MINUTES

Elora Public School Council

Sept 20, 2022

**Virtual Attendees:** Rachel Albano, Catherine Black & Sheila Bauman

**In-Person Attendees:** Curt McQueen, Katy Groves, Chris Jess, Ferris Howe, Michelle Youngblood, Tanya McLaren Morton, Emma Reay, Alison Negrave, Colette Bayani-Thody, Alison Williams, Crystal Schnarr, Paula O’Donnell, Kim Blair, Shannan Noorlander & Angela Massey

**1. Welcome and Introductions (Curt)**

**2. Attendance**

**3. Approval of Minutes from June 21, 2022** – Minutes from June 21, 2022 were distributed to all who attended. Minutes were read individually & approved.

**4. School Council Membership and Executive 2022-2023 (Curt)**

* School councils serve in an **advisory capacity to the school Principa**l, and the Board to promote continued excellence in education, placing the overall interest of students first.
* School councils support the **engagement of parents** in their child’s learning and provide a powerful network of support
* Through the active participation of families, school councils work to **improve student achievement**
* School councils participate in fundraising initiatives **to help raise funds for overall school needs**
* Typically decision making is through **consensus**

-School council includes the principal, vice-principal, parent involvement, teacher representatives & community involvement (if possible). The executive roles are:

1. **Chairs/co-chairs** – The name of the chair(s) is submitted to the board and they occasionally receive communication from the board. It is a formal role for big picture issues (i.e. boundary changes). The chair is occasionally contacted by parents/community regarding issues which is relayed to the P/VP. This position is responsible for chairing the council meetings and coordinating the agenda with the P/VP.

2. **Secretary** – This is a traditional role responsible for drafting the minutes and submitting them to the principal for posting on the website.

3. **Treasurer** – The school council funds are part of the school bank account and identified in 3-4 lines on the school budget. The treasurer communicates with the principal to understand the current funds and present to the council. The treasurer also counts money collected during events for accountability.

During the council meeting…

- Rachel Albano & Colette Bayani volunteered to co-chair

- Shannan Noorlander volunteered to be the treasurer, in addition to assisting Kim Blair with the minutes.

- Katy Groves also expressed interest to be involved and assist with the minutes.

\*Parents are also encouraged to contact Curt after the meeting if they are interested in a position.

**5. P/VP Report (Curt & Emma)**

**5.1 Start of the Year Update**

- There were no changes to classes at the start of the year. EPS did not receive growth from North Fergus over the summer as anticipated.

-The school remains at 19 classrooms total (2 kindergarten classes, 5 Primary classes, 4 Junior classes, 8 Intermediate classes).

-The school is receiving another portable in anticipation of numbers increasing.

-The field across the creek is again being used by the juniors.

**5.2 Meet the Teacher/Open House Oct 5th 5:30pm – 7:15pm**

-Teachers will be invited to eat early so they can be in classrooms to meet families.

-School Council agreed to cover the cost of the staff meals

-Chris Jess will again be coordinating the food

-Volunteers will be required to confirm ticket orders during the event

-Further discussion is required on ways to improve the ticket process during the event

- All food orders need to be purchased in advance. Cash on-line will be available in the next few days. Talk to Paola if parents cannot access cash on-line.

- Burgers, hot dogs, veggie option, lemonade & cookies will be available.

-Food will be served in the gym and Curt will ensure tables & chairs are available for families.

**5.3 Team Addy Day Oct 7th**

- An email was sent to parents to explain what this day is about

- Staff felt it was very important this year to support Team Addy in lieu of Terry Fox

- This day will include photos and narrative about Addy so the students understand the significance of the day and recognize her as part of the school.

- It will be a fun day including a school walk/run and basketball.

-There will be a fundraising effort through school cash on-line to help Team Addy reach their goal of $500,000 this year. Details to be communicated soon.

**5.4 Salad Days**

- The school is interested in starting salad days again this year.

- Volunteers will be required.

- Communication to be sent soon.

Dates to Note

September 29 - Intermediate Football Tournament

September 30 - Orange Shirt Day - in the spirit of hope and reconciliation.   To honour the survivors of residential schools and show a collective commitment to ensure every child matters

October 4 - Intermediate Cross Country

October 5 - Open House (5:30-7:15)

October 7 - Team Addy Day

October 10 - Thanksgiving Holiday

October 24 - PD Day - note this is a Monday

**6. Teacher Reports**

**6.1 Mrs. McLaren**

Cross Country Running

-Mr. White is managing Grade 1-6. Date & location of meet tbc.

-Mr. Speers is managing Grade 7 & 8. Meet will be Oct 4th (location tbc).

Grades 7 & 8 football & Junior soccer

-Starting soon

Green Gryphons

-This year’s focus will be on composting as soon as the compost bin is fixed or replaced.

-Each classroom will be responsible for their own recycling

Elora Centre For the Arts

-Working on collaborating for a monthly art therapy program

Comics For Kids

-Geared for Grades 2-5

**6.2 Mrs. Youngblood**

Students Create Change

-Mr. Speers is starting to get ideas going similar to last year’s One Box Initiative & Patrick Anderson signs

Allies For All

-Focuses on equity & inclusivity for all at EPS

Mrs. McCracken’s Grade 4/5 class will be doing a popcorn fundraiser for the playground rebuild.

Mrs. Lawson will again be organizing trips to the River Run Centre for Grades 1-8.

Elora Public Library is looking to support the school & bring more awareness to the local public libraries through organized visits and activities with the juniors.

Magic Pebble is interested in holding a virtual bookfair in conjunction with the open house.

**7. Treasurer Report** (Curt)

- Nothing spent to date. The budget is currently as follows…

General - $442.68

Fundraising -

Landscaping - $2,119.42

Playground - $3,757.06

\*$2,000 also in UGLF for playground

**8. Other Business**

-Gaga ball pit was built in the summer with some school council funds. It is being used by Grade 7 & 8’s plus younger kids during class time. A gate will be installed soon so the structure is accessible.

-A playground planning committee needs to be established and active this year. Need to look at ways to build various structures in steps due to funding – plus ensure that the structures are accessible and geared towards all ages. The fencing around the old playground area will be removed soon once the grass has been established. Curt will send out communication soon regarding the committee.

-A fundraising committee also needs to be established soon to start this year’s fundraising initiatives. The committee was reminded that the names of the fundraising initiatives need to be inclusive for all (i.e. religious consideration around holidays, etc.) Alison Negrave agreed to take the lead on this committee.

**9. Next Meeting Date**

-The council meets 5-6 times per year – typically on Tuesday’s.

-Next meeting date tbc.