

Edward Johnson School Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 30th 2021, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Welcome: Approval of January meeting and last meeting minutes. Indigenous Education Policy review. UGDSB PIC upcoming event. Chair Natasha

Natasha H. Katherine Kate B. Monica G. Meghan O. Yvette Tendick
Nadine P.

1. Welcome and approval of Minutes
 - Minutes approved, Natasha will reach out to a few other parents to confirm they approve the Minutes as well
 - Natasha wanted to bring it to everyone's attention that the UGDSB has a policy in draft, the Indigenous Education Policy. The policy is open to review. Natasha will seek to get something posted on the Facebook page.
 - Natash would like to create an Equity and Inclusion Committee. This is something she would like to see started next year. Her initial thoughts were to start small, choose three or four classes to take the opportunity to create a class exhibit about different cultures. She sees Council's involvement as being assistance in arranging speakers or providing class supplies. The focus could be on celebrations, awareness, etc. Let Natasha know if you want to be part of the committee, or have any ideas
2. Principal's Report: DancED update. Playground feedback from teachers & students. Preferred playground painter. Katherine Wainman
 - As a staff they have done some anti-racism training; the second part of the training is coming up. Equity and inclusion is in the forefront of everyone's mind
 - Very successful "anti-March break", lots of fun, everyone enjoyed the activities
 - Looking forward to April break
 - Rock paper scissors tournament this week, using Google Meet on Thursday for the grand finale
 - Katherine has booked the DanceEd people for Jan 2022; the first two weeks in January. No details ironed out yet.
 - We have a contact who can take care of the school ground painting. Meghan was pretty sure we paid \$1,200 last time to paint the asphalt and the playground structure. Natasha will look into getting a quote.
 - Katherine received 6 completed surveys from teachers regarding playground feedback. She will try to gather more surveys and forward to Natasha. Some examples, a zip line, more hopscotch, shorter basketball nets, big tires in sand pits, things you can jump in and out of, larger speakers so kids can hear music at the back of the field
 - Everyone is keeping spirits up, working hard, children are doing a phenomenal job, parents are being very supportive

- The school has received the Chrome Books that Council purchased. The school has also received a supply of Chrome Books from the Board and the Provincial government so we are now in really good shape for Chrome Books

Teachers Report: Yvette Tendick

- The gym equipment has been ordered
- Staff and students are looking forward to the April break
- Comment about playground equipment, she would like to see some sort of equipment that can use/work the upper body, larger forest area, some teachers mentioned the need for shade. Meghan mentioned the potential for bouldering walls

Treasurer's Report: Meghan

- Chrome Books have come in, this is the only real activity on the account, don't have the final bill for that yet
- Playground equipment repairs that we did in the fall cost \$650
- Will need to top up funds at the Upper Grand Learning Fund once we can get back to fundraising in earnest
- \$100 classroom allotment for teachers - only Mme White has submitted receipts for the funds that were allocated to the teachers. Asked Yvette and Katherine to remind teachers that the funds are available. \$100 per classroom and \$100 for each planning teacher, \$100 for Mme Motto and \$100 for Carla. Carla and Mme Motto are also allocated \$500 for any Hub needs.
- Question, when would be a good time for us to have a budget meeting? Natasha will try for a budget meeting in May and a Fundraising meeting in April

Fundraising: Indigo fundraiser and May flowers fundraiser. Thoughts on an outdoor movie night in June run by City of Guelph. Natasha

- Indigo was a "no" for Easter. Jamie is waiting to hear back to see if we can book for November
- Settled on Royal City Nursery to do either hanging baskets or 4" flower pots for Mother's Day. Waiting to hear back re: logistics
- What about an outdoor movie night in June? Could have a vendor there with popcorn. Natasha will look into this perhaps as an event for next year when restrictions are hopefully fewer

FFFF: Choose between EJ parent photobooth OR PhotoBooth2Go

- We have a \$100 deposit with PhotoBooth2Go
- The comparable package with an EJ parent is about half the price (only real difference is that the school doesn't get a USB with the photos)
- Decision made to reach out to PhotoBooth2Go and request a refund and go with the EJ parent for the event
- We could ask if he would also be able to provide us with a USB with pictures

Community Involvement: Donation recipients for next year. EJ student interactions with The Elliot & La Pointe-Fischer. Natasha

- Natasha put it to the group some suggestions about continuing with donation drives, possibly for the Food Bank, Hope House, etc.
- Meghan will speak with someone at the Food Bank to see if there are other times of year that they are in need of donations (other than holidays)
- We will aim to do this twice per year (once around the Christmas holidays, perhaps another "giving tree", and once another time of the year)
- Would like to try to make more of an effort for kids to interact with residents at the LTC homes in our neighbourhood. Perhaps writing letters, sending cards, pictures, etc.
- Monica mentioned a future EJ talent night to share with our community

Alternatives to Field Trips: Natasha

- Putting this off for now

Virtual Art Show Theme: Natasha

- Going to try to have an Art Show in early May. Does anyone have any ideas?
- Could talk to the teachers to take photos or submit videos of classroom artwork that Council can put together and share with the school
- Monica suggested that school council could provide supplies, perhaps build something outside, or maybe a large canvas outside that everyone can put hand on it, signature

Other School Council Business/Discussion

- Monica - PIC update
 - Potential new policy around parent volunteers in the school. The parent volunteer would pay for a safety check which would cover them for four years. Once the check is done the Principal would only have to ask the volunteer to give a Declaration each time they want to volunteer. Potential policy will be open for community feedback.
- Minister of Education proposes now that online school needs to exist in perpetuity
 - Martha Rogers says that a journalist from one of the big networks/newspapers was given a leaked document (draft) that the gov't proposes to make into legislation as early as May. She commented on it and said that they are proposing to have online school made permanent at all levels. The content of all of the lectures are supposed to be done with collaboration and overseen by TVO. Every student that goes into this stream (parents can choose whether their kids go into the online stream) will not be considered students of any particular school board. In the proposed legislation, any highschool student must take two online courses. Martha was saying that "parents should be awake and be mindful of this". This could come into effect for the 2022-2023 school year. It would apply for a non-pandemic, regular type school year. Some online courses may be mandatory for highschool.

- A question was posed to Katherine, has been any word about the availability of online learning in Sep 2021? Katherine has not heard anything, they are busy staffing the brick and mortar school at this point.
- Meghan: "Trees for Guelph", mentioned that he was doing modified planting programming in schools this year. Katherine declined the offer for this year, will get back on track with this in the fall.

Conclusion of Meeting

Next meeting Tuesday, May 12th 2021 @ 6:30pm.

Thank you for coming out!