

Minutes

Castor Valley Elementary School Council Meeting

November 16th, 2017 from 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Meeting began at 6:33 pm

Meeting was chaired by Kim Chen

Attendance:

Voting Members (Quorum reached):

Kimberly Chen, Cynara Corbin, Deanna Morris, Elli Kapsalis, Jenni Bell, Lisa Multari, Sarah Slater, Tina Clarmo, Trish Bezaire, Tara Starzowski, Maryam Sugrue-Foubert, Emma Krzyzanowski, Carrie Amell, Natalie Elliott, Melissa Ekdorn-Delorme, Tamara Legris

Non-Voting Members and guests:

Chris Toinoven (Principal), Angie Bickmore (Teacher), Terry McMahon (Teacher), Julie McIntosh-Custic, Jodi Forest, Kiera Lennox, Lucie Goodwin, Amanda Gauthier, Amber Dawn Smith, Lindsay McIntyre, Shannon Oaks

1. Welcome, Attendance

Kim opened the meeting and noted that we had **reached** quorum.

2. Approval of November Agenda

Motion to adopt November 2017 Agenda

Moved by Trish Bezaire, Seconded by Lisa Multari, Motion carried

3. Approval of October Minutes

Motion to adopt October 2017 Minutes

Moved by Sarah Slater, Seconded by Maryam Sugrue-Foubert, Motion carried

4. Chair's Report

Reminder re; Voting and Motions: only voting members can make motions and votes.

PRO Grant: "Parents Reaching Out" Grant is for parent-oriented programs. We were given \$1K to use this year, still looking for ideas on how to spend this. We cannot spend this on workshops.

5. Principal, Teaching & Support Staff Reports

Teachers Report (shared by Angie Bickmore)

- Teachers – Today's teacher reps are Anglie Bickmore who teaches grades 7 and 8, and Terry McMahon who has a 7/8 split, Grade 3, and Kinders.
Our primary choir is up and running, they are preparing now for Christmas. They recently did the Remembrance Day ceremony. Mme. Lacharity and Mme. Merriam are running that group again. Grade 8 band has begun and Grade 7 band will be starting soon. Chess club is being run by Mrs. Bell. A "card club" has been started and the group plays a variety of cards on Friday's at recess, this was a student initiative and he found a teacher support. Yearbook is up and running, students are getting trained now. December is a crazy busy month, please be sure to

check the Google calendar regularly. Intermediates will again do a “paint day” in lieu of shopping day this year. Ambassadors are up and running again this year – 2 current initiatives going, shoeboxes for up north, and the Toy Mountain. They are very keen and have more plans than we can find time for. Volleyball is starting up. Kids and parents can come to the gym between 4-8 to participate.

- Mme. Rolland sent a thank you for the new carpet, there is room for everyone to sit now!

- 2 Thank you’s received from the Kinders for the “Raconte Moi” programs, best resource for teaching French letter sounds.

- Update on drumming- Ms. Metta says the yoga balls are being set up and will be ready soon.

- We have a spirit day coming up “Crazy Sock Day”

Principal’s Report (by Chris Toinoven)

- Parent/Staff interviews went out today for next week. It is not the only opportunity to meet with your child’s educator, parents are always welcome to set up meetings with the teachers if/when needed. Students are welcome to attend and are encouraged to attend.
- Intermediate Volleyball starting, Grade 8th’s going to OTHS for a tour in December, Primary Choir going to the Metcalfe tree lighting. “Hackergals” is starting at CVES, and CVES has become an EcoSchool – we are working towards some environmental targets for the school.
- School Cash Online – as of Dec 1st, CVES is going to switch to this program. A quick and secure way to pay for student items online. Go online & open an account, link yourself to your students etc. Working with council right now to sort out details for council initiatives. Field trips, milk program, popcorn day, Terry Fox, etc. Can be used for all these things. Will be set up and testing it soon.
- Update on Lice in the school; we rely on families’ self-identifying/reporting when lice is found on their child. This prompts the school to send an email to other students in the child’s class. Board policy is to not exclude children with lice. If someone has lice in the school, we call the parent to advise them but they are not required to come and pick them up. The only way we can stop the lice outbreak is if the community of parents are diligent at home. We can arrange checks at the school etc, but unless the parents are working diligently at home to eradicate it – it will be waste of time. Public Health nurse can come in and train some people on how to check for lice, but they will not come and do checks anymore. School should not be the center of treatment – treatments should be done at home. Lice is always going to be present in the school environment.

Suggestion from council – perhaps we could set up a seminar at the school? Or perhaps we can hire Lice Squad to come to the school to do checks for \$2/child.

- Chris sent links from public health again today on how to check for head lice and treat it. We should always be diligently checking and that is our best method of prevention.

- Can we “bag” bean bag chairs and pillows etc?

- Council will share tips on the FB Page.

6. Osgoode Boundary Review (Documents can be found on the CVESC website)

Intro from Chris – we first heard about the upcoming boundary review early in 2017, with

statements that a change would have to be made to alleviate over-capacity issues at CVES. Initial proposal was to block move a chunk of Kinder kids to MPS, and changing boundaries to redirect any new Metcalfe families to MPS.

- Presentation made by Cynara Corbin and Natalie Elliott on behalf of the CVES Boundary Review sub-committee
- Working group felt the survey's we put forward to the CVES parents had a very good response rate.
- Our main goal is and has always been - to keep ALL Castor Valley families at Castor Valley.
- There is open discussion during the presentation, some questions to clarify survey results and define sibling provision. Attendees are sharing personal opinions/feelings/concerns as specific to their families.
- Cynara entreats everyone present to come out to the Public Consultation in December to voice their opinions and help support our ad-hoc committee in keeping Castor Valley kids and families AT Castor Valley.
- Chris points out that whatever option(s) that the Working Group decide to present at the Public Consultation and then the Board of Trustees – we should keep in mind that changes can still occur. New ideas can be brought to the table at the Public Consultation. He urges the community to go to the public consultation and show support, this is where your voice is needed.
- The hope is that the next working group meeting will solidify one or maybe 2 options to take to public consultation and proceed with.
- Location of the Nov 27th working group meeting may change.
- Question from Maryam Sugrue-Foubert; can we offer babysitting at CVES so that more parents can attend the working group meetings?
Answer – the meetings go quite late so that it makes it difficult logistically to arrange care at the school. Also the ambassadors need adult supervision. This is not a viable option.
- Chris – this will have an impact on kindergarten registration which normally takes place in January. We are still trying to figure out the details, as it is difficult to accept registrations when we don't know for sure where the kids will be going. Chris is working with other school principals to figure out details.
- Board ideally wants to see our numbers drop to give us a bit of breathing room, they will not give us an actual "Number" of how many they would like to see it go down by.
- Kim encourages anyone who has questions or comments to reach out to Natalie Elliott or Cynara Corbin after the meeting or at another time.

7. Treasurer's report (Tina Clarmo):

- Financial Reports

- Data in summary reports is incorrect, she will reconcile it and send it to Kim.
- Cash flow statement is correct. Food money & milk money is going in now but keep in mind it all comes in in the beginning and then we spend it throughout the year.
- Tina asks Tara to look into last year's Fundsceipt – almost no funds have come in.
- Ad Hoc requests/modifications to approved Ad-Hocs;
 - The yoga balls for drumming class –initial request was for \$492 and she has made a request to increase the funds to \$600. We had to source out another ball which was more expensive. Tina proposes that we approve the increase.
 - Razkids \$329.85 US ad-hoc request has come in.
 - Mme. Rolland and Mme. Piquette would like to purchase some apps for their class. They would each like \$100 in gift cards (\$200 total)
 - A few of the previous Ad-Hocs that were approved forgot to include tax, this has been accounted for now.
 - Last year we approved an ad-hoc for \$380 for whiteboards which were never purchased last year so Tina has told the teacher to go ahead and purchase this year.
 - Terry McMahon has requested \$120 for board games
 - Ad-Hoc request to have Lice Squad come in and check all students heads. This one will not be approved.
 - Tina will provide more info on the ad-hoc for yoga blocks
 - Question from council: Is it a fairly equitable split between kinders/primary/intermediates? Yes, fairly reasonable between programs.

Motion to approve above Ad-Hocs:

Moved by Cynara Corbin, Seconded by Maryam Sugrue-Foubert, Motion carried

8. Fundraising Programs / Events Report

Metcalfe Christmas Parade Float – Update from Maryam Sugrue-Foubert

Did quick inventory of all the decorations. Maryam needs a few more lights, trees, etc and will put a call out to the community for donations. She has the straw, fencing. Alison Quenel will donate Reindoor food again. Will get volunteers to hand out candy from the ground and will have someone walking in the Beaver suit. Unsure how many kids will fit on the float but we would like to fill it up with all ages of kids.

We cannot offer supervision on the float, so parents need to understand that they need to still be responsible for their kids.

Suggestion to prepare a sign-up and put up on the council page, or send an email out to families.

Include details to ask for parents to confirm who will be supervising their child. A google sheet could work for this, with a waiver.

Suggestion that parents could sign up as “volunteers” to help supervise 8 kids on the float. Kim will create a Google Sign-up sheet for Maryam to review before posting.

Christmas Shopping Day / Paint Day

December 12th – information is already up on FB. Backpack stuffer will go out next week. Tara has gift cards leftover from last year. Kiera Lennox is organizing the event. Angie Bickmore has lots of students she can volunteer for clean-up at the end of the day.

Movie Night – TOMORROW!

Lion King – it’s been tested and it works. Popcorn will be offered and some candy etc.

9. Inclusive Safe & Caring Schools Committee (update by Elli Kapsalis):

The ISCS Committee is working on a few projects right now;

The Bathroom project is starting – Grades 6-8 will be invited to participate to design inspirational art-work.

Would like ideas on projects that the primary students can more actively work on.

Chris comments on Kindness Challenge – we have to be careful using the word “bully” as adults.

Bullying is very high on the spectrum of conflict. Its targeted, intentional, repeated, intense behavior.

It’s challenging seeing our students use the word bullying. We focus a lot on conflict resolution and empowering the voice of students.

When we talk to parents about bullying and understanding what that concept really means, the focus should be on the feeling of powerlessness. We should be

educating the kids to understand the difference between bullying and other “incidents” like arguments

etc. so they can understand it better and give them back their power.

The committee has struggled with the language as well. Chris can email the teachers and provide some resources and suggestions on how to guide the students to respond to the challenge.

In the past ISCS used the Communication Circle to help students identify what behaviors were upsetting to them.

Gloria suggests looking into “Your Silence Hurts” initiative which encourages people to stand up for others when you see behavior that is hurtful to others.

Parts of Castor Valley Has Courage initiative will be shared, maybe via email or maybe via announcement.

Parts of Castor Valley Has Courage initiative will be shared, maybe via email or maybe via announcement.

10. OCASC – Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils:

OCASC usually meets the same night as our CVESC. Vicky not present, no update at this time.

11. New Business:

- OSTA - some improvements have been noted since October.
- Kiera Lennox suggested we send Lost & Found donations to communities up north this year where it is much needed. Council agrees.

12. Important dates:

- Next Popcorn Day: Early December, exact date TBD
- Christmas Shopping Day – Tuesday December 12th

13: Adjournment and Next Meeting:

Motion to adjourn

Moved by Sarah Slater, Seconded by Tina Clarmo. Motion Carried
Meeting adjourned at 8:41pm.

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday January 18th, 2018.