

Edward Johnson School Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 6:30-7:30pm

Attendance (all virtual): Meghan O., Meghan Wadleigh, Natasha P., Nadine P., Olivier Cutz, Christine P., Kate B., Anita K., Alana S.

1. Principal's Report - Olivier

- The drumming sessions are ongoing, they have been really fun and are going well
- Term 1 is over and we are now in Term 2. Report cards have gone out.
- Exciting new opportunity for Grade 5 and 6 students
 - Our school is participating in a pilot project to change the language of instruction for math from French to English
 - To maintain the required number of French instruction minutes, all subjects except for Math and English will be taught 100% in French
 - As an FYI, at King George math is taught in English for Grades 7 and 8, to help prepare students for high school (math is in English at the high school level)
 - The school and students will get some extra support as we make the transition to English instruction
 - Another FYI, EQAO is done in English
- The new school logo has been finalized and approved by the Board. We will be able to sell spirit wear with this new design
 - The new logo was shared with Council together with a sample of the available spirit wear and pricing
 - Discussed around not including the option to include a name on the spiritwear as this simplifies ordering and allows us to process through School Cash Online. However, given that grad hoodies/sweatshirts are processed separately, there will likely be an option to include a name on those.
 - Council will look into a more economically priced t-shirt option, and maybe a pink t-shirt shirt with anti-bullying slogan (as has been done in previous years)
 - Olivier will include the new logo design in his weekly email to parents/guardians
- There will be a school-wide assembly at the end of March

2. Teacher's report - Meghan W.

- The Kindergarten team is taking stock of the recess toys they have and will report back to Council. They have also used some funds to pick up a number of scoops that can be used at recess (30 or so)
- No other updates from any other divisions

3. Treasurer's report - Meghan O.

- We have raised approx. \$10,500 so far this year (note this does not include Subway for Jan and Feb, nor does it include pizza for Feb). Of these funds, \$7,266.85 is allocated to operating expenses and \$3,307.93 has been specifically allocated to the playground.
- Our operating budget for this year is \$21,484. We will know next week after the Dance-a-thon how close we are to hitting this target.
- We have approx. \$29,500 in our School Council account plus another \$13,600 at the UGLF, for a total of approx. \$43,700. Of this total amount, \$6,500 has been set aside for ongoing playground maintenance reserve and other playground equipment (yet to be purchased) and approx. \$13,000 is set aside for long-term projects.

4. Mud Kitchen - Nadine

- The Kindergarten and Primary teams have discussed their preferred location for the proposed mud kitchen. The consensus was to have it located in the forest area. This will provide shade, which will help to extend the life of the mud kitchen, and will allow access for more than just the Kindergarten students. Exact location and logistics of how it can be secured to the property are to be determined (i.e. chained to fence, tree, etc.).
- **Motion to go ahead with mud kitchen/market stand project with College Heights at a budgeted cost of \$2,500 - PASSED**
- The actual cost of the project will likely be less than \$2,000, however we have included an additional \$500 as a buffer

5. PIC update - Mahrukh

- Mahrukh was absent however she emailed a summary of the last PIC meeting to Natasha
- Covid/Return to School :
 - o Continued focus on keeping schools healthy and safe and monitoring attendance trends via the daily absence tracker
 - o Use of equipment such as HEPA Filters, hand sanitizers, daily screening of student/staff and visitors, masks and gloves available for those who chose to wear
 - o Strongly recommend that masks should be worn at public spaces
 - o What is expectation post pandemic regarding child absenteeism: No set number of days that you must attend, with exception if you miss 15 consecutive days
 - o A lot of exam stress – pushed more resources out to students so they know of support that is available for them
 - o Mental Health resources have been shared with students via the Student UG Landing Page.

- Provide Input into the 2023/24 school year
 - o Planning for the next school year has begun and the UGDSB is seeking feedback on the proposed 2023-2024 school year calendars.
 - o Please visit the board website to view the draft calendars and complete an anonymous survey to provide feedback (this survey has now closed)
- School Council Ideas/Challenges and Questions:
 - o PIC Annual Event - Looking for ideas/suggestions for event
 - o Past events have been successful and had good turn out and opportunity to learn more about school and community
- Live Free Campaign
 - o Food and Friends Campaign happening in schools
 - o Donate a toonie to help kids who live in hunger. Elementary and Secondary schools all participating. Olivier will look into this to see if this is something our school will participate in and/or post on School Cash Online.

6. Approval of Meeting Minutes - Natasha

- **Motion to approval October 2022 and January 2023 Minutes - PASSED**

7. Items to be addressed at next meeting

- Education week - Olivier will discuss this with staff and find out if there is any interest in putting together an event/display and, if so, what kind of support staff would need. The idea of a STEM/STEAM fair was discussed.

8. Miscellaneous

- Dance-a-thon - there is a committee that is organizing this. It is scheduled for Thursday, March 2nd. Pledge forms will be going home shortly. The theme will be 80's. Alana asked that once the details are known, the committee let her know so she can post something on the Council Facebook page. Olivier will touch base with the committee so see how things are coming along.
- No Council meeting in March, the next meeting will be in April

9. Conclusion of meeting