

Edward Johnson School Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 18, 2022, 6:30-7:30pm

Attendance: Natasha P., Laura S., Samantha W., Mahrukh S., Olivier C.

Joining virtually: Neville W., Alana S., Kate B., Anita K.

1. Land Acknowledgement & Welcome - Olivier and Natasha

- New land acknowledgement read by Olivier
- Natasha has updated/edited School Council bylaws
 - Key change is that quorum for voting has been reduced from seven people to five
 - Still very close to the school Board guidelines
 - Contact Natasha if you wish to review or have any questions/comments

2. Principal's Report - Olivier

- Eagle's Equity Alliance ("EEA") has launched the logo redesign campaign
 - Looking forward to seeing what submissions look like
 - The entries will first be narrowed down by the EEA, then staff. The top choices will be presented to the school community as well (perhaps for a vote)
- On the learning side of things, the Board is focusing on the "Right to Read" report of the Ontario Human Rights Council, which indicated that the best literacy programs have systematic phonics programming. The Board has programs for staff to use and follow to promote French Immersion phonics consistently across all schools. Staff are going to take this year to learn the program. The focus of the programming is on K to 3, but every teacher and Olivier will familiarize themselves with it. Program is "*Bien Lire et Aimer Lire*". It was developed by a speech pathologist and is connected to the science of reading
- Olivier is enjoying preparing the weekly email messages home and is getting good feedback from that.
- Question from Mahrukh - any talks of a strike? None that Olivier is aware of.

3. Teacher's Report: Samantha White

- Curriculum is in full swing, routines are in place, moving quickly ahead
- Staff are busy planning field trips, the Grade 5s are on a trip today
- Cross country meet happened last week, our students did well
- A Grandmother from our school community is coming to the school on Friday, October 21st to run a program about Diwali for the Grade 2s
- Samantha has reached out to the staff for any specific requests for funding. She will provide feedback shortly

- Teaching staff are getting ready for progress reports
- Question from Natasha - would any classes like to donate bulbs to plant in the school yard planters/raised beds? Samantha will pass this along.
- Question from the chat - Is there an assessment to determine whether a child is at/above/below grade level? Samantha gave a brief explanation of the various assessment tools used in the classroom (i.e. for reading, how many words are accurate, if mistakes, what are the mistakes, is there a pattern in the mistakes they are making, test comprehension of what is read). Samantha encouraged those who have specific questions to speak to their child's teacher.

4. Treasurer's Report: Meghan/Natasha

- Meghan was unable to attend so she relayed some information to Natasha
- Not too much to report
- The Family Fall Fair fundraising has not yet been tallied, more info to come

5. Fall Fair Review: Laura

- Family Fall Fair went really well, lots of great feedback, was well-attended
- We were able to showcase some concepts for the new playground
- The games were a big hit
- The food trucks ran smoothly, seemed to be able to handle the volume of people (no long lineups or other issues)
- \$1,900 net raised (without the fall mums and pumpkins)
- Having the event combined with the open house and the book fair worked out really well (thanks to Olivier for the suggestion!). Next time, we will try to incorporate time for the teachers to get out and enjoy the Fair as well.
- The Book Fair did extremely well (best sale ever according to Armelle)
- The topic of electronic payment for the Council run events (i.e. game tickets/bake sale/etc.) was discussed
 - We will look into this as an option for next time
 - If we are unable to accommodate electronic payment we will make sure to clearly advertise that it's a cash only event

6. Fundraising: Next fundraiser review. Laura

- Laura would like to organize a Fundraising Committee to work with her and offer help when they can. She will continue to take the lead.
- Our next fundraiser will be poinsettias. The order deadline date will be November 28th and the pickup date will be December 3rd.
- This will move nicely into the holiday basket fundraiser. We are going to run it similar to last year. Council will send out communication to the school community towards the end of November to solicit donations to create the baskets. With those funds, a parent volunteer will shop for and create several child-focused baskets. In the beginning of

December, Council will ask for donations to the holiday basket prizes. Each student will be given a number of tickets to be entered in the draw. Laura will share the schedule of communications with Alana. Kate suggested that Council recruit some help with writing the names of our younger students on the tickets. Natasha will seek out volunteers.

7. Community Events: Need to choose dates. Natasha

- Olivier suggested that the concert hosted by the school will be during the week of Dec 12th to 17th (given the last week of school before the break is a short week, December 23rd is a Board holiday). More details regarding this will come together once progress reports are done.
 - Question from Laura - Is there an option for a video/livestream of the concert in the event parents are not comfortable attending in person, or are unable to attend? Olivier will look into this.
- We are looking to book three skating events, one each in January, February and March (likely at the University of Guelph).
 - Suggestions were the last Sunday of March break and during the U of G's reading week in February. We will look at two Sundays and one evening during the week.
- Education Week is the first week of May, we will run an Earth Day/Talent Day event on the Wednesday of that week.

8. Communications: Alana

- Natasha to provide Alana with a list of all activities/fundraisers happening in the winter
- Discussion around how we can improve communication of events. All agreed that keeping up multiple channels of communication is best (i.e. social media, adding Council info to Olivier's weekly emails, paper flyers sent home quarterly or seasonally). Natasha will get some information to Alana so she can prepare a "Winter flyer" to go home.

9. PIC update: Mahrukh

- Student census deadline was Oct 9th. Some parents brought up concerns with some of the types of questions that were asked. If you have any further questions/concerns reach out to the Board.
- School Board Trustee/Municipal elections are on Oct 24th
- The City has approved the new south end high school
- PIC has two events planned
 - School Council focused event on Dec 3rd (Saturday morning), for councils to learn from each other, what do we do, how do we run it, how to fundraise. The event will be in person at Centre Wellington DHS. Mahrukh will ask at the next PIC meeting whether it's being offered virtually as well.
 - Will hold another event in April 2023, hopefully in person, for parent engagement, also at CWDHS. Any suggestions for topics feel free to pass them along.

- Next PIC meeting coming up on Monday, October 24th

10. In School Residency Programs: Adam Bowman/AstroGeo. Natasha

- Adam Bowman is a drummer and percussionist, he lives in Guelph
 - Natasha is working with him to bring a percussion program to the school
 - She is working through the Ontario Arts Council grant application
 - Aiming for January/February
 - Cost TBD
- AstroGeo
 - AstroGeo is a science outreach program with a portable planetarium
 - Emphasis on astronomy and Earth science
 - A one-day set up in the gym will cost approx. \$1,800 (this is less than half of Council's \$5,600 curriculum-linked programming budget)
 - Classes will rotate through the display throughout the day
 - **Motion to run this program - PASSED**

11. Items to be addressed at the next meeting: Natasha

- Samantha surveyed the teachers to get suggestions for Council fund allocations:use of funds
 - Scientists in the School program (one per class per year)
 - Bussing for one field trip per class
 - Help cover the cost of the Forest of Reading/Silver Birch program (library)

12. Conclusion of meeting: Natasha

Thank you for coming out!