

JPS Home and School Council Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2016

Present: Doug Ouellette, Sarah Butcher, Diana Hedges, Angie Campbell, Carol Krier, Lynn Alliston, Karen Craddock, Sarah Hardy, Miranda Montague, Katie Rex, Katie Labrie

Absent: Angie Smuck,

Next meeting: Monday November 21st @ 6:15 pm Staff Room

1. Welcome;

Sarah B. welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the year. A special welcome to our new principal Mr. Ouellette and all of the new faces at the table. So encouraging to see new interest in the JPS council. Thanks was extended to everyone who helped at the Home and School table which was set up during the meet the teacher bar-b-q.

2. Positions;

It was discussed and the following members will fill the following roles;

Chair: Sarah Butcher

Vice Chair: Diana Hedges

Secretary; Diana Hedges

Treasurer; Miranda Montague

Fundraising Coordinator: Katie Labrie

Community Representative: Carol Krier

Teacher Representative: Karen Craddock

3. Previous Minutes/ Outstanding items;

June minutes were distributed both via email and hard copies were provided. Diana motioned that we accept the minutes. Carol seconded, all were in favour carried.

Angie C. motioned that the funds from the parent engagement account be put towards the supper we had at our year end meeting in June 2016. Lynn seconded, all were in favour, carried.

4. Treasurer Report;

The current total in our account is \$2416.06

5. New Business/Fundraising

Our fall chocolate bar campaign is set to launch with the kick off assembly on Sept 21, 2016. We will be doing both chocolate bars and catalogues. We will provide families with an option to sell both or one of these products. The profit to the school is 50% of the sales. Sales can occur until Oct 18th.

What are our fundraising objectives? Each year the home and school provides funds towards:

-School trip assistance

-The Arts

- Strong Start reading program
- Soap for use within the primary classes
- Christmas Breakfast
- Teacher Appreciation Lunch
- March Break swim for families
- Teacher wish list items

Future Goals or planning ideas;

- The ongoing beautification project, outdoor benches, improvements to flowerbeds
- New gym benches
- Updates for classroom recess bins (Mr. Ouellette plans to review the current gym locker and pass on items to class rooms)
- Technology- improvements to the sound system

Other fundraising ideas:

Walmart recycled bag program. Katie R. shared a previous successful competition where schools worked to collect the most plastic bags. It was agreed this would be a terrific idea for Earth Day and Katie will look into. ACTION: Katie R

GEPIK, PRO and CPIP are different school grants that can be applied for depending on the fundraising need. Once we determine our goals these can be looked into further.

6. New Business/ Dates to Remember.

Child care will be available on a RSVP basis during council meetings. Carter Hedges (grade 10) and Grace Freethy (grade 9) have volunteered to help out.

The 6 pm meeting start time was discussed and it was decided that we'll try our next meeting at 6:15. The future dates will be confirmed with Mr. Ouellette and provided at the next meeting.

ACTION: Diana

Questions about the number of meetings and members required were asked. Council was asked about our current by-laws, Diana thinks she has a copy and will dig up and review with Mr. Ouellette and provide to council. ACTION: Diana

Improving communication to JPS families was addressed. Posting a summary of our meetings on the website and the monthly calendar was suggested. ACTION: Diana

How can council drum up more volunteers? The table at the meet the teacher bar-b-q was a great start. Identifying the different ways that parents can get involved may help direct more into bodies into the school. Some may want to help at recess, drive sport teams, reading in the class rooms, or attend evening council meetings. A reminder about police checks should be noted as well.

There is room in the front of the school for a Home and School Bulletin Board. We could provide names to faces and highlight what council is doing for the school. ACTION: Sarah B.

Facebook might be the best way to reach parents. We could set reminders for parents to help keep them involved and aware of happenings in the school.

October 5th is the School Council Start Up meeting at Waterford High school. This evening has a light dinner and information sessions for council members. This flyer will be sent to council via email.

A safety concern was shared about students on bikes and walkers all using the same pathways afterschool. This has been address on the announcements already and Mr. Ouellette will keep the reminders going. Those who ride their bikes to school need to walk them off of the school property due to too much congestion at dismissal.

The Online cash system was discussed once again. The snag in the process is that only one system can effectively be managed by the office at a time. Currently there are too many parents without high-speed internet or a computer to implement this type of payment only.

Our milk program is currently offered on a month to month basis with each child receiving a milk daily. The current system is collected and counted by a parent volunteer and the milk is distributed by children. A few of the parents on council wonder if there can be an option of a few days a week or a punch card program. The possible difficulty with this is; managing the milk amount need and volunteers needed help with the changes to the program. Mr. Ouellette will ask Mrs. Carrol if she feels the current system could be modified perhaps to a Monday/Wednesday/Friday option for some children. ACTION: Mr. Ouellette

7. Principal Remarks

Mr. Ouellette shared his family and work history. He is in his 10th year of school administration, his previous school was in Brantford. He is originally from Caledonia and he and his family live in Ancaster. He is adjusting to JPS and looks forward to many years of making the school a wonderful place to learn and grow.

The current school website has not yet been updated. Mr. Ouellette is waiting for his login access. Teachers are able to upload documents but he is unable to make changes at this point. He is hopeful that many parents will sign up for the REMIND text messages that the school is able to quickly send to all enrolled.

There is the possibility of JPS being approved for the third Kindergarten class. After the exact numbers go the board we will find out if we have been approved for another teacher. There are no other class shuffles expected.

8. Introductions

Sarah apologized for not remembering earlier in the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves and shared how long they have served on council and the grades of their children at JPS.

Next meeting Nov 21, 2016 at 6:15 pm.

Follow up/ Action items:

- Facebook volunteer
- Milk Program changes
- By laws

Future Meeting Dates

Nov 21, Jan 30, March 20, May 8 June 12