed).

The breakdown of funding making up the total \$25,000 requirement as it currently stands is:

8,019 – Approved CVESC funds (includes 2014-15 Budget surplus of 5K, 2014-15 Fundscrip, etc)

5,980 – Direct Ask proceeds to date

1,000 – Movie night (approx)

386 – Bake Sale

9,615 – Council funds (only if needed)

25,000 - Total

A possible additional movie night will be held on May 27. Hoping to attract the older kids this time with Star Wars.

Talent Fest

Talent Fest was held over two nights recently and was very well received. A total of \$470 was received in donations for Arts in the School (separate budget item).

Used Book Sale

The annual used book sale will be held on May 6. Set up will take place on Thursday May 5.

Metcalfe Meet & Greet

The Metcalfe Meet & Greet will be held on May 7 from 10:00AM – 2:00PM on Victoria Street. Suggested that CVESC set up a table. Would need volunteers to man the booth.

Upcoming Parent Info evenings

Mental Health promotion presentation – Apr 28 6:30PM

Internet Safety presentation – May 5 6:30PM

Fun Night

Fun Night is planned for Jun 14 this year. The line up of offerings at the event includes:

- Greely Firefighters barbequing for us. Hoping to get propane donated by Stinson. Also, looking for donations so can make profit on food sales.

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- Pizza – Looking at Gabriel’s.
- Mr. Sundae – 10% of net profits were given to CVESC last year.
- Bake Sale – Had a lot of baking left last year after having Mr. Sundae and a cotton candy maker on site. That said, the bake sale still made \$800.
- Poppa Jack’s
- Cotton Candy
- Petting Zoo – Cost was \$500 last year, but was a hit. Supplied by Barnyard Zoo in Winchester.
- Gift baskets – Lori Blinn probably again.
- Bracelets – After discussion, it was determined that will be \$12 this year (\$10 last year)
- Kiera Lennox donating tents again.
- Face Painting – More volunteers needed this year!

8. Inclusive, Safe and Caring Schools

Acts of Kindness

An idea was presented to challenge all students to do one act of kindness for each of their family, the school and their community. With different coloured circles representing each act of kindness, the students would then cut out the appropriate coloured circle, write out the act on the circle and post on the wall at school. This was seen at another school and was very successful. The initiative will be launched during Education Week.

Multi-Cultural Event

A discussion was held on how to roll out a multi-cultural event at the school. Options discussed included having people come in and share their stories – perhaps in 2016-17. Concern was raised however that you run the risk of marginalizing a culture taking this approach.

9. OSCASC (left when Alka started speaking to this)

Unfortunately at this time, online payments (in lieu of cash and cheques) for fundraising isn’t possible as there are still security issues.

In the future, school council finances will be audited.

The OCDSB is accepting PRO Grants until the end of May and there will be a priority given to applications that have a math focus. Try and keep it in line with the School learning plan.

10. Important Dates

Mental Health Promotion Presentation on April 28th at 6:30pm

Internet Safety presentation on May 5th at 6:30pm

Used Book sale-May 6th all day

11. Adjournment and Next Meeting:

Lesley Parker moved a motion to adjourn, seconded by Melanie Ritchie. Motion Carried.