

MINUTES

Castor Valley Elementary School Council Meeting

May 17th, 2018 from 6:30pm - 8:30pm

1. Welcome, Attendance

Kim Chen opened the meeting at 6:35pm.

Voting Members (quorum reached): Kim Chen, Sarah Slater, Elli Kapsalis, Cynara Corbin, Tara Starzomski, Trish Bezaire, Tamara Legris, Catherine Yang, Deanna Morris, Tina Clarmo, and Elli Kapsalis.

Non-Voting Members and Guests: Gloria Mackie, Veronique Ielo, Jodi Forrest, Melanie Ritchie, Chris Toivonen (principal), Jennifer Reed (teacher), Kim MacMullin (teacher)

2. 10-15 Minute presentation re: Year of Kindness Program (potential use of 2018/19 PRO Funds) by Lindsey Barr <http://worldchangingkids.ca/about-us>

Lindsey Barr presented the year-long kindness program offered for schools by her organization World Changing Kids (WCK). The program highlights include:

- A Kick-off Kindness Assembly – This is held during the day for the students, or on a weeknight to include parents and children. The assembly includes a presentation from WCK explaining the Year of Kindness program, some Kindness Improv Scenes performed by the students, and the completion of a group Act of Kindness.
- Daily Acts of Kindness Challenges – Each day following the Kick-off Assembly, a student will read a daily Act of Kindness Challenge over the morning announcements. This will set a daily intention of kindness, and will show the students that the adults in their lives feel that kindness is important. It will also start a friendly competition between classes and students to see who can do more Acts of Kindness.
- Weekly Acts of Kindness Challenges for Families – Once a week, an Act of Kindness Challenge will be sent home to the family. This is something that the students and their parents can complete in their community. Again, the power of this is that it reinforces that the adults in their lives value kindness.
- Supporting Material – WCK will provide the school with templates and worksheets that can be used to support their kindness work. For example, they have tracking flowers and bugs that the teachers can give to the students for recording an Act of Kindness that they have completed. This could be done once a day, once a week, or once a month – this is up to the teacher. These can then be posted up in the classroom, on the classroom door, or in the lobby – the students can grow their garden of kindness and have a visual representation of all the great work they are doing. WCK will also provide the school with a worksheet where the child can fill in the Act of Kindness completed and journal about how it made them feel and how it made the person receiving the Act of Kindness feel. Again, the teacher can determine how often this will be used.
- Final Kindness Celebration – WCK will hold a final wrap up assembly to talk about all the great work the students did and congratulate them on creating a kinder, friendlier, more resilient school community.

The cost is 1500\$ for 100 daily challenges, 25 weekly challenges, facilitator kick off time and final celebration.

Areas of discussion following Ms. Barr's presentation:

- We could do this ourselves instead of spending so much money.
- Some people may not have the time to do it. We should also encourage kindness when nobody is watching and not for attention. It's great to have some concrete ideas such as WCK has.
- If we run it ourselves, someone needs to write the announcements for the teachers or create the kindness cards or gratitude cards.
- If we spend the money then we can save time. Elli has been trying to increase membership of the ICSC without any luck.
- We could also consider having a guest speaker to come and speak to students about kindness

instead.

- Maybe we can do this on a smaller scale, like a month and gain momentum. It would be easier for the teachers to commit to involvement for a month.
- We can look into United for Children in Youth-panel discussion about programs we can put in schools to empower parents to know what our options are.

Decision/Action: We will bring this back in September for discussion.

3. Approval of May agenda

Motion moved by Sarah, 2nd by Trish, all in favor – carried

4. Approval of April minutes

Motion moved by Sarah, 2nd by Trish, all in favor – carried

5. Chair's Report

Event bookings for 2018-19 school year

The following dates were agreed to for CVESC events in 2018-19:

Council Meetings: 3rd Thursday of the month with the exception of December and March where there are no meetings

Meet the Staff: September 18, 2018

Movie Nights: November 16, 2018 and February 8, 2019

Christmas Shopping Day: December 11, 2018

Fun Night: June 13, 2019

OCDSB-Consult re: management of council funds

No decision has been made yet. Kim is in contact with the school trustee.

2018-19 Lunch & Milk Program-suggestion & discussion

-There may be some changes to the food program. Request for burritos.

-Discussion about whether we offer juice and chocolate milk. As a school we do not need to offer it. Kim Chen mentioned that Dr. Yoni Freedhoff's presentation on nutrition spoke to the issue of unnecessary sugar consumed by children and that regulations will be changing in the next couple of years.

-12 additional grams of sugar per drink is a lot.

-Tara mentioned that the milk coordinators should have been informed.

-some parents may be upset. We are not disallowing them to send chocolate milk. We, as a school don't need to supply it though.

-Tara mentioned it was time consuming to sort the juice boxes and would be ok to remove.

Motion moved by Sarah, 2nd by Trish seconded to remove apple juice and chocolate milk from the lunch program.

Motion carried to remove apple juice.

While there was general agreement with the removal of chocolate milk, some members felt strongly that the 2018-19 milk coordinator (Deb Carter) should be advised and all voting members should be consulted. Kim will speak to Deb and Tara will speak to Eleanor. Kim will send an electronic vote.

Following the meeting, Kim Chen sent an electronic vote to all eligible voting members with the following question: Do you support the removal of chocolate milk from the milk program starting in the 2018-19 school year?"

YES-83.3%

NO-16.7%

Following the electronic vote, there was ongoing discussion via email. The vote stands.

Re-confirm roles for council exec

Kim Chen, Chair

Opening for Co-Chair if interest

Jenni Chabot-Bell + Trish Bezaire-Co-Secretaries

Tara Starzomski + Tina-Clarmo-Co-Treasurers

6. Principal, Teaching & Support Staff Reports

Teaching Reports

Kim MacMullin and Jennifer Reed provided the following updates:

- The ambassador's cereal drive for the mission went well.
- Canned food drive is slow.
- Talent fest canteen went well raising \$350.
- The Grade 8s are heading to camp IAWWAH.
- On behalf of Coreen Atkins thank you to all who participated in the scholastic fair. The sales were \$7200\$ which earns CVES \$1500 in new books. There will be another sale in September.
- The Grade 1 classes have butterflies arriving soon.
- Track field for grade 4-8 held last week. The kids had a lot of fun.
- Jump rope for heart is coming up on May 28th and we have historically raised a lot of money for this cause. The Kinders will head outside in the morning followed by the rest of the school later in the day. The Ambassadors help run the stations. There are Bonus incentives for online donations. One year we did a drive without the prizes and less money was raised.

Principal Report

Chris Toivonen provided the following updates:

- The 11:45 recess is going to move up to 11:25 in order to accommodate more kids in the gym.
- Staffing updates-Heather Maxwell-LTO for grade 7/8 for Mme Lalonde Blais. ECE allocation -10 ECES for 6 classrooms-same as this year. EA allocation-will come in soon. 5 new staff- Stephane Beaulieu , Stephanie Hamilton, Alyssa Lacasse, Alexandra Souligney, Danielle Whalen
- So far our population will increase by 12 kids and 3 classrooms. The JK registrants are in the high 50s.
- EQAO starts next week.
- Soccer is starting for intermediates
- Education week went well. Thank you to staff and students
- Spring concert on May 30th for junior vocal group
- Children who went to china had an amazing and rewarding time. Kids are going to do classroom presentations to those classes who are interested. We are going to get more children involved and will be continuing this program next year. Kids from China coming here in the fall.
- Listen up initiative –brings arts to schools –a huge thanks to Kristeen Kemp for getting them to CVES.

7. Treasurer's Report

Financial Reports

Tina Clarmo presented the financial reports. There were typical expenditures over the last few months.

At the end of April we are 29,000 under budget

Food program costs still need to come out.

Also, fun night not yet included.

9000 remaining for council project

5000 remaining for technology

We could look into tile drainage from the board and also ask for cost of log to place around the sand in kinder yard.

Ad-hoc

4500 ad-hoc left.

8. Fundraising/Programs/Events Report

Fun Night

Kim Chen indicated we still need volunteers. She had difficulty getting kids to sign up for games. If we do not get more volunteers, some games will need to be cut. Kim MacMullin and Jen reed will ask their high school kids. Food prices are the same as last year. We need more face paint and additional face painters.

9. Inclusive, Safe & Caring Schools Committee

No update. We need someone to take over in the fall.

10. New Business

Paper Agendas

Cynara inquired about the use of paper agendas as some parents felt they were not being used.

Chris and Julie typically ask the teachers if they want one or not. Teachers are not obliged to use it. Jennifer mentioned that students often forget to bring them to school which is why teachers end up using alternate methods of communication. We can leave it up to the teacher to determine whether they want to use it.

11. Important Dates

- Student Appreciation Lunch-June 4 & 5. Alka needs 2 more volunteers
- Fun night- June 14
- Teacher Appreciation Lunch –June 29

Tamara-we should thank the custodians by providing them a gift. They work so hard after council events like movie nights etc.

12. Adjournment

Motion moved by Sarah, 2nd by Tamara. all in favor – carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm