

Minutes

Castor Valley Elementary School Council Meeting

January 18th, 2018 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, Sarah Slater, Tina Clarmo, Tara Starzomski, Maryam Sugrue-Foubert, Stephanie Pagan, Natalie Elliott, Melissa Ekdom-Delorme, Tamara Legris, Catherine Yang

Non-Voting Members and guests:

Chris Toinoven (Principal), Jo-Ann LaCharity (Teacher), Alison Vigneault (Teacher), Jodi Forest, Karen Percy, Alka Moorjani

1. Welcome, Attendance

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

2. Approval of January Agenda

Motion to adopt January 2018 Agenda

Moved by Nat Elliott, Seconded by Elli Kapsalis, Motion carried

3. Approval of November Minutes

Motion to adopt November 2017 Minutes

Moved by Jenni Bell, Seconded by Catherine Yang, Motion carried

4. Chair's Report

PRO Grant Seminars/Workshops: "Parents Reaching Out" Grant is for parent-oriented programs.

- We have booked the 2 workshops being funded by our PRO grant; February 28th; Mindfulness; Nurturing Joy, Connection and Family. Seminar delivered by a CVES Parent.
- April 10th; Seminar & Q&A with Dr. Yoni Freedhoff – Seminar will focus on nutrition, obesity, weight management, public policy and general health for you and your family.

Proceeds from our first movie night were \$280 which was sent via cheque to the Education Fund of Ottawa.

5. Principal, Teaching & Support Staff Reports

Teachers Report (shared by Jo-Ann LaCharity)

Teachers – Today's teacher reps are Jo-Ann LaCharity and Alison Vigneault.

- Mr. Boudreau has submitted a request for funds for Carnival; it's a celebration of Franco-Quebecois culture, is part of our French curriculum as well as a celebration of our winter weather. Students will be divided into colour teams and have opportunities to collect points with fun activities, extra outdoor time as well. He would like to request funds from council to pay for hot chocolate and maple candy, and would also like some parent volunteers to serve the hot chocolate (the week of Feb 12th). All levels in the school participate. Small modifications are made in the Kinder classes but all classes participate in all activities. It was a huge success last year and we would like it repeat it.
Tina Clarmo reviews Ad-Hoc request with council;

Motion to approve Carnival Ad-Hoc for \$539.93

Moved by Tina Clarmo, Seconded by Jenni Bell, Motion carried

* This year we have extra funds in the Ad-Hoc budget so we can approve requests like this, but please note that this is a decision that needs to be made year-to-year depending on what council funds are and what fundraisers and initiatives we are running

- Ms. Bickmore says thank you for paint day, students had 3 choices of paintings and all kids enjoyed the activity, it was very successful. Thank you also for helping our Ambassadors to mail out the 50 shoe boxes up North, which were delivered to the home town of a parent from the school. We collected over 100 toys for Toy Mountain, and have completed 4 milk bag mats (facilitated by Alka Moorjani).
- Mme. Lacharity says thank you for Christmas Shopping day. It makes the children so happy and is a huge highlight for all levels.

Principal's Report (by Chris Toinoven)

- The most challenging time of year is the Jan-Feb stretch between Christmas holiday and March break. Intramurals are starting up, tryouts for Junior. Intermediate level (4,5,6) had Mathletes today and it was fantastic, kids had a great time – the grade 8's were phenomenal leaders. The kids completed more than 4300 questions.
- Ski day is coming up and lots of activities are coming up like Carnival to keep the kids engaged and excited
- Kinder registration starts Monday, unsure of what is going to happen in light of the boundary review. Chris thinks many parents will wait until the boundary review decision is made before submitting registrations.
- Decision was made to hold the Kinder registration night at MPS. For parents who have never been to CVES, Chris wouldn't want to sell CVES and then have their option to attend here be removed. It will be a general overview of the available kindergarten programs and the changes from SK to 1. This is the more program-related info night, to promote registration in OCDSB. Parents can register and drop off at the school they wish to register at but the application may be redirected after the boundary review decision is made. Registrations are accepted up to the first day of school so there is no pressure.
- This will have an impact on staffing numbers however we do have a little bit of a buffer of time and the board understands delays due to the Boundary Review.

- We have elected to move up the more detailed Kindergarten info night with the teachers and ECE's to May.
- Once the decision is made, a huge push will go out asking families to register ASAP so that work on class lists and staffing decisions can be made.
- It's really wait and see at this point until the formal decision comes out on the Boundary review.

Question from floor: Can Greely families & parents come in to tour/view CVES since they won't be able to see it on the program info night?

Answer: Yes, parents are always welcome to come and see the school.

Question from floor: Can families drop off registrations at more than one school in the same board?

Answer: Yes, that can be done.

Question from floor: Traditionally the registration push is made in Jan/Feb, when does CVES typically receive the bulk of theirs?

Answer: The bulk of registrations are usually received in the first 1-2 weeks after registration opens.

Maybe council can help spread the message that all families are guaranteed a spot at an OCDSB school in their catchment.

- A group of grade 8 students are going to China April 10-19th; 10 grade 8 students and 3 staff members. The Confucius institute at Carleton University has partnered with us and will be delivering language and culture training to our students over 5 sessions. They will talk about language, money, jet lag, travelling within China, laws, etc. Our students have also been invited to a Chinese New Years celebration on Feb 11th downtown at the Dominion Church via the Confucius Institute. Fun stuff coming up in prepping for that.

6. Osgoode Boundary Review (update by Cynara Corbin and Natalie Elliott)

- There is a Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting on Feb 6th.
- The Public meeting is on Feb. 27th
- If anyone wants to give a delegation you have to submit it the Thursday prior to the meeting if you'd like 4 minutes to speak, otherwise you will be given only 2 mins to speak. If you want to speak at the COW meeting you should send in your intentions by Feb 1st.
- The sub-committee will be having a strategic meeting to plan our delegations. We will distribute further information about upcoming meetings once they are finalized.
- The Public Consult was a bit of a disaster, it was cut short, many parents did not get the chance to be heard. Our Trustee Mark Fisher met with parents who were upset by the Public Consult to address some additional questions and issues.

- An important change to note; Options #1 and #2 were reversed in the documentation distributed at the Public Consultation. Please be aware of this change and make sure you describe the details of the option you are supporting if you write in.

7. Treasurer's report (Tina Clarmo): (See attached **Appendix A**)

Financial Reports

- This month is 2 months combined; Nov and Dec.
- Shopping day brought in more than we budgeted for, budgeted was \$700 but net was \$835.
- Our PRO grants have been deposited.
- We have spent \$2794 in Ad-Hoc so far for requests that have come through council.
- We've got money we should be spending. We came in under-budget in the Kinder Yard last year, which is part of the reason we have leftover money this year. We could earmark the money to be used in future years but we are not supposed to have a large amount of money in our account.
- We have 5K in Technology reserve funds.

Question: Tina asks Chris if we will be doing any technology upgrades this year.

Answer: Chris will do an inventory and get back to us. The Board has now committed to a 4-1 ratio in every school and have committed to outfitting every teacher with a Chromebook. CVES is year 1 for teachers receiving Chromebooks. They will top up all schools to 4-1 ration and support that going forward.

Question: Is there any other technology that we could provide the school?

Answer: Perhaps projectors or "Bright Links" are something we can start looking at. "Smartboards" are not compatible with Chromebooks so they will no longer be used. Projectors are \$1200-1800 approx. May be difficult to mount projectors in portables. Chris will put together a few options to discuss with council at the next meeting.

Question: Can council use funds to purchase air conditioners for the portables?

Answer: Chris will have to speak to the Board about this. A/C is considered a luxury and not a necessity. Many schools in the board have no air conditioners. He is unsure what facilities will support. A/C's also need servicing and repairs and there is a cost associated with that. Chris will follow up with our area supervisor

- We have \$9K left in funds for Ad-Hoc. We have \$5K budgeted for Ad-Hoc and \$4K left in Ad-Hoc that is not allocated. Chris asks Tina to provide him with these breakdowns via email.

Ideas from floor:

- Primary choir could use some new T-shirts; Tina advises Joanne to submit an Ad-Hoc request.
- A shade structure for the yard would be ideal. Perhaps there are options we can explore with the board. Can we get a quote from the board? There could also be other

grants available to put towards this as well. There are limited dry spots in the yard, many areas get flooded so there may be difficulty finding a good spot. (info offered from floor – it costs approx. \$1200/acre to tile drain fields)

- We could use more picnic tables, so far they have been the best bang for our buck. They are used constantly and always in high demand.
- We still have \$208 sitting in reserve for Arts in the Schools. We could use this towards a theater production. Tina will email Jen Danby to discuss.

8. Fundraising / Programs / Events Report

Christmas Shopping Day / Paint Day

December 12th, this was a huge success again this year!

Family Movie Night – Update from 1st and for 2nd movie night

- Proceeds from 1st movie were \$280 – which went to the Education Fund of Ottawa
- 2nd movie night is Feb 9th “Coco” – money raised from this night will go to the Ambassadors to use for an initiative of their choice.

Fun Night – June 14th

- Kim has started asking around to find volunteers.
- Jenni Bell has access to request the “RCMP Safety Bear” – which is basically a large bear mascot dressed as an RCMP officer and accompanied by an RCMP officer, who walks around and hands out stickers to the kids. Council agrees this would be a good addition, Jenni Bell will take care of this booking.
- Glowsport was hugely successful last year and we should bring them back again this year, perhaps give them more space. The girls change room was constantly packed, and a lot of the older kids enjoyed hanging out at this activity.
- Local businesses would probably be interested in sponsoring again. We have a list we can contact.
- The biggest amount of work is the volunteers and the games. Maybe we could decrease the number of games?
- The key is getting events that are good for all age groups, not just young kids.

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

- Our committee is very small again this year. We can either do a little or a lot depending on how many volunteers we have. The Bathroom project is now completed – the girls change room and senior girls bathroom have been done.

Question from floor; will the boy’s bathrooms be done? Feedback was that boys don’t really go

to the washroom to chat or hangout so the focus would be on the girls bathrooms. Courtney Van Ryan and Jen Danby have been running these

- Elli Kapsalis and Melanie Ritchie are going to paint the buddy bench. Reintroduce the bench this spring to the Kinders.
- February – pink shirt day (anti-bullying) is coming up as well as Kindness week.
- The Kindness project – Kindness club – we could do rocks at the pond, or provide all kids with a small stone to paint.
- Tina suggests again that we get a student Ad-Hoc going, encouraging the students to find positive ways to improve the school community. As an example; Paying it Forward for wishes which encourages kids to become more involved with community acts, and being involved in something that makes a difference. Raising money for real charities.
- We could define a fixed amount to spend in ad-hoc for this committee and the environment committee – and encourage students to research and submit Ad-Hocs to do things.
- Each class could research and submit an ad-hoc for an activity, volunteer work, etc. Council could give money for them to implement their projects.
- Council doesn't need to run these activities, they just need to approve funds. Council needs to come up with specific criteria. We want to get away from the idea that we need to raise money to affect change. Chris would support this idea that kids could submit Ad-Hocs to organize volunteer activities that improve the environment or community groups.
- J. Lacharity suggests a fair in the foyer for kids to present their ideas. Perhaps we could do this on national volunteer week.
- Tina, Chris and anyone else interested will meet to discuss more specifics and will speak about it again at the March meeting.
- Just because council supports something doesn't mean it's a school activity so no permission forms are needed.
- Elli will likely schedule a meeting of the ICSC committee to plan for Kindness week Feb 11th

10. New Business

- Nothing at this time

11. Important dates:

- February 9th – 2nd Family Movie Night of 2017/2018 school year
- February 28th – Mindfulness Workshop in the Gym
- April 10th – Dr. Yoni Feedhoff Workshop in the Library

13: Adjournment and Next Meeting:

Motion to adjourn

Moved by Sarah Slater, Seconded by Tina Clarmo. Motion Carried
Meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday March 1st, 2018.