

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

**Present:**

Wendy Ferris Groulx    Kate Murray  
Cheryl Quinn            Bob Derraugh  
Angela Reid             Lisa Code  
Melissa Danis  
April Norris  
Denise Packard  
Carm Ciocio  
Sue Byers  
Naema Affan

**Welcome**

- Council Chair Kate Murray welcomed everyone to the meeting. “Welcome.”

**Additional Items to Be Added**

- Kate asked if anyone had anything else to add to the agenda.
- Wendy reminded her that the What’s App issue had been raised via email, with the suggestion that we all move to the What’s App mode of communicating in-between meetings. Kate said the issue can be discussed in the New Year.

**Finances Update**

- Kate asked Principal Carm Ciocio for the update but Carm explained that Kate should have emailed Cathy, the accountant, for an update prior to the meeting.
- Kate had no idea and explained there is a learning curve for the new council chair, of which all meeting attendees completely understood.
- Angela Reid said that she expects there to be a profit of somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$450-ish-es-que for the Fresh from the Farm initiative. Give or take...
- **ACTION ITEM: Kate says she will email Cathy for a finances update and a then update council accordingly.**

**Halloween Fun Night Recap**

- Kate asked if anyone had any thoughts on Halloween Fun Night...
- Carm said that a parent that had come from out of province said it was one of the best run events.
- Sue Byers commented on how there was a long line for the haunted house, always a favourite of the night. Boo!
- Wendy Ferris Groulx said, as a volunteer, it was not a good experience for her. She did not have a lot of direction. There needs to be better instruction for next year.
- Kate said she hadn’t realized that teachers did not set up the stations themselves, so she had left all of the stations in corresponding bins and boxes, in the staff room. She thought that teachers would grab the box

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for the station they were assigned, head to their station 15 minutes before the event starts, set up, and run the station.

- Carm said to parent council that we cannot expect the teachers to do such a thing. They spend the whole day working. “They have to eat at some point,” she pointed out.
- Everyone agreed that the kids seem to have a good time, just the adult-side of things needs some tweaking.
- Kate mentioned that in addition to being the first time she had run the event, she also had a bout of a gastro illness, which made the evening a difficult time for her. Difficult indeed, Kate! That is one night we can say is behind us and on to better, less bathroom-occupied, days ahead!
- Cheryl Quinn suggested that we start making some documents that lay out directions for each station: how the station is set up, what needs to be in the station, how the game is played, etc. We all agreed this is a great idea and something Council should work towards: having better instructions laid out for any future Halloween Fun Nights.
- Bob Derrough spoke up about losing receipts for extension cords bought for the haunted house. Kate told him to create an invoice for them and submit that. Council joked about how when Bob’s son Seamus leaves Caldwell, Bob will take all of the fun, popular attractions with him. Bye-bye haunted house and bubbles!

### Fresh From the Farm

- Angela Reid said that her and Lisa Code helped with this fundraiser.
- Angela said it went well.
- Cheryl acknowledged that her order was still sitting at the front door and that the apples may now be apple sauce.
- April Norris pointed out that her daughter is in JK and never received the Fresh from the Farm order form.
- Carm said it was likely because it was in the middle of the CUPE work-to-rule situation.
- Kate said it was a couple of hours of work and the delivery situation was much better than last year. Overall a positive experience and we should know more about exactly how much it brought in at our next meeting.

### Spring Fundraising

- Amanda Kenney, who was not at the meeting, had previously brought up the idea of selling maple syrup in the spring.
- Council spoke of this and decided that selling and buying maple syrup in Lanark county is a good idea.

**ACTION ITEM: Kate will reach out to Amanda to get more information about the contact.**

### Water Issue Update

- Kate said that some parents had expressed concerns about the recent reporting on lead in the water levels in Ontario schools.
- Wendy asked if this would not be the exact same water that we would all be drinking at home.
- Carm said that she only knows of the information the board has released, saying that Caldwell’s water is compliant with the province’s standard for water levels, as well as the board’s.
- This conversation briefly led us to discuss water-filling stations. Carm said that they run about \$4000 and it is difficult finding the right placement within the school and is equally as difficult to supervise the water station. As Angela put it, “A bunch of children filling up water bottles, what could go wrong?”
- Bob said that the only way Caldwell’s water is faulty or contaminated is if the schools' pipes and systems are contaminated themselves.

### **Post-meeting research:**

When examining various reports on this issue post-council meeting, this is what I have found in the recent reporting, just for council's interest:

- Ontario's lead-in-water threshold is currently at 10 parts per billion (ppb).
- Health Canada changed the national threshold to 5 ppb in March 2019.
- The province will be adapting to the new national guideline.
- The recent study found that nearly a third of all Ontario schools had at least one test result that was above 5 ppb within the last few years.

### **Year At a Glance**

- Dance and Food Drive — November 28 — Grade 6s have it covered.
- Santa Shop — date to be determined. Wendy might be able to volunteer to help wrap presents depending on the date.
- Holiday Concert - December 17
- Spring Fling Dance — February/March — Melissa and Wendy offered to help out for a shift at the canteen.
- Autism Awareness Month — puzzle pieces and paint your nails blue initiative — Wendy and Naeme Affan will help with this.
- Track and Field Day — (I think Naeme also volunteered for this. Sorry if this is wrong, Naeme!)
- June — Amazing Race and Water Day
- Kate said we need to talk about what fundraisers we are still doing out of these two and whether or not we run them the same way or change something up.
- Wendy said that Carm said last year that we could not run Water Day as a fundraiser any more, so she suggested if something had to go — if we are having trouble getting volunteers or timing constraints — maybe that one should go since it is no longer going to be a money maker for council.
- Carm said she did not say that. She says that what happened is that we just ran out of time to run the event because of all the cancellations caused by inclement weather.
- Wendy thought she remembered things differently, but nonetheless apologized for getting it wrong and putting words in the principal's mouth if they were not entirely accurate.

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For those who would like some background on what happened to the Water Day event last year, here are the relevant snippets taken from the May 24, 2019, meeting minutes:

- 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.

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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.

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- Please note that Water Day did not run at all last year, neither as a “fun day” nor a fundraiser, due to the inclement weather and time constrictions.
  - Kate talked about the idea of running Water Day as an after-school barbecue.
  - Carm suggested having it at a water park.
  - Kate suggested having kids perform from the school talent show, or perhaps those kids who didn’t make the talent show but would like to perform. Carm said that would be entirely up to Kate to arrange as Caldwell is just going to hold its own talent show at the school and not get involved with students performing at a council fundraiser.
  - Kate said okay. She also suggested having Mr. Mellor play guitar.
  - The idea of holding the event at Carleton Junction was discussed, as was holding it at the school and having the Civitan barbecue, and still incorporating some of the Water Day fun activities.
  - A “Family Fun Night” or “Caldwell Summer Splash” was discussed.
  - Kate, Cheryl, Bob and Wendy have all agreed to talk more about this potential event.
  - Bob and Angela wondered if having an after school activity might exclude the kids whose family will not be able to bring them back for the event.
  - Carm restated her issues with having a fundraising event during the school day that might exclude some kids.
  - Amazing Race - Denise talked about when the board created the charity and how they imagined what a difference could be made if every student donated a toonie.
  - Carm said that while it is great that we work to raise money for the board charity, we give all that money to C4K and then Caldwell ends up asking C4K for money back to help its own school population. She suggested splitting the money made — half goes to the board charity, half stays at Caldwell.
  - **Motion to split money made at Amazing Race fundraiser between our own school and C4K: Motion Passed.**

**Other Items**

- Kate confirmed that Pizza Princess Melissa is still good with continuing on as our lunch lady extraordinaire. Melissa confirmed that Tiffany is backup and some grade five kids also help out.
- Melissa also confirmed that she now acknowledges that Wendy’s twins are, in fact, two separate people, and each get a slice of pizza. Ha!

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- Carm brought up jungle sport and said it costs \$4000 to bring it to the school. She asked if this is something that council would think about setting an amount aside each year to help cover the costs. Council will discuss this at future meetings.
- Carm also mentioned that council had helped covered the cost for JB Arts last year. We have Jeff Banks returning to run a course for the grade fives and sixes. Carm wondered if we could help cover costs for him to come back to work with the grade ones and twos. Again, we will discuss this at a future meeting.
- We discussed having a Christmas get-together for council. 'Tis the season. **ACTION ITEM: Kate will take this discussion to email to find a date and time.**
- Bob mentioned that the Big Brother program is fighting for funding. They do not currently have the money to purchase the two large pizzas that are normally supplied on the last day for the kids. **Motion to pay for two large pizzas for Big Brother final day: Motion Passed.**
- That's a wrap on meeting minutes for the calendar year of 2019! Happy New Year Caldwell Parent Council!

**Next meeting is: January 14, 2019**