

Caldwell Parent Council Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2019

Present:

Ashlee Simpson Melissa Danis
Angela Reid Wendy Ferris Groulx
Lisa Gardiner
Denise Packard
Devinder Pooni-
Gundeson
Kyle McCulloch
Rachel Dugdale
Suzanne Draper
Amanda Kenny

Apology

- Secretary Wendy Ferris Groulx arrived three minutes late for the meeting. It was a combination of not having electricity for the hours leading up to the meeting, a new person clearly being trained in the Tim Horton's drive-thru (of all the nights!), and thinking I had more time than I did. Whatever my excuses are, I held you all up and I sincerely apologize for my tardiness. Won't happen again. Bad secretary!

Finances

- We have \$8376.78 in the bank.
- We have spent approximately \$7000 so far this school year.
- Chair Ashlee Simpson started the meeting by explaining that council usually leaves approximately \$2000 in the bank account to start the next school year.
- Former Chair Lisa Gardiner pointed out that council should keep in mind that it usually receives approximately \$1200 back in taxes.
- This year, however, with issues surrounding Ontario's education funding and teachers, there is already growing talk about the unknowns that might take place next school. For example, if the teachers strike and are brought back to work with work-to-rule legislation, they will not be in a position to help the council with any of our fundraising efforts.
- Ashlee introduced the idea of leaving more money in the bank than usual, just in case our fundraising opportunities are limited at the beginning of next school year. That way council will have some money to use when necessary next year even if our fundraising efforts are limited.
- Council agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting in May.

Event Updates

- **Dance-a-thon** - our totally-not-associated-with-any-holiday-at-all dance-a-thon brought in a record amount of \$4463.39. That is a lot of ring pops, folks!
- **Autism Awareness** - Caldwell Street Public School raised \$230 for the autism community to go toward Caldwell student Leo Groulx's walk team at the Ottawa Autism Speaks Canada walk, with their blue

Parent Council
Caldwell Street Public School

thumbs up for autism awareness initiative. (Note from the Groulx family, as one of them is the secretary and can add this if she likes: We are extremely grateful for the support of our school community — thank you Caldwell!)

Show Me the Money

- The Grade 6s and Kindergarteners (Mrs. Reid's and Mme Ross' classes) are taking over the front garden area. The plan is to weed, plant vegetables, pick vegetables and eat vegetables.
- They have requested money for soil, fertilizer, seeds, and pots.
- They have indicated they will need between \$150 to \$250 to accomplish their garden goals.
- **Council voted in agreement to provide the funds, up to \$250, to regrow the garden.**
- Jump Rope for Heart will be happening on June 6. Council has been asked to provide freebies for this event.
- **Council voted in agreement to provide the funds necessary to purchase freebies for Jump Rope for Heart.**
- Caldwell has suffered a great loss. Our trusty laminator has died. The cost to replace this ancient relic is \$2600 (with taxes, around \$3000). Many council members — okay, this secretary at least — were shocked by the cost to replace said laminator. But we were assured that this cost is for an average laminator, not even a top-of-the-line laminating master.
- Teachers are trying to implement new initiatives in their classrooms, such as guided reading tables. In order to do this effectively, it is necessary to have laminated items so that they will last. Currently, we have teachers putting out their own money to buy personal laminators or paying to have their materials laminated at office supply stores.
- **Council voted in agreement to provide the funds necessary to purchase a laminator for the school.**
- Student Monitor Lisa Gardiner requested that council purchase some yard equipment — such as wall balls, tennis balls and soccer balls.
- Council discussed how this material needs to be seen as a disposable purchase that will be required each year.
- **Council voted in agreement to buy \$250 worth of yard equipment.**

Upcoming Events

- Caldwell has an extensive list of upcoming events. These include: C4K Amazing Race, the Book Fair, Track and Field, all classes are going on year-end class trips, and Water Carnival.

Family of Schools Meeting

- Chair Ashlee Simpson attended the Family of Schools Meeting on March 21, which included all of the council chairs from our area, our director, our superintendent, and our trustee.
- Ashlee said it was interesting to listen to the challenges of the other schools. The issue of French immersion being pushed in elementary school but not being available in many high school classes was covered at the meeting. This is also an issue that has been discussed within our council. Ashlee said the reasoning provided was that no one takes the high school classes when they are offered.
- Representing Caldwell, Ashlee brought up the needed repairs at our school, from the outdated plumbing to the school falling apart. She said that Caldwell is on the top 10 list that the board is sending to the government for rebuilding consideration.
- Other issues discussed at the meeting include the new portables up and running at Carleton Place High School, how to inspire people to join and be active in school councils, and the potential capabilities of My Family Room.

Next Meeting

- The next council meeting will involve discussion on what fundraising initiatives we would like to continue, end, or add for next year. Fresh from the Farm? Halloween Fun Night? Popcorn? Maple Syrup?
- Interesting note — this was the shortest council meeting that this secretary has ever attended. Ironic that it was made three minutes longer due to my tardiness. *sigh

Next meeting is: May 14, 2019