

## Meeting 18-10-18

### 1. Presentation by campaigning school board trustees

A) Kim – Has 6 kids that have all graduated from local schools, lived 25 years in Metcalfe, familiar with issues rural families face. RN by trade, opportunity to be a lead for Mental Health in the school board. Allowed her time as a professional to work in the board, with students and parents. Passionate about children, community, and their success. Transparency within the school board is important – they hold many “in camera” sessions, and wants to investigate how the info from these meetings can be filtered to our community, parents, and educators. Health and wellness is also important, as a professional in that field, supports the strategies in the province, and Upper Canada District School board, which has done a great job with a 4-year program for kids, but also for educators on how to support kids in the classroom. Student engagement is a priority, allowing students to be involved in what their education plan looks like, also with the teachers to have a positive school environment, giving them the tools and resources they need.

B) Jennifer – grew up in Ottawa, grad of Carleton, raised family in TO area, found during that time that she enjoyed being part of different networking groups. Led a group of new parents, which helped her raise her own kids. Parent of a disabled son, info allowed her to advocate for her kids. Legislation can be challenging and people are passionate about the issues that affect them. Priorities are overcrowding with decline in English enrolment and flourishing in French (which is important in Ottawa with respect to public service and even retail), but more importantly, lack of trust with OCDSB, and will work to regain that trust as she also agrees with transparency so that the right decisions are made for our children, and can't imagine families being separated, missing out on extra-curriculars as a result. Energized to be here for us. Minister of transport introducing seat belt legislation for school buses, retrofitting old buses and including them in new buses. Legalization of cannabis, kid in Gatineau brought a bag of pot for show and tell. Sex education curriculum, she is in favour of the new curriculum because of topics of consent, body part labelling. Boundaries and overcrowding is of particular priority to this area, regardless of who you choose, our needs will be well-served.

Radam – issue of overcrowding – seems that the main contributing factor is that the planning dept is underfunded. Can't get to these issues in a timely fashion. Do you support funding them fully?

Jennifer – provided with the report and the youtube videos from those COW meetings regarding that, understands that in order for things to change, you need to prove that each school is at capacity before plans can be made, still getting up to speed, would be willing to speak more about it

Kim – without knowing all of the details, my understanding is that it was sort of a check-of-the-box, but what did they do with that information? Needs to do more research on what happened, but sometimes we need to be more innovative with how we approach things. We know that Greely is not at capacity but the others are. Come up with a plan together

Jennifer – english is declining, french increasing, need to make a proper plan.

Radam – head of department told me point blank that it's because they are under-staffed. Did you tell the trustees? She said yes.

Jennifer – current trustee, now running in zone 11, has spoken to him, apparently no final decision has been made

Radam – which decision

Jennifer – as a whole, no final full-scope decision has been made, haven't heard otherwise

Sarah – we will need to revisit this in a few years, always reassured that “there is a plan”, we don't want to go through this again, would rather start now and get a long-term solution instead of a short-term plan like we got last year. Hoping our trustee will work with us on this and not leave it till the last minute again.

Radam – outcomes in french immersion skills between EFI and MFI. Identified that by the end of grade 12, the 2 programs are the same. Is there value in looking at getting rid of EFI and moving toward MFI only? In an English school board, maybe move to only one french stream, serves more kids, especially kids with special needs. Great to cater to what everyone wants, but streamlining the process and save money.

Kim – those are the types of innovative ideas that we need.

Tina – comment about health education, fan of the new curriculum, more realistic for kids experiences, there is a website where parents can express their views, in your position, what can you do to help us get back to the new curriculum?

Jennifer – currently in a 100-day review, in favour of the new curriculum, biggest problem with disagreements was mostly about the naming of body parts, in favour of promoting the new curriculum and school is the appropriate place for it.

Kim – I am in alignment with that thought, curriculum needs to be relevant, educators agree, kids walking out spoke volumes, need to be heard

Cynara – Our school is overcapacity, and it didn't get there overnight. Drawing from past experiences, what specific actions you would take to monitor our situation?

Kim – your point is valid, don't wait til the problem is at its peak, not sure you have been heard, bring the voices to the table, transparency, might hear something you don't like but it's better than nothing, communication needs to go both ways, need to be proactive.

Jennifer – elected trustees have an interactive website with conversation, it's important to be on the ground and hearing from parents at each school and be active in each community in order to be an advocate

Nat – based on conversations you've had in communities, what are your priorities with respect to capital funding?

Jennifer – Findlay Creek needs a high school, each area is different, OCDSB has a billion dollar budget and provides many different things, you need to be fiscally responsible and prioritize, this school definitely has issues

Kim – bussing is a big concern for parents, lack of sidewalks in winter is a safety issue, a lot of room to be strategic, city vs rural neighbourhoods is a risk from a safety perspective

2. Attendance (Quorum = 22) 29 present

3. Approval of October Agenda and Minutes

A) Approval of Agenda: Moved by Jenni, seconded by Sarah

B) Approval of Minutes: Moved by Tina, seconded by Melissa

4. Confirmation of voting and non-voting members

5. Coreen Atkins – Update

\$4500 in book credits from latest book sale, books for library and classroom (Net \$7602.98)

Some books have already been purchased, more will be later

Have been weeding shelves for older books or books that haven't been checked out in 5 years, being made available for teachers, and some being sent to the Ivory Coast, some being recycled  
Board asked all schools to remove books that are inaccurate/old/etc with respect to indigenous culture, and only to replace them with indigenous-authored books, which is proving difficult in french. There are internet resources, but concern whether they are appropriate or not.

The Remembrance Day ceremony will be Nov 12, family members who have served are invited to attend in uniform at 10:45, kids in cubs/brownies/etc are encouraged to attend in uniform as well.

Want to hold a french-only book sale or trade show (see handout). Scholastic has been asked to provide more material for intermediate and older grades, as they currently have a decent selection for primary but slim pickings for the older kids. Our Scholastic rep is in Brockville but french books come from Montreal.

Hoping to be able to organize something to allow parents to shop and kids to attend, other parents who don't attend our schools could come as well. Coincide with a PD day or a Saturday? Spring or fall of 2019, they have ideas for several potential vendors, but they haven't approached them yet.

Not sure if CVES will get any financial returns from this.

Has spoken to board librarian and nothing like this has been done before, but supports this.

To be held in main foyer/gym, ambassadors could help, really needs support from council to look into this. Admin is on board, going to be a lot of work, hoping to form a committee involving 1-2 teachers, 1-2 parent council members, and herself

Nat – what do the french boards do?

Coreen – they do this. Spoke to someone at St Bernadette (?), who has scholastic from Montreal come in. Sales are usually much lower. That's why she doesn't want to stick with scholastic exclusively.

Sarah – what do you need from us? Volunteers or support or financial?

Coreen – support at this time. Haven't approached teachers yet. If anyone knows anything, any contacts, send it to me. Start building a list of people to approach.

Kim – can advertise for volunteers in our newsletter

Tamara - have book fair when parents are already here in the school to help

Melanie – combine with other event like choir, Quebec carnival week

Billy – book swaps or something with the french board?

## 6. Constitution Update – Cynara

Met once, going to meet again in a few weeks, hope to have a proposal before Christmas in order to review and approve in January

## 7. Chair's Report

### A) PRO Grant – ideas?

Tina – have someone come in and talk about substance abuse, lots of people don't know what the rules actually are, how parents can talk to their kids

Cassie – Canadian Center for Substance Abuse has a program about this

Tina – does the school discuss this as curriculum?

Chris – yes, intermediate level, starting in grade 6

Billy – OTHS might have more resources, talk to them?

Stephanie - Province's focus on math – math anxiety, speaker that comes recommended, out of Ottawa U, Dr Erin Maloney (?)

Kim – send a survey to parents to see which ideas parents like or if they have more ideas

Nat – mindfulness for parents, colleague at U of O teaches a course

Kim – did one last year (Janine)

Tamara – CHEO did mind masters one year

Kim – heads-up, going to talk about a large AV project later

## 8. Principal, Teaching, and Support Staff Reports

### A) Principal

busy school right now, sports, watching intermediate girls football finished 2<sup>nd</sup>, boys go tomorrow, intermediate Cross Country had 3 students qualify for board finals next week, this coming week the Jr girls and boys soccer teams compete, starting volleyball next week, lots of enthusiasm

listen up is going really well – the composer and poet have come in and worked with the students, Jamal the poet works with grade 5-6, and intermediates work with composer, kids loving it

Big thanks to Correen and Helen for book fair work, weeding and replenishing of books is a huge job and a great benefit to kids, not an easy job, big rewards, they are clearly passionate about kids reading

Hosted 22 kids from China, one of the most exhausting experiences ever, hosted, Kim had a couple boys, Chris had 6 girls, so tiring but incredible. Would do it again, so many benefits, daughter is wii-chatting with buddies in China, amazing set of families come forward, went to Pumpkinferno, Parc omega, apple picking, Brockville, Thanksgiving dinners, kids didn't want to leave, want to move to

Canada, highly recommends hosting, kids loved it. They worked through roadblocks of language, which was empowering, and so much energy was brought to the school. It was an amazing week, teachers have connected with teachers in China and hope to do some long-term projects and continued hosting back and forth, kids from our school will be going in April again, starting a schedule of travelling every other year

Nat – if too many kids want to go, how will you pick?

Chris – will have to go through applications with Mrs Bickmore

Math anxiety for parents and students, looking at school survey results, EQAO results and survey responses, want to focus on tackling challenging problems. Math teachers are working on building up fundamentals, to allow kids to conserve energy on fundamentals and be able to tackle harder problems. Translates to other topics, ie conflict resolution, to build up confidence by building up foundations of many topics. Math teachers are off and running, other groups of teachers have chosen other topics.

B) Teaching – no report

C) Support Staff – no report

#### 9. Treasurer's Report

A) Financial Reports and Budget Modifications 2018-2019

Tina – classroom resource funds went out to teachers (\$100 ea)

Kim – lots of thank-yous already in

Tina – summary reports, reversals of stale-dated cheques, etc. Clean-up. Note that in the summer we had an ad-hoc item approved, sidewalk games, so that \$1500 item was included in this year's ad-hoc budget, and Mr Lalonde's retirement. Fully using school cash online this year, so the \$ goes into the school's account, Gail gives us a list of what is in and for what, and we reconcile that, new to us WRT food sales, so we need to balance our accounts, Tara and Tina will talk to Gail about it all.

Bank statement – didn't hand out copies because they are really poor copies, but have it

B) Ad-Hoc Requests

Meeting on Tuesday, went through everything, weeded out what can and can't be ad-hoc, easiest ad-hoc ever, not too much

Primary Requests:

(Grade 1) Butterfly larvae kits, carpet, iTunes gift cards = \$581.95

(Grade 1) iTunes gift cards, plastic cubby baskets, butterfly larvae kit (refill?) = \$145.00

(Kinder & Primary) Pails and shovels = \$450 (~400 students!!!)

(Grade 1) Pencil sharpener, board game, baskets, iTunes gift cards, butterfly larvae refill = \$325.00

(Grade 1) Monster bluetooth speaker (whole grade), iTunes gift card (class) = \$213.00

(Grade 1) Board games, baskets, iTunes gift card, butterfly larvae refill = \$215.00

(Grade 1-2) Subscription to Brain Pop Math = \$230.00 (\$175.00 USD)

(Grade 2) Art frames, Kinex = \$100.00

(Kinder) Yoga mats = \$420.00

(Grade 2-3) Raz kids = \$330.00  
(Grade 1-3) Board games = \$87.00

Junior Requests:  
(None)

Intermediate Requests:  
(Grade 7-8) Holiday Paint Day = \$1125.00  
(Grade 7-8) Board games = \$255.00

Whole School:  
Listen up! = \$5000.00  
Hot chocolate urns = \$316.00  
Shirts for ambassadors = \$720.00  
Grade 8 Graduation = \$600.00

? - Poca lit french equivalent to raz kids. Also, can we get more french readers? Especially for grade 3.

Tina - Needs an ad-hoc request, parents can put them in too, last year the readers for grade 2 cost \$2100

Sarah – should this come from ad-hoc? Do we have a reserve? Should we leave some wiggle room?  
Is there another fund we can tap into?

Tina – We have money in council initiatives (\$1000), council projects, remainder of ad-hoc

Cynara – \$1500 for sidewalk painting coming out of this year's ad-hoc?

Tina – yes, a/c used it up last year

Chris – listen up may be less than \$5000, could be extra money from that after final confirmation comes through

Tina – Vote to approve ad-hoc requests as-is  
33 in favour, none opposed (more voting members trickled in after attendance was taken)

Tina – A/V upgrades in gym – reserve set aside every year for technology upgrades, usually Chromebooks and iPads in the past, but the board has been funding that, so we have our untouched reserve from last year plus this year, \$10000, quote for gym upgrade is \$16800. Would have to come from the council project budget line.

Melanie - Life expectancy for this equipment?

Chris – I have been looking at this for a couple years, recently visited Kars on the Rideau who had this done, mounting existing speakers, running wires back to a central panel away from the stage so it can be done remotely, wireless mixing board to be used away from the presentation, plug-ins for more speakers, mounted projector with a cage, retractable screen. No wires on the floors, or bedsheets stapled to the stage. Used for talent fest, movie nights, etc. Fortunate for Mr Jeff who set up the existing system of speakers and mics, Mr. C now is “giddy” with the possibility of this, will shine a light on the kids, able to hear guest speakers, save time

Sarah – will this work with the wireless mics?

Chris – yes

Cynara – for the library, council AND school pitched in. Can the school pitch in some money on this project?

Chris – school budget is usually \$50-60000, usually spent on photocopies, school supplies, specific supply teacher costs (not covered by board, such as to replace a teacher who is taking kids on a sports team to an event). Sure a couple \$\$\$\$ could be found to contribute

Cassie – have we looked at other companies? To compare costs.

Chris – have to have a board vendor approved company. That's why we contacted them.

Tina – big-ticket items have to go through the board and it's usually more expensive than otherwise

Chris – can be installed whenever. Turnaround should be about 3 weeks to get equipment, 1 day to install, final check by an electrician. Whole thing could take 4-6 weeks.

Kim – look into other quotes and bring it back in November?

Nat – did Kars' parent council pay for it?

Chris – yes

## 10. Fundraising/Programs/Events Report

### A) Movie Night

Tamara – planning to show Incredibles 2, not using our pre-release as it'll be out just before.

Melissa – talked to Angie Bickmore re: ambassadors regarding feedback from last year, and how they allocated the raised funds last year, discussed proposing to council that we continue to give the funds to the ambassadors, in support of service-oriented activities. Ie, last year they did the sandwiches. Instead of just donating.

Tina – Chris and I talked to the grade 7 and 8's and put aside \$1000 for those types of initiatives. So that is already in place.

Tamara – movie night started to raise money for the Kinderyard project, but then when that was completed we didn't need the money, but were worried that if we stopped charging an entry fee and then decided we needed money it would be difficult to start charging again. The ambassadors run movie night, even if we put some of the proceeds to the new technology, but it's great to give the ambassadors a kickback. We can decide if we want/need to continue to do that.

Nat – could the money flow into the student ad-hoc fund?

Tina – it's already part of our budget.

Nat - how long has student ad-hoc been part of our budget?

Tina – a couple years. Were trying to get the kids involved.

Melissa – this money from movie night could be ambassador-specific?

Chris – as long as you advertise to what the funds will go towards, it's all good

Cynara – likes giving the money to the ambassadors, how can we involve younger students?

Tamara – pass that on to the ambassadors?

Tina – ambassadors do a little presentation to the younger grades? Get the kids involved in choosing the project?

Kim – use proceeds from one movie night for ambassadors and decide later about using the funds for the next movie night for the AV project?

Tina – AV project would require no additional fundraising, it would all be within the current budget.

Chris – equipment would not be in place for the upcoming movie night.

Tina – we have \$10000 set aside just for technology.

Kim – everyone seems on board to vote on this, at the next meeting?

Nikki – can't we vote yes to approve now and adjust the actual amount later?

Tina – so vote to approve this tonight, and follow through with more quotes.

Nat – and the school kick in a couple grand.

Billy – we approve the amount we currently have, and if we get a quote that's lower, we adjust.

Sarah – motion to approve \$15000, with the caveat that Chris check on more quotes, Jenny second. 33 for, none opposed.

Lori - Is it unreasonable to ask the school for this \$?

Tara - It's worth \$2k for the school!

Chris – I'll have to check what we can chip in. No one wants to completely drain what they have. The school has such a good relationship with council, not really worried about \$2000.

#### B) Christmas Shopping Day

Not much to update, wait until after halloween

#### C) Lost and Found

already done one round, will take a look at doing one again

#### 11. Inclusive, Safe, and Caring Schools Committee

No one running this – Cynara and Carrie are going to run it, haven't met yet, want to commemorate different days, want to reach out to the teachers and older students, presentation maybe by United Way? Ideas in the past have included a lot of parent and/or teacher time.

#### 12. OCASC – Alka Moorjani

Will be rep again, no report yet

#### 13. New Business

Elli – are we having a float for parade again? Did the tornado relief box make its way to CVES? Did info go to parents?

Chris – yes, did not go to parents, kid from MPS wanted to put out a box in our school, said no unless the kid could find someone in the school to do this, he did, so a box went up, put announcements in the morning, some kids donated, being picked up tomorrow

#### 14. Important Dates

Next meeting Nov 29 as the 22<sup>nd</sup> is parent-teacher interviews...?

A) Movie Night – November 16

B) Parent-Teacher Interviews - November 22-23

C) Christmas Shopping Day – December 11

#### 15. Adjournment - Moved by Nat, seconded by Tina