

Caldwell Parent Council Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2019

Present:

Ashlee Simpson Bob Derraugh
Angela Reid Suzanne Draper
Lisa Gardiner
Denise Packard
Kyle McCulloch
Wendy Ferris Groulx
Carmela Ciocio
Melissa Danis
Lisa Code

Finances

- Last meeting of the year and it was a doozy! *secretary's opinion
- Our balance is \$5395. No cents.
- The laminator that council voted to purchase has arrived but is not yet assembled and functional. Caldwell must dispose of old laminator.
- Still outstanding: \$250 of gardening material and \$200 of yard toys.

C4K

- So far this spring we have had rain, rain and more rain! C4K has been planned on two different dates and has been cancelled twice due to rain.
- The new date is June 3rd, with a rain date of June 14.
- Caldwell has raised \$2646 for C4K.

Water Day Update

- Chair Ashlee Simpson launched right into it by saying that we are running out of time this year, due to all of the forced rain cancellations and it is necessary to pull back some of the upcoming Water Day planning — meaning it will no longer be a fundraiser.
- Ashlee along with Principal Carmela Ciocio plan to turn Water Day — which was created by parent council two school years ago to raise money to create and maintain a sensory room for Caldwell — into just a “fun day.” It will not be a fundraiser that brings in money for the ever-changing needs of the sensory room.
- Ashlee explained this by saying that we are just running out of time. Water Day itself is scheduled for June 14. However, if C4K is pushed to June 14, or if Water Day needs to be cancelled due to weather, there is no possible rain date for it. (Note: A rain date of June 24th has since been named post-meeting.)
- Ashlee explained that if we collect money for food, we must deliver the food the same school year, as we cannot issue refunds.

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- Secretary Wendy Ferris Groulx said that if we take away the fundraising aspect of the day we will never be able to add it back in. People will remember that it was not a fundraiser this year. So taking it away this year will be eliminating it for good.
- Carmela explained the changing demographics of the school over the last few years. She also raised the issue of charging students money (via food packages) for a fundraiser during school time. She explained that she has a hard time running a fundraiser during the school day when kids are getting different things.
- Former Council Chair Lisa Gardiner spoke of how she created a culture of event-based fundraising when she was leading the council. She is proud of this legacy and proud that Caldwell introduced fundraisers that delivered a whole bunch of fun to the students, like Water Day. She expressed that she feels that is better than just sending students out to sell things in order to raise money.
- Wendy expressed disappointment that money that was raised and allocated directly to the needs of the sensory room is no longer being fundraised and therefore no longer being held for the sensory room needs. She was proud to have been part of the council the year that initiative came to life and is disappointed to see it come to an end.
- Council member Lisa Code suggested allocating the funds from another fundraising initiative to the sensory room needs. For example, she suggested that Fresh From the Farm profits go to the sensory room account. This will be discussed further next year.
- Ashlee emphasized that just because we are no longer operating Water Day as a fundraiser for the sensory room, this does not mean that council will no longer find ways to allocate funds to the sensory room. In the new school year, further discussions will take place on making sure the sensory room is funded accordingly.

Staffing

- The meeting continued on the feeling created from the Water Day discussion as we launched into staffing news.
- Carmela explained that Caldwell will be down 2.7 teachers next year.
- Jennifer Marriner, Amanda Hansma-Drew and Kristen Sullivan will not be back.
- Most of the classes will be split classes next year.
- Carmela was expected to know more about staffing, including for administration and special education, at the end of May.

Fundraising for 2019/2020

- This topic of conversation started with Ashlee talking about the lack of volunteers this year and how we are not going to be able to run all the fundraisers we want without more people committing to come out and volunteer.
- Changes are on the horizon! Ashlee said we must revamp how we run events.
- Council discussed sending out a volunteer list and if not enough people sign up then the event will be cancelled.
- Council member Melissa Danis suggested allocating jobs to different council members for each event. Each volunteer takes on one aspect of the event.
- Ashlee said yes, but first she needs enough people to commit before she can delegate.
- Council discussed how you must have a police check in order to volunteer at the school during the day.
- Grandparents are welcome, but we talked about how council must get the word out at the beginning of the school year that people can have free police checks done. It was also discussed that it is the same people who volunteer during the day, as others might be working.

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- We discussed the best way to reach volunteers - Facebook? My Family Room? Paper? Emails?
- Lisa Code suggested that people are getting better at saying “no” these days. Not her, but others. :)
- Council member Bob Derraugh tried to suggest a lot of things but was reminded he has no voting rights. Shame! (Joke! We listened to Bob!)
- Fresh From the Farm — consensus was that delivery sucked and communication sucked but vegetables are good.
- T-shirts, dance-a-thon (non-denominational and without a hint of a holiday, of course), maple syrup, hot dog day, popcorn — all discussed!
- We talked about having more evening events as the volunteers would not need to have police checks. Um...good thing or bad thing?
- We discussed having two event-based fundraisers and a few sales-based fundraisers.
- For C4K next year, we talked about making it easier — maybe each student brings \$2? Carmela suggested splitting the revenue with the school board charity, as we have been handing it over to C4K and then putting in requests to C4K to get some of the money back to use to meet the needs of our own school.
- We discussed Halloween Fun Night — Bob says it makes “butt-loads of money.” Case closed. Council member Kyle McCulloch said he will take on the advertising for Halloween fun night.
- We discussed doing a Trivia Night. Lisa and Wendy discussed spearheading this initiative. Wendy is going to ask her neighbour (who runs trivia nights) about hosting it, and Lisa had big ideas for Mr. Mellor’s involvement as well.
- A spring fun fair, jungle sports, JB Arts - all discussed.

That’s a Wrap

- And just like that, Caldwell Street Public School Parent Council meetings are over for this year.
- We will meet at Smith and Barrel on Tuesday, June 18th at 6:30 pm to party like it is 1999. Or to have a beverage together and then go home early enough to put the kids to bed.

Next meeting is: September 24, 2019