

**Caldwell Parent Council Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2018**

Present:

Ashlee Simpson	Kate Murray
Wendy Ferris Groulx	Lisa Code
Carmela Ciocio	Laura Scott
Claire Snider	Angela Pozzi
Lisa Gardiner	Denise Packard
Kyle McCulloch	
Joanne Guibord	
Rachel Dugdale	
Amanda Kenny	

Voting of Elected Positions

- To start the first Caldwell Street Public School Parent Council meeting of the school year, last year's chair Lisa Gardiner stepped down. Lisa has chaired the Parent Council for the past three years. She has done an amazing job, raising a lot of cash for the school and endearing herself to staff and students alike, in the process.
- Lisa did add, however, that she will be available to help the newly-elected chair through the next school year.
- That brings us to the voting of elected positions. Ashlee Simpson ran unopposed and has been elected the chair of Parent Council. Council (her people) look forward to her running her first meeting in November.
- Wendy Ferris Groulx ran (sort of...) unopposed and has been elected the secretary of parent council. She has been told that it is, apparently, a life-long position.
- During the parent-council election, Lisa mentioned that Laura Scott was the "oldest" member of parent council. It was quickly clarified that she meant the *longest-standing* member, not the oldest, because who'd want that title? A huge thank you goes out to Laura, and all other "old" parents for your continued service on the Caldwell Street Public School Parent Council.

New Principal

- Parent Council welcomed its new principal Carmela Ciocio to her first council meeting at Caldwell.

Finances

- To start the school year, Council has \$3281 in the bank. The meet and greet BBQ money has not been included in this total.
- In a separate account, we have \$2076 - money that is earmarked for the sensory room.

Proud to Be Me Grant

- Last year's Proud to Be Me grant money will be paying for improv courses with Jennifer Laale from Be Your Best. It appears that these workshops have been a regular topic in the Council meetings and minutes over the last year. The good news is that Jennifer will *finally* be running the workshops for each grade (except for kinders), over a couple of days at the beginning of October.
- The grant money covers the bulk of the fees, leaving less than a hundred dollars to be paid. Last year's Parent Council voted to cover the cost difference.
- Council needs to put some thought into this year's grant application. The proposal must be in by April. One idea introduced during the meeting was something to do with the topic of anti-bullying.

New Staff

- Principal Ciocio addressed the staffing changes at Caldwell this school year. We are not losing any staff (in numbers).
- We are up an ECE in the fourth kinder room.
- We are up 1.5 EAs - that brings the school up to 8 EAs.
- There are some new teacher faces in the halls at Caldwell, as well as EA faces.
- Caldwell has a new office administrator. Sarah Kantel will now be behind the front desk of the school. Rachel Perks is also on staff as the new office assistant.
- Speaking of Ms. "Perks", Carm mentioned the perks of being new to Caldwell and having a new-to-Caldwell administrator and office assistant. (How do you like that *perky* segue?) Carm said that when they are not sure how something was done previously, they will work together to come up with their own way of doing it.
- Carm also spoke of "blending" which is new to the core program. There will be more blending of the primary kids so the children can get to know each other. While this can be a "logistical nightmare in the beginning" as reported by Carm, ultimately it leads to a stronger community going forward.

School Trustee

- As it is an election year in Carleton Place, a new school trustee will be voted in. Running this year for English public school board trustee are: Donald Cram, Carole Dufour and Sharon Holzschere.

Food for Thought

- Teacher Leeann Lyons has taken on the scaled-down Food for Thought program this year. She is currently working on doing initial recording/numbers and will soon look for volunteers to help her run the program.
- *Longest-standing member of parent council* Laura Scott has been designated as the person doing the reporting for the program over the next year, and training Rachel Dugdale for subsequent years.
- The hot lunch program resumes on October 2, with Melissa Danis running pizza days, with Rachel Dugdale helping out and Angela Pozzi as a backup helper. Good luck feeding the masses, Ladies!
- Hot dogs, which are apparently a money maker - Lisa said we made about a \$3000 profit with good ol' hot dogs last year - will be offered once a month going forward.
- Hot dogs will be offered the first Thursday of each month, in lieu of Subway.
- It was also discussed that no child likes an all-beef wiener. Or a whole-wheat bun. Long live the hot dog.

Fresh from the Farm

- Principal Ciocio brought with her a new fundraising initiative to Caldwell. Caldwell has introduced the Fresh from the Farm program this year, which allows families to purchase “Bundle A” - which is a mixture of farm-fresh vegetables or “Bundle B” - which is 8 lbs of empire apples. All fruits and vegetables are Ontario-grown and the school will keep 40% of the sales.
- Orders must be collected by October 10, and the delivery of the fruits and vegetables to the school is expected sometime between November 5th to December 6th.
- Volunteers will be needed, assembly-lined styles, to sort the products once they arrive.
- Wendy, Rachel, Kyle, Kate and Amanda indicated they would be able to help prepare the orders to be picked up.

2018/2019 Fundraising

- Council discussed the fundraising initiatives we are prepared to run this year. They include: Halloween Fun Night (scheduled for October 25th from 5:30-7:30), Book Fairs (one runs the week of Halloween Fun Night while the other runs during Education Week in May), Valentine’s Day Dance-a-thon, C4K Amazing Race, and Water Day.
- There was also talk (and debate) about selling Caldwell t-shirts again this year. Both the type of shirt is in debate, as well as the price point.
- Prep nights for Halloween Fun Night, as of the creation of these meeting minutes, include Tuesday, October 16 and Monday, October 22.

Now That We Have Raised the Moola...

- There was talk about what Parent Council should spend its money on this year. Carm mentioned a couple of areas for consideration: a new play structure for the junior yard (which would be a long-term goal for Council) and spending some cash on tech.
- Several projectors have kicked the bucket already this school year. There are several problems with the school’s iPads. When asked how many iPads, ideally, should be in each classroom, Council was told five.
- But, Denise Packard, the teacher on Parent Council, painted a grim picture when she added, “I have zero (in her classroom.) One would be nice.”
- Laptops were discussed as potential less expensive alternatives to iPads.

Etc.

- Will Boks happen this year? When asked, Vice-Principal Claire Snider, who oversaw the program last year, said she will no longer run the program this year. Parent-volunteer Jeff Seaby runs the actual athletic content, and is willing to do so again this year. However, Claire indicated she needs to find a staff member who is willing to champion the program.
- Madame Duford is a new Grandma! Félicitations!
- Someone asked the question, “Will the option to pay online arrive (as previously expected) to Caldwell this year?” Response: Crickets. (Not looking good.)
- There was some debate as to what night Parent Council meetings will take place moving forward. Ashlee Simpson held her first council vote as Chair and Tuesday nights were named *the night* for future meetings.

Next meeting: November 13, 2018