

**Caldwell Parent Council Meeting Minutes  
September 24, 2019**

**Present:**

**Regrets:**

Lisa Code	Lisa Gardiner	Carmela Ciocio	Becky Whelan
Naema Affan	Bob Derraugh	April Norris	Berta Madrigal
Wendy Ferris Groulx	Angela Reid	Suzanne Draper	
Cheryl Quinn	Meghen App	Ashlee Simpson	
Terri Cumming	Donald Cram	Laura Gracey	
Denise Packard	Lindsay Chunik		
Sue Byers	Melissa Danis		
Kate Murray	Heather McNutt		
Linda Routh	Amanda Kenny		
Kyle McCulloch	Claudine Goyette		

**Welcome and Introductions**

- Outgoing Chair Ashlee Simpson welcomed everyone to the first parent council meeting of the school year and was please to see so many returning faces and so many new faces.
- Ashlee had everyone introduce themselves, including new vice-principal Sue Byers and Trustee Donald Cram.
- Turns out there are more parents of Grade 5 students on council than any other grade. Principal Carmela Ciocio explained that the Grade 5 cohort is double the size of other grade cohorts.
- Observation: The Grade 5 parents must have been doing a whole lot of Netflix and chill-ing approximately 10 to 11 years ago.
- Ashlee explained that at the end of last year, council talked about having lead people step up to run events, including day events.
- She also explained what council does — meet monthly, support the school with events, help the Grade 6s with events, help teachers find volunteers for field trips, haul vegetables when vegetables need to be hauled, stain our hands with slushee mix, and smell like hot dogs for days, etc.
- We get to spend money because we make money. Money has been spent on things like walkie talkies, smart boards, a laminator, tech, and sensory room equipment, etc.

**Principal's Report**

- Ashlee gave the floor to Carmela Ciocio and the principal thanked Ashlee for being our chair last year. Even though Ashlee's children no longer attend Caldwell, she actively continued her chair duties through the summer and into the fall to help ease the transition. Thank you Ashlee! (She was later seen skipping out of the school.)
- Carm spoke of the school losing some amazing teachers from last year (the bad news) but how Caldwell is off to a great start to the school year (the good news).

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- Carm introduced us to VP Sue Byers, who we learned likes to run the stairs.
- Sue spoke that she was excited to see all the people that came out for the first council meeting of the year. “Yay Caldwell!” She said that if we are positive about the school community, that energy will be portrayed to the kids.
- Carm continued that our front office is top notch — “When the front office runs well, the school runs well.”
- Cross-country, soccer team tryouts, minis trying to learn four square, and crazy socks for Terry Fox, were all discussed. Orange shirt day is September 30, where students and staff are encouraged to wear orange to honour and remember the indigenous children who were sent to residential schools.
- Carm said the support of parent council has been remarkable: a good support to teachers, a great chance for Grade 6 students to hone their leadership skills and helpful in identifying areas of need.

### Trustee’s Report

- Donald Cram, school trustee also addressed council and explained the role of a trustee.
- Although elected locally, the trustee needs to make board-wide decisions.
- Donald’s role is not in policy-making, but more in the enforcing of those board policies.
- For example, if he gets a call about a bussing issue, he can’t do anything about the specific issue, but can help you through the process you need to follow.
- One issue Donald spoke about was that our school board has had a hard time meeting secondary school option choices, as the small high schools are unable to offer every class wanted by students.
- Donald talked about a pilot program in some high schools that will aim to provide elearning during a free period for students, giving them access to classes they wouldn’t normally have access to.
- He also spoke of a new policy that has come down from the Doug Ford provincial government that prohibits cellphones in classrooms, with only the following three exceptions: if the teacher is using it for instruction, if it is for a medical necessity or if it is for a special education need.
- We also discussed the need for a policy for service animals in schools and even discussed the potential for a student having a service rat. A SERVICE RAT!

### Finances

- We have \$5674.84 in our account.

### Insurance

- We forgot to get insurance last year. Our bad!
- **Ashlee put forth a motion to purchase insurance for this year. It is approximately \$150. Lisa Gardiner seconded the motion, Bob Derraugh yayed it, and council voted affirmatively to purchase insurance.**
- When Kyle McCulloch suggested he suddenly felt the urge to fling himself over the table, Ashlee asked him to wait until insurance was purchased. He respectfully acceded.

### Sensory Fund

- The account is empty. Bone dry. Zip. Zilch. Nadda.

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- Ashlee suggested taking \$2000 from council's account to pad the sensory room account with a little extra something something so when Carm, and the EAs, need something for that room we have some money designated to cover it.
- She also suggested waiting until after Halloween Fun Night and then moving over a pre-determined amount from the profits into the sensory room fund.
- A discussion ensued with council discussing the possibilities.
- Lisa G. suggested if there are no immediate needs, maybe they should just approach council with small things as they need them.
- Laura Gracey suggested moving a smaller amount — \$600 — into the sensory room account so there is some earmarked money set aside to meet any needs that arise.
- **Kyle M. motioned for \$2000 to be allocated now to the sensory fund account. Bob seconded it and council voted affirmatively.**

### Electing the Executive

- **Wendy Ferris Groulx, the current secretary (and writer of these minutes) was re-elected secretary of the parent council.** She (I) would like to make it clear that if anyone else would ever enjoy the chance of being the secretary (a real glam job...), you are more than welcome to take over.
- Kate Murray put herself out there when Ashlee asked if anyone is interested in being the new Chair. **Kate Murray is officially elected as the new Chair of the parent council.** Oh Captain, my Captain! (Side note: Ashlee was seen skipping past window.)

### A Word From Your Chair

- Kate is the downtown coordinator for Carleton Place — planning events, juggling schedules and handling stress like the super woman she is!
- “Not knowing what I am doing on a regular basis is something that I am conformable with.” Not buying it, Captain. We are excited to have you leading us!
- Kate is open to hearing ideas from anyone at council and to meeting individually as well.

### Time to Plan

- Council wasted no time in discussing Halloween Fun Night as it is our first event of the school year.
- Halloween Fun Night will be held on Thursday, October 24 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- Prep Nights will be:
- Tuesday, October 15 — Wendy, Melissa, Meghen, Bob, Cheryl, Suzanne, Laura, Lisa C., Angela, Linda, Lindsay, Kate and Terri indicated they would be able to come out to help this night.
- Monday, October 21 — Wendy, Kate, Suzanne, Joanne, Bob, and Terri indicated they would be able to come out to help this night.
- Wednesday, October 23 — Kate, Lisa, Meghen, Suzanne, Cheryl and Terri indicated they would be able to come out to help this night.
- The night of the event, Bob will run the haunted house, Lisa G. will run the door, and Wendy and Cheryl have offered to help Berta with the book fair, which will run the same night.
- Kyle is in charge of securing the advertising from local businesses for the giveaway bags.
- If I missed anyone's name for offering to volunteer, I apologize. Please let Kate know you are available and please come out to help!

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- Denise Packard would like to be stationed at the cupcake decorating post for the evening. She has requested to not be placed with Pumpkin Bowling. Fair enough, Ms. Packard. Fair enough.
- Council was given a little break down on Halloween Fun Night — it is a 20-year-old event, we sell punch cards, different stations are set up and run by staff, everything is donated by parents: candy, cakes, toys.
- Children love it and arrive in costume.
- We talked about the station called lollipop surprise and the hassle of using nail polish to paint all of the sucker ends. Lindsay Chunik is going to look into finding an alternative to the plastic ends of the lollipops that might work better at that station.
- Mrs. Johnston can recruit us some volunteers for the event from the high school.
- Information for parents detailing what they should donate should be sent home with students by October 3.
- Carine Toshack usually operates as the pizza lady.
- It is important to note that support staff will not be able to help if they continue to be on work-to-rule the night of the event.

**Fresh From the Farm**

- We are doing Fresh From the Farm again with forms going out the same week as this meeting took place.
- Last year we made \$2500 from this fundraiser, as we get 40% of the sales of the fruit or vegetable packages.
- Carm said Lisa G. volunteered to oversee Fresh from the Farm. This appeared to be news to Lisa.
- We will get a 10 day window at the start of December as to when our orders will arrive. We will know about 4 hours before delivery is set to arrive the day of.
- Last year the delivery came right as busses were arriving. This involved Wendy and her twins, the Gardiner family, Ashlee and some staff, using their collective pipes to get the produce off the truck and into the gym. Different arrangements will need to be made this year and Carm said we will do pickup the day after delivery, rather than try to get them sorted and picked up the same day as delivery.
- Angela, Lisa and Bob said they would help out with Fresh From the Farm this year.

**Also...**

- Lisa G. said she would serve as a volunteer coordinator on parent council. If you want to help out but aren't sure where to start, you can email her or Kate for guidance.
- If you want to volunteer at the school during day events, you need to have a police check done. Please go get the form from the office.
- Melissa Danis will be helping out with pizza lunches again this year — thanks Melissa!
- Kate asked everyone what day of the week and what time works best for meetings. The consensus was to keep parent council meetings on Tuesdays but to move up the start time to 6pm.
- We hope to see all the faces — returning and new — at the next meeting.

**Next meeting is: November 19, 2019**