

DRAFT MINUTES

John Young School Council Meeting - January 29th, 2020; 6:30 p.m. - JYES Library

Attendees: Jaime Routliffe (Chair), Roxanne Driscoll (Vice-Chair), Marit Lely (Treasurer), Deanna Wright (Co-Secretary), Paula Chang (Co-Secretary), Kevin McHale (Co-OCASC Representative), Dwayne Routliffe (Co-OCASC Representative), Robert James (Principal), Mandy Long (Vice Principal), Laura Dubois (Community Representative), Janice Small, Sebastian Towler, Courtney McLellan, Arlene Bhathal, Robyn Hastie, Heather Thur, Laurie MacLeod, Trevor Hache, Ainslie Curzon

1. Welcome and Approval of the Agenda

- An amendment was made to the agenda to include a discussion regarding a Letter of Solidarity for parents at JYES. It was added as #8.

2. Review of Minutes – November 27th, 2019 – APPROVED

3. Treasurer Report

Fundraisers since the last meeting:

- Bags2School. We netted \$163.50.
- Holiday Tea. We grossed \$2,994.10.
- Holiday Gift Shop. We grossed \$9,189.85, and of that we netted \$3,986.95 which we used to buy gift cards in denominations of \$50 to Laura's Your Independent Grocer and \$50 to Walmart for families in our school that could use a little extra help.
- JYES Clothing sale. We grossed \$5,629 and netted \$1,053.98.
- 67's Hockey Game. We grossed \$1,948 and after expenses we netted \$215.
- January Movie Night (Abominable). We grossed \$546.45
- Food days to date (including popcorn days and the Winter Food Term. We grossed \$37,091.61
- The bank balance today is \$59,749.83
- We have written cheques to pay for food day supplies, movie night supplies, classroom support reimbursement cheques, Holiday Tea supplies, and a second \$10,000 instalment to the school per the 2019-2020 budget.
- We have funds available of \$46,080.01, some of which will be required for food day vendor payments.

4. OCASC Report

- There was a presentation from the board about the work they are doing regarding why kids do not seem to be enjoying math. They are looking at the environment and subject to determine how to get more kids into math. They are engaging parent and student groups to try to change the perception and cognitively engage students by showing them it is in everyday life. They have noticed that there is not a big discrepancy between girls and boys when it comes to how many said they like math and their results.

- There was a discussion about where groups such as School Council fit between the board and government. School Council is an extension of the school body to communicate between the parents and the school and to enhance the experience of the students. They must represent the entire group of parents and can not officially support one side or the other of the current labour actions. School Council may consider a letter to all parties encouraging them to come together for the betterment of the students. There was some break off discussion about how School Council is a representative of all the parents at our school so they can not endorse one side or the other. It was requested that more information regarding this policy be researched and brought to the next meeting.

5. Principal's Report

Updates

- Fifth Disease - Last reported case was January 17th
- Kindergarten Registration – 67 so far; JYES - 35 / Westwind - 32
- "Luv 2 Groove" will be coming February 24th to March 6th for all grades.
- Coronavirus - link will be added to school website pages providing updates
- Toonie Tuesday (February 25th) will be postponed.
- Thank you to School Council for the Holiday Gift Shop gift certificates and their support of our community.

Job Action

- As of Monday - in addition to sanctions already in place, staff will no longer be running and supervising extra curricular activities.
- Full withdrawal – Wednesday and Thursday of next week (unless deal made by Friday).
- EDP will only be open for before/after school hour care.

Accommodations Next Steps

- The OCDSB is taking feedback from the January 20th meeting.
- The proposal will be presented to Committee of Whole on February 18th.
- The final approval will be at the Board Meeting on February 25th.

6. Teacher Reports

Presented by Jaime on behalf of staff:

Kindergarten

- Kinderlude (Winter Play Day) will be this Friday, January 31st. Council purchased some hot chocolate and cups.
- The sugar bush at The Log Farm has been booked for all classes on March 31st. They are hoping the strike will be lifted by then so they can attend.
- The students participated in a "Rocks and Rings" presentation in the gym where they learned about curling.

Primary

- New science bins, literacy and numeracy classroom resources and additional online resources for french literacy were purchased, also purchased some pencil sharpeners.
- The choir performed at the Ottawa 67's game.

- The Winter Play Day schedule for February 6th will hopefully be rescheduled for next Friday, February 7th.
 - Classes participated in the “Rocks and Rings” presentation.
- Junior
- The same as the primary for the Winter Play Day and the “Rocks and Rings”.
 - The Tier 1 and Tier 2 Girls and Tier 1 Boys had their Bordenball tournaments in December. Although they didn’t do well on the scoreboard, the students all had a great time and represented JYES well. The Tier 2 Boys tournament was cancelled due to Labour Action so they took on the JYES staff in their own mini tournament. The other teams were invited to cheer on the team and they all had a fantastic time!
 - The Forest of Reading Program started this month for all Grade 5 and 6 students who were interested.

7.Upcoming Events/Call for Volunteers

- Friday, January 31st - Popcorn Day
- Monday, February 3rd - Term 2 Food Days begin; The current plan is to move pizza to Tuesday next week due the ETFO Labour Action which will be confirmed at end of day tomorrow, January 30th and will be communicated through Mr. James’ email, the School Council Facebook page and the Hot Lunches system.
- Our Winter Walk 2 School day scheduled for next Thursday, February 6th will be cancelled. Likely rescheduled to Friday.
- Monday, February 10th to Thursday, February 13th - Scholastic Book Fair
 - The schedule will be confirmed once we know which days will be affected by Labour Action. School Council would like to keep the Book Fair open one evening.
 - Teachers will still be able to bring kids, but it will be during normal school hours
- The Math Night scheduled for Thursday, February 13th has been cancelled. If it is rescheduled for a future date, it will be communicated in Mr. James’ weekly email.
- Friday, February 21st - Popcorn Day and Movie Night (Toy Story 4)
- Wednesday, February 26th - School Council Meeting and Pink Shirt Day

8.Letter of Solidarity - Parent Group

- School Council has been approached by a group of parents who have asked for our support in endorsing a letter to the school’s education workers, the local MPP, the OCDSB and the local media.
- The following email was sent to the John Young School Council:

The following parents of students at JYES respectfully request the John Young School Council sign this letter and send it the school’s education workers, the local MPP, the OCDSB, and the local media.

Sincerely,

Trevor Haché, parent of two students at JYES
Heather Thur, parent of a student at JYES
Ashley Rodney Dorion, parent of a student at JYES
Ainslie Curzon, parent of two students at JYES
Hong Le, parent of two students at JYES
Stephanie LaCasse, parent of two students at JYES
Brenda Doughty, parent of two students at JYES
Jocelyn Dudley, parent of two students at JYES
Tina d'Entremont, parent of two students at JYES
Geneviève Barbeau, parent of a student at JYES

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An Open Letter to the Education Workers of John Young:

John Young School Council wishes to express its support for the labour action taken by the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO) and the Ontario Secondary School Federation (OSSTF) in response to the Provincial Government's failure to negotiate a fair and reasonable renewal of their collective agreement.

We support ETFO and OSSTF's Phase One, Two, Three and Four work-to-rule strike action and demonstrate our solidarity by refraining from volunteering to perform the unpaid activities normally performed by our teachers and other education workers.

Our school's educators and support staff are some of the most important adults in our children's lives. Our government's attempts to divide our communities and place blame on teachers and education workers won't work here. John Young School Council will continue to stand in solidarity with our teachers and education workers until the government returns to the bargaining table to negotiate an agreement that supports students and their educators.

Sincerely,

John Young School Council

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- The following email was sent in response to their request:

You are welcome to attend the meeting and we can discuss this and you can present it to parents at the meeting but School Council will not be allowed to endorse your letter.

This was discussed at the last OCASC (Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils) meeting and it was confirmed that School Councils are not allowed to take a political position. A School Council needs to represent the voice of their entire school community and therefore is not

allowed to take a position on items such as this. We need to be respectful of the fact that not all parents and guardians in our community have the same opinion in regards to the ETFO and OSSTF negotiations with the Government of Ontario.

The mandate of a School Council is to be a liaison between parents and the school administration and to enhance the experience of the students. Fundraising is a part of what we do to enhance our student's experiences but is not our primary function.

As you said, these are important issues and you are welcome to attend the meeting and to share your letter with other parents in attendance. However, as a School Council we cannot sign your letter.

- The letter will need to be updated so that John Young School Council is not included and will need to be written from the perspective of "as parents with children who attend John Young Elementary School".
- The group is welcome to raise awareness and promote their group but cannot be done during School Council events as it will give the appearance of support from JYSC.
- Parent representatives, Heather Thur and Trevor Hache, were invited to discuss their ideas:
 - Heather began by telling us about the group they have created and their goals. They started a Facebook group as well and encourage parents to join.
 - Trevor asked Jaime and Rob to look into more information regarding the guidelines and restrictions on School Council.

9. Other Business

- Little Caesars Fundraiser: The fundraiser has been communicated (and will continue to be) to parents in Mr. James' weekly email as well as on the School Council Facebook Page. The order deadline is February 25th and items will be delivered to the school for pick up on March 10th.
- Grad Clothing order forms were sent home this week for Grade 6's for a final chance to order. Orders are due by Thursday, February 13th.
- Jaime spoke with Blake from the Ottawa Sports Entertainment Group and Ottawa Black Jack tickets are not an option for a fundraiser but we can look at doing something with the Ottawa Redblacks.

10. Adjournment - TIME: 7:59pm