

Jacob Beam Public School Meeting Minutes February 26, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Bev Boden at 6:35 p.m. in the library.

In attendance: Christine Waler (principal), Laura Mathieson (teacher rep), Bev Boden, Kathy Horton, Gina Allan, Liz Martinez, Cassie McNiven, Laurie Arsenault, Irene Petsinis, Leah Genovese, Rachael LeBlanc, Michelle Dawson, Gabriel Boden (student rep) and Jordan Allan (student rep).

Regrets: Krista Capes

Welcome and Introductions—Bev Boden

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November meeting had been distributed via email.

Motion by Gina Allan to accept the minutes. Seconded by Liz Martinez. Carried.

Student Report—Jordan Allan and Gabriel Boden

Graduation will take place on June 23. It will be a black and white 1920's-1930's classic look/theme. The "after party" has been booked at the Conversations Cafe. The intermediate students' fundraiser for their trip to Camp Olympia will be through the sale of loose leaf tea. It is their hope that they will be able to fund at least their last payment through this fundraiser. The students are currently taking an online math course from Stanford University. They are on their second lesson, which requires the students to watch videos and answer questions. It involves their "learning mindset" and makes them aware that a positive attitude towards learning math will result in a more positive outcome. On February 25, the grade 7 and 8 students did presentations to grades 1-6 on bullying. By all accounts, it was extremely successful. "Genius hour" is something new—inquiry based learning. The student takes a topic that they are curious about and research it.

Chair's Report—Bev Boden

Follow up items from November meeting:

Flag Pole: The cost to purchase and install a flag pole for our school will be \$5800.00. DSBN will not cover this cost. **Action item: Cassie has volunteered to contact the Chamber of Commerce and Rotary to see if they will donate to this. Rachel LeBlanc will contact the Lions. (DONE).** Rachel advised that she contacted the Lions and they said that we could submit a formal request. Cassie was told by the Rotary that there was a flag pole in close proximity to the school at the Cenotaph already in place. The issue has been resolved at this point in time,

as we are currently using the mounted bracket on the wall of the school to hang the flag. As the first flag had been stolen when it was left outside overnight, the flag is now being brought inside at the end of each school day, by Mrs. Creechan.

DeSantis: Laurie has sent 3 emails and had a conversation with Serena DeSantis regarding sponsorship for the Jacob Beam playground. Thus far, they have not committed to providing any funds. This item will be suspended pending any contact from the DeSantis builders.

Magazine Sales: Sales from the magazine fundraiser totaled \$2180.00, however, there was \$778.00 owed to the company. We made approximately \$1400.00 in profit. The total amount went towards the purchasing of "Chrome books". This, combined with the Board's allocation of \$10,000.00 for technology, facilitated the purchase of an entire class set of Chrome books".

Gift Card Fundraiser: This didn't happen. There was too short a turnaround time and the letter was delayed going out to the parents, so Laurie changed the date and the company, Shop and Support, required notice of the change. This is definitely a fundraiser worth doing next fall, as the profit for a one time "Shop-a-thon" is 15% of the value of the amount of the gift cards sold. If it became an ongoing way to make money for the school, there would need to be someone who would be in charge of administering it.

Action item: Council to revisit using the Gift Card Fundraiser in the fall of the 2015-2016 school year (PENDING).

Boston Pizza Fundraiser: This had been tentatively scheduled for today's date. There had been some concerns as to the cost, (\$20.00 per person) being too expensive. Cassie advised that the idea for this fundraiser was to not only raise funds for the school, but to promote connecting Jacob Beam families and having a social time. Bev stated that while she originally thought that \$20.00 was steep, when you realize that 50% of that would be donated back to the school, in effect, a full meal is only costing \$10.00 and it really is a pretty good deal.

Action item: Council to revisit Boston Pizza as a potential fundraiser for the 2015-2016 school year (PENDING).

New Lock for Sign: This item has been purchased and is in place on our outdoor sign.

2014 Jacob Beam School Council Account Balance—Chris Waler

Playground Account: \$2398.23

General Account: \$2754.29

The playground account has remained the same from last meeting. The general account has increased from the opening balance of \$1,068.79 to a total of \$2754.29, as a result of the

profits from the Christmas basket raffle (\$1,655.00) and the Holiday Gift Shop (\$70.50) and the debit of \$40.00 in babysitting fees.

Principal's Report—Chris Waler

- Our volleyball and intermediate basketball seasons are over. Our students participated with great enthusiasm and energy. We are currently in our junior basketball and gymnastics seasons. We have added a general overview of when sports happen during the year to our Jacob Beam website. Track and Field dates have been set for the regional meet and the DSBN meet. They are Friday, May 22nd at the Niagara Olympic Club (at the DSBN Academy (formerly West Park)), for the Area 3 meet and Monday, June 8th at the Niagara Olympic club for the DSBN meet. Our school meet will take place before the May 22nd meet at Mohawk in Hamilton. We are waiting for confirmation of dates.
- We have a friendly Dreambox competition for the month of March with Twenty Valley Public School. Whichever school (adjusted for size) has a higher unique average lesson completion during the month of March will be declared the winner and students at the winning school will be asked to wear the other school's colours for a day. We are confident that Twenty Valley students will be wearing orange and black.
- Our Christmas turkey dinner was a great success. Santa and Mrs. Claus visited our school. We have many parent volunteers to assist. Everyone left happy! Thanks to Mrs. MacMillan and Mrs. MacNeil for organizing our turkey dinner. Our choir performance at Fairview Mall on December 12th and our Christmas concert on December 17th and were very well received. On December 16th, our students went bowling in their house teams and had a great time.
- Our Kindergarten Open House on February 5th was well received. We currently have 14 children registered for junior kindergarten in September. We anticipate around 20 children total.
- French Immersion: there is currently only one grade entry into French Immersion at Central Public School in Grimsby: grade 1. We had 4 senior kindergarten students apply.
- We had one application to the DSBN Academy in St. Catharines - a grade 6 to 12 school.
- We had a lockdown drill on Friday, February 13th.
- We now have 106 families signed up for the Remind app.
- Pink Shirt Day, on Wednesday, February 25th, was focused on delivering anti-bullying support to students in grades 1 through 8. Thanks to Mrs. Feduck's class for organizing and delivering an



important message to our students. On Friday, February 26th, we will focus on anti-bullying in the intermediate division.

- There is a new Health and Physical Education curriculum that will be mandatory in September, 2015. School staff has still not had an opportunity to look at or be trained on it. Teachers will be trained on the new curriculum starting in April. Parents can view it at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng> and follow the links or specifically: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/health.html> . Parents will be receiving information on the new curriculum at the end of the school year.
- We will be hosting a Parent Math Night on **Thursday, April 9th**. Come out and do the math your kids are doing!
- Our Social Networking Safety Speaker will be here on **Tuesday, May 19th**. We will combine the presentation with a barbeque. We have used the proceeds from our Keurig and Tassimo cups to purchase a large capacity barbeque for the school. Thanks, Mrs. Creechan!

Facebook for Jacob Beam: Mrs. Mathieson has developed a Facebook page for Jacob Beam and it is up and running under Jacob Beam Public School. She would appreciate input as to what we would like to see.

Vendor Fair: Chris suggested an idea for a fundraiser, that being a Vendor Fair. A group of vendors are contacted and sell their wares at our school. They can be charged a nominal fee to secure a table at the fair or choose to donate a portion of their profits to Jacob Beam. Some of Chris's colleagues have run very successful vendor fairs as fundraisers. The committee agreed that this might be something to pursue in the future. It was mentioned that in the past, Jacob Beam did host a vendor fair and much of the profit was consumed, after having to pay a custodian to open the school and clean up after it ended.

Action item: This item should be discussed further, when deciding on future fundraising initiatives.

Committee Reports—Fundraising—Members are Cassie McNiven, Laurie Arsenaault and Michelle Dawson

Basket Raffle Update: The basket raffle was a huge success this year. Profit from the baskets, as mentioned earlier, was \$1,655.00, as compared to approximately \$500.00 from the year before. The location in the front foyer contributed to large sales volume and the 5 tickets for \$20.00 were a big seller, compared to the single ticket sales. Cassie had help from some of the students putting the baskets together. Great job by all! Although the money from the basket raffle has been earmarked for the kindergarten outdoor play area, no funds have been spent to date and no equipment has been purchased. Mrs. Haney and Mr. Fung had provided a list of "wish list" items previously.

Action item: Chris will get an answer from Mrs. Haney/Mr. Fung as to what items they would like to purchase by our next meeting in April.

Chocolate Bar Fundraiser: Discussion on this spring fundraiser. "World's Finest" company versus "Simply Delicious". Both companies require us to take 100 cases of the chocolates. World's Finest allows the return of complete, unsold cases. Simply Delicious does not. World's Finest products are peanut free, Simply Delicious is not. World's Finest provides Jacob Beam with a 52% profit, compared to Simply Delicious at 48%, however, World's Finest is \$3.00 per box and Simply Delicious is only \$2.00 per box. It was also noted that perhaps some of the remaining chocolate bars could be sold at the Track and Field events which will occur during the month of May.

Motion: That we have a chocolate bar fundraiser using the "World's Finest" company at the end of April or the beginning of May 2015 and that the profits from this fundraiser go toward the purchase of kindergarten outdoor playground equipment. Moved by Cassie McNiven. Seconded by Irene Petsinis. Carried.

Action item: Laurie and Cassie to coordinate and arrange dates for the fundraiser.

Cinnabon Fundraiser: Laurie advised that the profit margin is much lower for this type of fundraiser. The sale of chocolate bars is where the biggest profit is made. Cinnabon would not be considered as a fundraiser for this year.

Committee Reports—Green—Members are Liz Martinez, Krista Capes, Sarah Bacchus and Gina Allan

No report.

Committee Reports—Communications—Member is Irene Petsinis

The Bridge students are helping Irene change the message on the front sign and are doing an excellent job.

Action item: Irene and Laura Mathieson will collaborate on a write up for the local paper on our speaker, Paul Davis, who will be talking to parents about "Social Networking Safety" on May 19th.

New Business/Ongoing items:

Food for BBQ/Speaker Night: May 19th is the date for the speaker. Discussion ensued as to whether we should make this a fundraiser event by charging a nominal fee for the meal or providing the meal for free, but any extra food to be purchased for a nominal fee. The Pro Grant will cover the cost of the speaker and door prizes, if we decide to purchase some. It was

the consensus that we should avoid advertising that food would need to be purchased. We want to have the parents come out for the information and the food is a bonus, it should not be the focus. It was agreed that we require an idea of the number of adults who will be in attendance and we will be requesting those interested, to "pre-register". This will also assist in knowing how much food to purchase for this event. The meal will be provided free of charge. There will be a donation jar available for persons to donate towards new library books should they wish to do so. It should be noted that the speaker is speaking on a topic that is geared to an adult audience. With pre-registration, we can also determine if babysitters will be needed, and if so, how many.

Action item: Decision as to what food will be served, number of students required to provide babysitting services needs to be determined and letter home for parents to pre-register, containing a synopsis of the topic/speaker, details of the event and the opportunity to pre-register needs to be drafted and sent home prior to May 19. Tabled to April 23 meeting.

Future Meeting Dates

Thursday, April 23, 2014: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Thursday May 21, 2014: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

June social: TBA

