

Castor Valley Council Meeting

February 20th 2020 at 6:30pm

Quorum: 14 voting members (total 27 voting members)

- We did not meet quorum as we only had 13 voting members attend the meeting.
- Meeting started at 6:39pm, adjourned 8:59pm.

Attendance:

Voting: Carrie Amell, Jenni Bell, Julia Demidenko, Nichole Eisnor, Natalie Elliott, Radam Feizo-Gas, Joddi Forest, Adriene Gannon, Jennifer Hannah, Eli Kepsalis, Carolina Suarez, Maryam Segrue-Foubert, Catherine Yang

Non-voting: Ryan Gannon and Tamera Legris

I. Approval of February's Agenda and January's Minutes

- The approval of the February agenda and January's minutes will be moved for approval at the next meeting as we did not meet quorum.

II. Co-Chairs' Report/Programs Report

- Popcorn Days (4 so far to date), new volunteers needed for March(March 27) and May.
- Lunch and Milk Programs: new leading volunteers needed for next year: Anu and Kim have agreed to run it.

- Recycling: Markers / Bags2school / Pop tabs

-> *Markers*: a bin has been placed just outside the office to collect dried-up markers.

-> *Bags2school*: Melissa set up a pick up date for April 28th, 2020 (can be moved to a later date if needed). She will be reaching out to other schools and the school board to see what their experience is like. Melissa is looking for volunteers to help run the event, as well as to run a clothing swap for the Castor Valley students to raise awareness.

-> Julia made a box to collect pop tabs for *Pop Tabs for Wheelchairs*. It's placed next to the marker's collection box outside the office.

- Constitutional Amendment (Radam)

-> Radam read out the new constitutional changes he had modified since last council meeting to adhere to the new changes regarding the number of consecutive missed meetings.

-> The new constitution states that the person and his/her reasons for consecutive missed meetings shall be made known to all council members for transparency purposes. Chris cautioned that this level of specific and detailed information would infringe on the individual's rights of privacy. Majority of the members feel that since member absences are noted in the minutes, specific details regarding the absences are not necessary and/or relevant as we need to respect the members' privacy and allow them to share as much or as little as they wish.

-> Radam said the Executive couldn't be trusted to make these decisions (regarding reinstating members at their discretion) that weren't based on favouritism and were in the best interest of Council. One other member, Julia agreed with Radam. Elli noted that issues held in the year of chocolate milk were an anomaly and that concerns over missed meetings and quorum had not previously been a concern.

-> No further decisions have been made on whether this new version of the constitution will be modified to provide transparency as well as respecting member's privacy.

III. Principal, Teaching & Support Staff Report

- No new information regarding strike for next week. The next level of strike escalation will be announced on Monday, Feb. 26. Winter Carnival took place this week and both the staff and the students have enjoyed the activities. Staff are feeling anxious about the number of missed days and how the kids will adjust and catch up. Ski days have been cancelled and will not be able to take place this year. Future events have been postponed until after the spring as it's unsure what the school planning will be like with regards to strike.
- Parent Learning Sessions were a success with the last session, more possibilities with Parkway Church are planned. However, due to our affiliation with the public school system, we can not look into providing childcare within the church. The board is looking to provide parent learning sessions on a monthly basis. The next topics are: nutrition, re-organize and prioritizing lives(sometime in March or April), child-parent attachment sessions by learning support services (sometime in May). The cost of these parent sessions will vary, which we can use PIC grant for. There will not be any cost associated with board speaker run sessions.
- EQAO: Ontario Secondary Literacy Test: EQAO will not take place until the job action is resolved as the assessments require all staff to help run it. Several members raised concerns about the necessity of EQAO and anxiety increase in students. Any preparation for the EQAO will help students prepare for similar assessment in the future, and help to reduce student anxiety.
- Julia had a few parents messaging her about high school transition for grade 7 and 8's. Chris has asked her to direct any current and future questions regarding the high school transition program to him.

IV. Treasurer's Report (see attached notes from Melissa)

- Financial Reports: made \$1500 profit on Popcorn Days
- Ad-hoc request / Raz Kids: Carolina will create an e-vote for this ad-hoc as we did not meet quorum for this meeting. If we wait to approve the ad-hoc in April, this does not leave a lot of school year left to benefit the students.
- Milk Fridge Containers: Vero purchased these containers so that it takes away the milk bags and freezer packs.

- PIC Grant: council will send out a survey to ask the school community for parent topic interests. Options: tech, internet safety, and or? - Maryam will look into creating one using survey Monkey.

V. Inclusive Safe Caring Schools Committee (ISCSC) Report

Julia:

- Update from last meeting (Jan. 30th): It was a very productive meeting
- Importance of 1st step: reach Andrea White(VP) with any concerns
- Multicultural Week in April (might move to Educational Week, 1st week of May: May 4-8) / Speakers, Activities. Chris and the majority of the members caution on not putting people's culture on display. The below is a draft of activities planned so far, and is subject to change:
 - > background history of CV (Elli will look into it), looking into Children's cultures (What's your experience of being part of the community), how we are connected through shared experiences (Black history month: you don't have to be black to identify with a black, nor do you need to be a woman to identify with the woman's experiences)
 - > Monday: start with assembly with JK-3, 4-8, explain multicultural week
 - > Tue: Rock painting (weather permitting), so it has time to dry
 - > Wed: Spirit Day - cultural dressing - sport, art, ethnic, also have a dance-a-thon in the gym. It's a celebration of who you are
 - > Thur: have students going through stations to learn about each other's stories, looking for parent and guest speakers to talk about their experiences
 - > Fri: Rock placement (weather permitting)
 - > Vero wants to know if we can make a Mural for the multicultural week.
- WITS follow up (Parent Session, FB, Council Website, etc. ~ Thank you Melissa)

VI. Important Dates

- Castor Valley Carnival" Feb. 10th -14th (done)
- Movie Night FROZEN 2: Feb. 28th / Pizza Deadline
- Next Popcorn Days: March 27th and May 22nd
- Scholastic Book Fair: April 15th -16th
- Jump Rope for Heart: May 14th
 - > Several members expressed concerns about the students understanding the cause for jump rope fundraising. The biggest concerns are that students are focusing on fundraising to earn the prize they want instead of fundraising for a good cause. Past experiences have shown that when the fundraising is run without the prizes, the amount raised is significantly much less than the ones run with the prizes. Chris will take these concerns and relay it back to the foundation.
 - > Radam asked Chris whether or not there is a place for school to teach children charitable behaviour. Chris believes that the school does play a role in helping students learn academics and

also how to be a well-rounded person, while Radam believes it is the parent's role, not the school's and should be left out of the curriculum. (The disagreement went on further with Radam raising his voice at Chris).

-> Radam stated that people outside of Council told him that they believe Council is cliquy and elitist. Julia stated she'd heard the same. He believes Council has been rogue in the past year and does not follow proper guidelines or solicit sufficient feedback (particularly in the year of the chocolate milk issue). Majority of the members responded in disagreement; and other members responded that parents do maintain responsibility to become informed, to attend council meetings and/or read meeting minutes as well as reaching out to Council with questions/comments.

-> At this time, Council members were visibly uncomfortable and wanted the discussion to end. Co-Treasurer (Maryam) suggested Radam to book an appointment with Chris to continue the discussion outside of the Council meeting. Other members suggested moving onto other agenda items, as Radam was not allowing others to interject. Although the majority of the members wanted to end the discussion and move on with the rest of the agenda items, Radam was upset that agreement wasn't reached and at this point of time, got up and left the meeting at 8:54pm.

SPECIAL NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY: This was the first meeting of the year where Council members were visibly uncomfortable and unsettled following a rapid decline in the usual tone of Council meetings - this due to Radam becoming agitated and verbally disrespectful to other Council members, including Executive Members and the Principal (see specific moments within minutes above). His behaviour and ongoing conversation on personal opinion (ie. no values should be taught in school) could not be redirected by the Executive and Council was unable to cover the agenda that attendees had hoped to discuss in the intended timeframe.

- Fun Night: June 4th(the talent part of the fun night will not be running this year due to job action)
-> Looking into food trucks with dietary options for allergies/food sensitivities.
- Staff Appreciation Lunch: June 26th

VII. New Business

VIII. Adjournment

- Next meetings: April 16th and May 14th (Last meeting)

ANNEX 1: Treasurer's report – February 20, 2020

Financial report

- Jan report – as expected we had more posted in terms of revenue this month:
 - Fundschrift orders right before Christmas made just over \$300 (we hadn't budgeted anything for Fundschrift, so this is a bonus!)
 - Movie night profits just under \$1000 (more than budgeted!)
 - Shopping day made just over \$1,100 (more than budgeted!)
 - In the report, it doesn't look like we have turned a profit yet on popcorn, but that's because the last popcorn deposit will show up in February (\$1,622)... knowing this we have made about \$1,500 off popcorn days to date (our budget had \$1,900 expected profit, but we still have a few months to go – on track!)
 - We received the PIC grant from the OCDSB – need a plan for spending this (on some kind of parent engagement at the school – speaker, seminar, etc).
 - Closing bank balance as of Jan 31 was \$41,795
- Sneak peak into Feb/Mar report (as no meeting until April)
 - As of end of January, Term 2 Milk revenue on SCO was \$2,794 – not sure if more came in via cheque after the Jan 24th cut off...I don't think much would have...
 - This is down by almost \$600 from last Term (\$3,386 Term 1 revenue)
 - FYI:
 - 18/19 revenue for milk was \$7,460 with \$1,433 as final net income (profit)
 - 19/20 revenue will be likely be just over \$6,000. Our budgeted net income was \$1,500 but with the reduction in revenue, I'd expect we will come in just over \$1,100 instead. TBC.
 - We have likely made up the loss in Milk profits via the unplanned Fundschrift profits and increased profits from Shopping Day and Movie night.
 - At this point, no major impacts to approved budget or overall expected net position at the end of the year.

Ad Hoc update

- Most Ad Hoc Expenses have been paid (either directly by Council or via the office) – total paid out is \$6,469 (of the last \$8,253 total approved figure (8K original Ad Hoc Budget + case by case from Council Project budget line)).
- Big items remaining totalling about \$1,700, include: remaining rock path expenses; primary butterfly kits; primary sand toys; Green Team lunch.
- Most have come in under budget, so we'll see how much we actually dip into the "Council Project Budget line"...possibly not at all... even if we include this new request below

New Ad Hoc request

- Kim Holmes – 4 subscriptions (4 classes) to French Raz kids – 3 X gr. 2 classes and 1 X gr. ½ split class – 1 year subscription, so would benefit next year's classes as well. Estimated at 395.82 USD which would be approximately \$525 CAD.
- **Recommend we approve this for \$525 CAD** (it aligns with past approvals, and we have sufficient funds within the Council Initiative budget line that we agreed we would use on a case by case basis for future Ad Hoc requests. We have currently only approved \$250 of this Council Initiative budget line, so plenty remains). *(see also note above about how most ad hoc reimbursements have come in under budget)*