

Edward Johnson School Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Natasha H.	Meghan O.	Yvette Tendick	Katherine W.
Nadine H.	Jamie B.	Monica G.	

1. Welcome: Approval of last meeting minutes. Chair Natasha

2. Principal's Report: Katherine Wainman

- had a bit of a hiatus, a bit longer than expected
- In terms of brick and mortar school, kids are very resilient and are very happy to be back. Nice to see them, it's going really well
- Continuing with equity work at school. There is required equity training for all Upper Grand staff – EJ's training is in April and May.
- Typically February would be Black History month. Some secondary students in the Board came up with a new name for it, which is "Black Brilliance, Heritage and Futures" month. There will be some events to honour this special month. Each class will be using literature to bring this up for discussion to bring to the forefront of kids' thinking. Some staff members will be participating in a book club. The book is "White Fragility" by Robin Diangelo.
- Apologies for changing the Spirit Day date. It was supposed to be "pay it forward day" but everyone just got back and Katherine thought it would be too rushed. This coming Friday will be "red, white and pink day" or "red and gold day" in honour of Chinese New Year.
- A parent approached her about having air exchangers in the classrooms. We currently have three in the school. There will likely be funding for this coming from the Ministry and Board in due course.
- Propose that school council pick a project, Katherine will sit on the committee and assist, just so we can get something going. An example is the mud kitchen that we discussed previously. Katherine put it to council, we tell her what we want to do for school greening and she will start doing some research. Some discussion around potentially reaching out to teachers/students to get ideas for what they want to see outside with a view to discuss those results at the March meeting. Katherine can help facilitate, she can give teachers some open-ended questions and maybe a few examples, give them some time to go through with the students and add what they come up with to a Google forum. Katherine will try to put this out to staff next week and give a two-week window for responses. Monica to put together some

links to examples. The focus is more on a naturalized play area as opposed to a traditional metal/PVC climber/play structure

- Organized the website a bit so hopefully more user friendly. Will have stuff in the feed as well as other sections on the website.

3. Teachers Report: Yvette Tendick

- Nice to have the kids back, great to be back
- Has been a smoother transition than she thought it would be
- Kids are now allowed to have gym class in the gym which is great
- Have not spent gym equipment funds yet. Now that we can have gym inside they will probably spend more on indoor equipment than outdoor
- Recess is going well because there is a lot of snow outside for the kids to play

4. Treasurer's Report: Meghan

- Hasn't been a whole lot of transactions
- For classroom discretionary funds, only one teacher has submitted expenses (\$56); the balance of teachers/support staff have not yet accessed their \$100 discretionary funds
- Katherine has spent some funds on the food cupboard (\$36)
- Some funds have come in from FlipGive and Mabels Labels
- Only other expenditure was the purchase of the outdoor storage bins, came in at \$1,120 (final cost) which was a bit less than expected

5. Fundraising: Pay it forward/Dance-a-thon update. Indigo fundraiser. Jamie & Natasha

- Natasha and Jamie are working on something they can send out asking if parents want to donate to Upper Grand Learning Foundation directly, given our limited fundraising opportunities this year
- The "pay it forward" dance-a-thon not happening this Friday
- What about an outdoor dance-a-thon in the Spring? All agreed this is a great idea. Need to sort out some logistics, but this is a great alternative to an indoor event. Parents could donate directly to the Upper Grand Learning Foundation for this event

- Indigo
 - Jamie is waiting to hear back to see if something in-store or online (or both) can happen
 - Apparently a few schools have already reached out to Indigo, sounds like they are working on it
 - Not planning to run until April
- Random Acts of Kindness Day is February 17, 2021. Natasha put it to the group for discussion. Some thoughts were:
 - For a longer-term project, we could make a tree on a wall space in the school, older students would make the tree trunk and branches. For every random act of kindness noticed a leaf would be added to tree. After five acts of kindness a flower would be added to tree. This could also involve class discussions about simple acts of kindness, a take-home sheet for family dinner discussion, etc.
 - For this go round, Natasha will organize something that can be sent home or talk about paying it forward and give some suggestions for local causes that could take donations

6. PIC grant: Any ideas? Natasha/Meghan

- We have \$500 that we need to allocate to a program that involves parent engagement
- Discussed potentially using these funds to purchase Agendas
- In future could we use these funds for a literacy night? Was successful that last time we conducted the event. Council to reach out to Mme Motto to see if she has any suggestions, possibly for a virtual workshop, maybe with materials that could be shared with parents. Could split in two nights, one with primary focus and one with junior focus.
- Monica brought up something from the most recent PIC meeting. She said that attendees were placed in breakout rooms and were invited to send pressing questions, concerns, etc. to the chat for discussion. She said it started a lot of great conversations.
- What about a parent lending section in the EJ library (whether it is a bookshelf, or math manipulatives, etc.). Something that parents can access and check out to use at home. Could incorporate a parent book lending library as well. **Motion to put the funds towards this? PASSED.** Next part of discussion would be, what sorts of resources would be useful for parents? Katherine can put together a forum if we give her the questions to ask, this can be shared with teachers to get their suggestions.

7. Communications: Survey & Facebook update. Natasha

- Natasha will resend the link to the survey to Katherine. Katherine will try to send this out to parents later this week.

8. Alternatives to Field Trips: Natasha

- Does anyone have any ideas? Perhaps in-school exhibits for next year
- Please bring ideas forward for next meeting (i.e. rock wall, planetarium, Indigenous exhibits, Dance-ed, etc.)
- Katherine will reach out to Dance-ed people to let them know we are interested in having them at the school next year

9. Other School Council Business/Discussion

- Kids do not have access to the library, teachers have access to check things out
- Can we pick a date for the Family Fall Fun Fair meeting - Natasha will send an email to members of that committee to start booking things. Should look into booking food trucks. Can we incorporate music? We could ask Suzuki school of music to come and play at the fair. Natasha will look into this. Could also look for other student/parent involvement opportunities.
- Any word on the ETA for the Chromebook that were purchased recently. Katherine advised we received 30 yesterday, not sure if they were the school purchased ones or council purchased ones. There are also ones coming from the school board “refresh”. She is pretty sure the ones that council purchased have already come in. Katherine will speak to Jylian and see what the status is.

10. Conclusion of Meeting

11. Next meeting Tuesday, February 9th 2021 @ 6:30pm.

Thank you for coming out!

School Council reminders:

1. Submit agenda items to Chair (ejsschoolcouncil@gmail.com) one week prior to meeting.
Or during Other School Council Business/Discussion to be added to the next meeting's agenda.
2. Be aware of the agenda topics and time.
3. Please enter the Google meet with microphones off.