

**Caldwell Parent Council Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2019**

Present:

Ashlee Simpson Bob Derraugh
Laura Scott Wendy Ferris Groulx
Angela Reid
Carm Ciocio
Melissa Danis
Rachel Dugdale
Lisa Code
Kyle McCulloch
Claire Snider

Finances

- We have \$9200 in the bank. No cents.
- However, Chair Ashlee Simpson indicated that Principal Carm Ciocio is coming for the money.
- Ashlee indicated that it has been discovered that council has an inactive bank account that was created years ago to hold money earned from lotteries.
- We discussed closing the account, as leaving it open will soon result in charges for having an inactive account, and as we have no plans to run any lotteries in the near future. Licenses must be acquired from the town to run raffles/lotteries.
- However, it was decided that while closing this account is easy, reopening such an account is not easy. Therefore, **council voted and decided to keep the bank account open, moving \$1 into it to keep it “active”** retaining the possibility of running a raffle/lottery in the future.
- This was an unanimous decision by council, with the exception of Lisa Gardiner, who raised quite a fuss in opposition but was voted down.*

Request For Funds

- **Sensory Account** - Ashlee brought up the account we have designated for the sensory room. This account is funded by money raised at the Water Carnival. Ashlee asked if we should word it differently this year so that money raised from the Water Carnival, can be used for a variety of reasons, not just for the sensory room.
- Wendy Ferris Groulx, who impressed Bob Derraugh with her home row finger placement while typing up the meeting notes, said that she feels the money raised should stay earmarked for the sensory account. Council has previously identified this as an area that can use extra resources, especially considering the changing needs of the students from year to year.
- The Water Carnival consistently earns around \$2000.
- It was discussed and **council voted yay for keeping it as sensory room funding.**
- Except for Lisa Gardiner, who overturned a tiny table in protest.*

Parent Council
Caldwell Street Public School

- Staying with an issue surrounding the sensory account, Ashlee said that the special education team has placed an order (a balance beam system, disc cushions for seats, etc.) with the anticipation of using funds from the sensory account. However, they overspent by approximately **\$150**.
- **Council voted yay to provide the spec ed team with the extra money they have already spent.** The only hold out was Lisa Gardiner, who thought we should teach them a lesson to not overspend in the future.*
- **Main Account** - Carm is looking for help with the bill for money spent on projectors, smart boards, a television for the VLC, and walkie talkies. The school has spent \$9500 and is looking for the council to cover half the amount.
- In addition, the principal was also hoping that council would cover the cost of an art program for the Grade 5s and 6s, put on by JB Arts of Almonte, as well as a music-based program called Blues in the Schools. The cost for both programs is \$1200.
- **Council voted yay to cover the \$4750 to help with tech-related costs.**
- **Council voted yay to cover the \$1200 for the art and music programs** (with the exception of Lisa Gardiner, who sees no value in artistic endeavours.*)

Request for Cash

- Bob, who is a volunteer with the Big Brother after-school initiative at Caldwell, indicated that program funding cuts are prohibiting him doing a pizza party for the kids on the final day. He indicated that he was considering spending his own money on this initiative.
- Council/school was not sure if they would be able to cover this cost - but will look into it.
- In addition, Melissa Danis, whose daughter has been an enthusiastic participant in the program, offered to supply a pizza for the kids on the last day in May and to provide a healthy snack.

Dance-a-thon

- The dance-a-thon will take place on March 29. Kinders will get to enjoy the festivities for a half-hour, while all other grades will see 45 minutes at the dance.
- Kinders will have the option to buy a food package of popcorn and a drink, while the canteen will be open for all other grades.
- Volunteers will be needed to run the canteen that day. Both Melissa and Wendy offered their services.

Amazing Race

- The C4K Amazing Race will take place on Friday, May 3. Grade 6s will be running the different events. Kyle McCulloch has a slack line the school can borrow for the day. Bob will run the bubble station again. Leeann Lyons will be providing the hay bales.

Book Fair Update

- The book fair will take place from May 7 to 9.
- Council discussed whether or not the book fair will run on the Thursday night, during the Kinder night. Carm and Claire Snider think it might be too much for the young students to divide their attention and time between the kinder orientation night and the book fair. Council members countered with the point that these same children may be able to convince (read: wear down) their parents to buy books at the book fair.
- The book fair contest will be entry-based on the subjects of “why I love books” or “why I love to read.” There will be a kinder, primary and junior winner, and each will receive \$20 to spend at the book fair. Preferably on books, and not on 35 erasers.

Autism Awareness

- Like last year, a day will be chosen during the month of April to acknowledge Autism Awareness Month.
- We will ask for donations and those who donate will have the option of having their thumb nails painted blue.
- Proceeds will go towards grade 4 student Leo Groulx's team for the Autism Speaks charity walk. Leo is this year's ambassador for the walk, taking place at the Bell Sensplex on June 2, 2019.

Family of Schools Meeting

- Ashlee has been invited by Upper Canada District School Board Trustee Donald Cram to attend the Family of Schools meeting. The chair from each attending school council is being asked to bring forward an issue to discuss on behalf of their school.
- This lead council to discuss what issue Ashlee should bring forward on behalf of Caldwell.
- Laura Scott suggested we bring up our school's lack of an online paying system. Carm spoke up and suggested it was in the school's interest to wait until all the bugs are worked out of the pay system before adopting it at Caldwell.
- Denise Packard, who was not at the meeting, had brought up facility issues to Ashlee prior to the council meeting as a potential subject to introduce at the Family of Schools meeting. There are several water/bathroom/plumbing issues going on at Caldwell. Council all agreed that working washrooms are absolutely a necessity for our school.
- Angela Pozzi brought up the grading issues in our schoolyard that turns the outdoor space into a skating rink, and then a lake, each year.
- Laura Scott introduced the issues surrounded students being able to achieve their extended certificate in the French immersion program.

*Lisa Gardiner was, in fact, not present at this meeting. All references to her overturning tables, voting "nay" and shunning student's artistic endeavours, are false. These claims were presented in a joking manner as council's protest of her being absent due to vacation, and us imagining her on a beach, drinking a piña colada and working on her tan, during said meeting.

Next meeting is: April 16, 2019