



Pleasant Park School Council November 23rd at 6:45pm – Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Kim Hunton, Lisa Scott, David Vlasblom, Laleah Beaudoin, Mark Cruise, Caren Hollinger, Charlene Dunn, Hannah Walhad, Sheila McLean, Emily Alexander, Gillian Warren, Chris Roy, Shauna Geerts, Lina Khattab, Islaw Official, Sophie Foster

1. Welcome and Indigenous Affirmation

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- a. Emily motions to approve agenda, seconded by Charlene
- b. Hannah motions to approve Minutes of October 26th, seconded by Emily.

3. Financial Report

i. Opening cash:	\$19,493
ii. Amount raised:	\$52,395
iii. Amount spent:	(\$502)
iv. Amount committed	(\$38,843)
v. <i>Outdoor Classroom Committed:</i>	(\$26,000)
vi. Current Balance (available to spend)	\$6,543

4. Council Update

- a. Outdoor initiatives update – Lisa: We have raised a total of \$56,395, including \$25,000 from OCDSB. This is less than the fundraising target of \$64,000 for the add-ons, but it is enough money for the base outdoor classroom and to get on the list for next year. A discussion was held on how to raise the additional money for the classroom and other outdoor initiatives.
 - i. Kim suggested organizing a fundraiser specifically to raise money for the outdoor classroom and other outdoor initiatives, such as an outdoor winter fun day. Sheila suggested running a 50/50 draw.
 - ii. Lisa indicated that she would be continuing to apply for grants.

ACTION: Lisa to reflect on further fundraising initiatives and to report back in December on Winter Fun Day and others.

Lisa indicated that the outdoor initiatives committee would also like to consider upgrades to the Kinder yard and hearing from Kindergarten Teachers what would be good. It was stated that

through preliminary discussions there may be opportunities to partner with Aladin on these installations; particularly if related to health and safety.

ACTION: Lisa to review previous suggestions received from Kindergarten educators (teachers and ECEs) and connect with Charlene on best way to hear additional suggestions. Lisa to also connect to Angela Jones from Aladin re: potential partnership for initiative installations.

- b. Fresh from the Farm update – Sheila: Pickup is on Wednesday, November 30. A purchaser focused message will be sent out from School Council as a reminder the day before pick-up. Sheila, Laleah and Kim are volunteers for distribution.
- c. Book Sale update (October 28/29) – Melissa / Laleah: The book sale was a success, raising approximately \$1600.
- d. Movie Night update (November 18) – Sophie / Hannah: The event was well-attended in both movie rooms. With ticket and concession sales, the event raised approximately \$700. There were some technical problems
 - i. With finding a disc player (Sheila and David had external drives that worked).
 - ii. With the sound in the gym – a parent went home to get an external speaker to help with this.

ACTION: Principal Cruise to investigate if the speaker connections can be fixed and if not look into purchasing updated equipment required through the school.

- e. Winter Wonderland Sale update (TBD) - Laleah:
 - i. Principal Cruise noted that it would take 1.5 days to put all classrooms through the sale, and for inclusivity it would be asked that each child receive one free item (540 items required). Additional issue to consider would be how to manage that items would not sell out before all classes have a chance to rotate through the gym, e.g. stagger putting out items.
 - ii. Lisa raised a concern about classes not having access to the gym in this time. Suggestion was made that it could potentially be in the library like the scholastic book sale.
 - iii. Given some of the concerns and logistics the Winter Wonderland Sale it was decided the Winter Wonderland Sale would not go forward at this time. As the idea was to give the children the opportunity to purchase small gifts to give during the holiday – timing will be reviewed if this is something to reconsider next year.
- f. Clothing: The idea of doing a clothing sale prior to the holidays as a gift idea had been raised in the past. Last year School Council ran the clothing sale; however in the past this was done by the school. Kim asked if there was anyone that would like to volunteer to run a clothing sale to which there was not reply.
- g. **ACTION: School Council to relook at this in the new year. Principal Cruise to find out who was the supplier of spirit clothing at Elgin. Post Meeting Note: Supplier was provided by Principal Cruise it was Daniela Colletti from Tuck Gear, daniela@tqdi.ca, 613-**

225-8442.Kichi Sibi Winter Trail Skis for Schools Program: This program in the past was brought in by School Council but run by teachers at the school (last year Sean Sepulis ran it). Council is interested in bringing this program back.

ACTIONS:

- **Charlene to check with educators as to whether there is a volunteer to run this program this year.**
- **Kim to contact Kichi Sibi Trails on timing and costs associated with program.**
- **Item to be re-tabled at future School Council meeting.**

Lisa asked about using the skating rink in Playfair Park. Principal Cruise indicated that this would require a field trip permission slip; it was asked if the sign-offs done to use the park at the beginning of the year would be sufficient. Gillian asked if the school still has the donated skates used previously for kids who don't have their own. Principal Cruise indicated that there are some boxes downstairs; storage of additional skates would be an issue. Also, taking kids skating would be up to the individual teachers. It was noted that a request for volunteers (similar to forest walks previously run by Kindergarten teachers) could be made for skating.

ACTION: Principal Cruise to report back on what skates are still housed in the school and the condition.

- h. Yearbook: Kim indicated that the yearbook project is often started in January and in the past has been run as a club with a Teacher and Parent Volunteer. Last Year Megan S. took the project on herself.

ACTION: Charlene to ask educators if there is a volunteer to take on this initiative. Club could run at anytime before, after school. If a teacher volunteers, Council will put out a call for a parent volunteer to aid with the running of the club.

- 5. Teacher Rep Update: Charlene reported that the Grade 6 classes took a field trip to McSkimming. School bus was paid by the school through a grant. A reimbursement request for the food related to the trip will be requested by Ms. Henderson through the pre-approved field trip funds. The remainder can be used for an additional trip.

Lisa noted to Charlene that as teacher rep is welcome to bring forward any issues raised by teachers that Council could assist with; not just fundraising/funding related.

6. Principal/Admin Update

- a. Halloween parade on October 31 went well as did Remembrance Day ceremony.
- b. Food drive is going well and students will receive a spirit day if 700 items of food collected and a surprise if 1000 items received.
- c. Tutoring program: The board has provided two in-school math tutors, one part-time and one fulltime. We also have a confirmed French tutor, Safia Benachir, who will provide tutoring after school (3:10-4:10). Students will be identified and triaged for those with the greatest need. Tutoring classes will have between 3 and 5 students per session and will likely meet twice a week.

- d. Art in the Park will run the last week of the school year. *Post Meeting Note: This has been cancelled due to concerns related to the number of people congregating in one place before the holidays.*
- e. We were given a new concrete bunker shed in the back of the yard. It will be used to store overflow making the space for gym equipment more efficient.
- f. Lockdown drill on Friday went well.
- g. 2021-2022 EQAO Pleasant Park Public School results, Note Level 3 refers to grade level and these are results of students in these grades from the 2021/2022 school year (i.e. last year) Full results presented are attached.
 - i. Grade 3 Math: 65.6% achieved Level 3 and 9.4% achieved Level 4 compared to board results of 46.5% and 14.7% respectively.
 - ii. Grade 3 Reading: 57.8% achieved Level 3 and 23.4% achieved Level 4 compared to board results of 58.1% and 16.4% respectively.
 - iii. Grade 3 Writing: 68.8% achieved Level 3 and 1.6% achieved Level 4 compared to board results of 64.7% and 1.0% respectively.
 - iv. Grade 6 Math: 36.7% achieved achieved Level 3 and 14.3% achieved Level 4 compared to board results of 42.9% and 9.6% respectively. It was noted that 42.9% are at a Level 2.
 - v. Grade 6 Reading: 61.2% achieved Level 3 and 20.4% achieved Level 4 compared to board results of 65.2% and 19.9% respectively.
 - vi. Grade 6 Writing: 51.0% achieved Level 3 and 34.7% achieved Level 4 compared to board results of 55.4% and 28.3% respectively.

7. Discussion Items

- a. Open Opportunities: We have found possible volunteers for D&I committee and OCASC representative. We are looking for volunteers to run fundraising and spirit events. The request will continue to be sent out.
 - i. .
- b. Communication Plan
 - i. Survey responses: to date we have received 38 responses which isn't a great representation. Full results will be shared by Lisa at the January Meeting.
 - ii. Volunteer list/contact list: We have been receiving interest for volunteering opportunities, a consolidated list has been created for future volunteer requests and will continue to be updated. A volunteer coordinator would be another position that would be helpful.
 - iii. Website: both the pleasantpark.ca and School Council website through the school webpage are active and current. At some point in the future we will migrate to the school website only – date TBD.
 - iv. Council News: Send outs are on Wednesday. Laleah mentioned some parents find it too long.

ACTION: Attempt will be made to cut the content and focus on links. As well subject line will be changed to be more specific to the new content.

- c. Gillian raised the question to Principal Cruise and Charlene about the school's view and approach on enriching students through special programs and clubs; and how we as School Council can facilitate these initiatives. Examples provided were: Mathletes, Robotics Club, etc. It is noted that the primary role of School Council is to bring forward parents/guardians concerns.
 - i. Principal Cruise indicated that the school supports these activities and initiatives, but also it is important to maximize instruction time for students after missed time from the pandemic. In addition, these programs are run by teachers volunteering their time.
 - ii. Charlene noted that she plans on running the robotics club again this year however the equipment is getting dated so the number of students that can participate is limited. Due to the dated technology purchasing additional kits of this type would not be recommended. Charlene also noted that teachers that have run programs in the past have left the school for example: Grade 6 Play (which would have already been running and takes a lot of time), chess club and others.
 - iii. Lisa encourages parents to come forward with any issues such as these supports for education enhancements such that Council can work on an action plan. This would include what the board is planning to do about space constraints now that the accommodation review has been put on hold indefinitely.

8. Decision Items

- a. Charlene requests funding for puppet activity that comes into the school. Request is for \$565 and has enough spaces for all kindergarten and grade 1 classes, there is almost enough space for all grade 2 classes as well. Kim asked if there are any economies of scale to add an hour to the event such that the classes can be broken into smaller groups and include the Grade 2 classes.

ACTION: Charlene will inquire about additional costs to add Grade 2 classes if they wish to also participate.

- i. **Gillian motioned to approve \$565 for puppet activity, seconded by Hannah. Motion approved unanimously.**

9. Next school council meeting will be held on December 14th at 6:45pm.

10. Adjournment was at 9:20pm.