

MINUTES

Jacob Beam Public School Meeting Minutes January 17, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Bev Boden at 6:33 p.m. in the Library.

In attendance: Greg Brownstein, Kathy Horton, Laurie Arsenault, Gina Allan, Christine Waler (Principal), Bev Boden, Andrea Brownstein, Cassie McNiven, Krista Capes, Marjorie Low, Elizabeth Martinez, Lori Shuker, Michelle Weiss, Mary Jastremski, Irene Petsinis, Nicole Meecham (student rep.) and Robert Brownstein (student rep.).

Regrets: n/a

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 15th meeting were distributed.

Motion to accept the minutes: Andrea Brownstein. Seconded by Cassie McNiven. Passed.

Action Items—Update from November 15th meeting

Action item: That Mrs. Waler speak to grade 8 students regarding criteria for the honour roll. Mrs. Waler spoke to individual grade 8 students regarding their thoughts and opinions on the Honour Roll. She received mixed responses with some feeling that the honour roll should be based on an average of all subject areas and others felt it should only be based on academic subjects. **It was decided by the staff that the honour roll would be based on academic subjects.**

Action item: Blaze cast and note sent home regarding illegal parking. **Done.**

Action item: Note in the newsletter to parents to save old electronics for recycling collection. **Done.**

Student's Report—Nicole Meecham & Robert Brownstein

Robert Brownstein advised that the students would like to see the playing field leveled for better use.

The cookie dough fundraiser is forthcoming, with funds being allotted to the grade 8's year end trip.

A question as to whether the yearend camping trip was going to happen was raised. Mrs. Waler assured the students that the trip would go forward. At this point in time, supervisory staff is not confirmed but the trip will not be cancelled.

There was no update for graduation plans.

Action item: Mrs. Waler will look into what would be required to level the field.

Principal's Report—Chris Waler (see attached)

Chris Waler explained what physical changes (enlarging Mrs. Haney's room by removing the existing wall between this room and the LRT room and adding primary washroom facilities in Mr. Fung's room) will have to be made to the school prior to the inception of the full day early learning programme, commencing September 2013.

Discussion took place regarding shortening the school day by five minutes, commencing September 2013. The five minutes will be taken from the second break, which is currently 45 minutes in length. This would allow for 2 nutrition breaks, which are 40 minutes in length each. No actual teaching time would be affected.

Motion: Irene Petsinis to shorten the school day by 5 minutes, in that, the second nutrition break be reduced by five minutes, and teaching time not be reduced, starting September 2013.
Seconded: Greg Brownstein. Carried.

Principal Christine Waler presented her report.

Principal's Report for School Council – Jacob Beam, January 17, 2013

- Bus loop: The board recently hired an engineering firm. They will be preparing plans and working with the Town of Lincoln on the land transfer. The project will be tendered this spring and the bus loop constructed this summer. Plans will be shared with the school as they develop.
- Monkey bars: the painting of the monkey bars is do-able. We can arrange for a spring painting. The cost will most likely be between \$500 and \$1000. We are waiting for a firm estimate from a board-approved painting company.
- The Gingerbread Shop was very well received and well organized. It was very appreciated by students.
- The intermediate end of the year camp trip will be going forward. The week of January 28th, intermediate students will begin to sell cookie dough to support their end of the year camp trip.
- The staff of Jacob Beam donated \$250 to Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.
- We received a \$1500 grant from the Ontario Principals' Council to support aboriginal students in our school and a further \$500 to purchase aboriginal resources for our library.
- We have applied to the Education Foundation of Niagara for additional funds (\$1500) to purchase library books. We will know the outcome in February.
- In September, 2013, Jacob Beam will be starting the ELP, Early Learning Program, which is full day kindergarten for both JK and SK. There will be alterations made to the building to accommodate the new program.

- Lockdown Drills: we have completed our first lockdown drill. We will have two more before the end of the year.

The Town of Lincoln will be installing new sewers, sidewalks, curbs, etc. on Crescent Avenue beginning in January, 2013. Access to the school from Crescent Avenue will be closed during the construction

Action item: Mrs. Hayward to send out a blaze cast to advise families of the construction on Crescent Avenue.

Despite a blaze cast and note going home with children requesting that parents obey the “no stopping” signs on William Street, people continue to disobey the bylaw. This presents a potentially dangerous situation for the children and crossing guards crossing the road, not to mention the congestion caused due to vehicles stopping on both sides of the street dropping off or picking up children.

Action item: Town of Lincoln by law enforcement officers to be called and encouraged to issue by law infraction tickets to drivers of illegally stopped/parked vehicles.

Concern was again brought up regarding the congestion in the parking lot. In particular is the dangerous situation when the buses are pulled along the front of the school and the 4 parking spots are occupied along the sidewalk. Often the vehicles parked in these spots pull ahead to allow room for vehicles to pass between them and the buses. This causes the vehicles to protrude over the sidewalk where the children need to walk.

Also, children are being dropped off and walking through the parking lot to get to the sidewalk. Since the resumption of school after the break, Bev Boden had two occasions where parents advised that their child had a “close call” walking between the bus and the parked vehicles. Exiting the lot is difficult as often, it is blocked by vehicles not parked in a designated spot at the front and exiting vehicles are unable to get between the buses and the vehicle, which causes those vehicles to go “out” the entrance.

Action item: A staff member will be assigned to check if any children are in front of the bus and signal the bus driver to move when it is safe to do so. The owner of the vehicle that partially blocks the parking lot exit will be requested to discontinue parking in that area.

Chair’s Report—Bev Boden

Parent Engagement Fund

At the last meeting, members were asked to develop a list of possible ways to use the Parent Engagement Funds and bring their ideas forward at January’s parent council meeting. Possible suggestions for the disbursement of the \$500.00 were:

- hold a social to get parents involved
- create a welcome info package (done in the past) to distribute to new and returning parents about our school council
- pay for parents who volunteer for school field trips

Discussion ensued with parents indicating that they liked the funds being used to pay for parents who volunteer to assist on school field trips, however, school trips may not occur this year. A decision was made to hold off and see what happens with the situation between the teacher's union and the provincial government.

If no trips can be planned, the money will be used towards a social in May or June, in an effort to get other parents involved in participating in parent council meetings for the following September and the 2013/2014 school year.

A question was raised regarding the funds being "lost" if they are not used. Mrs. Waler indicated that the funds don't disappear at the end of the year as they are part of the budget. There is not a separate line on the budget sheet for the Parent Engagement Fund. Members discussed whether there was a surplus from previous years and that this should be tracked, along with what is spent. Members mentioned that at one time, we did have a treasurer, but this position was eliminated, as Mrs. Hayward took on this task. It was noted that the council members should have some method of keeping a record of funds spent and funds that remain available to spend.

Action item: Chris Waler will speak to Mrs. Hayward to see if there are residual unused monies related to this fund from last year.

Playground Discussion

Currently our playground account stands at \$6,600.00.

Laurie Arsenault contacted Little Tykes regarding costs to scale back plans to installation of new monkey bars/swings. Laurie also contacted Meridian Credit Union re: corporate sponsorship.

Laurie received emails from her contact at Little Tykes that having the \$23,000 "stage 2" piece of playground equipment and replaced with monkey bars should not be a problem. The contact was unavailable to provide a quote as to the cost of that change, but will do so within the next week. Meridian Credit Union was not interested in being a corporate sponsor for the playground.

Chris Waler contacted DSBN to inquire about the cost and possibility of repairing/refurbishing existing monkey bars. They advised it would be between \$300.00 and \$1000.00 to paint the monkey bars.

An inspection of the playground equipment is scheduled for June 2013.

Action item: Mrs. Waler will check to see if the inspection of the playground equipment can be done sooner than June.

Action item: Mrs. Waler will have the existing monkey bars inspected and obtain all costs involved should the existing monkey bars need updating or repair to bring them up to code.

Motion by Greg Brownstein to get more information regarding the cost of inspection/repair/refurbishing/painting of current existing monkey bars and the cost of new Little Tykes monkey bars installed for February's meeting. Seconded by Gina Allan. Carried.

Committee Reports

Fundraising—Cassie McNiven and Laurie Arsenault

Electronic Stewardship is doing an electronics recycling fundraiser at Great Lakes this month. If that goes well, they will consider coming to Jacob Beam. The fundraising committee has put out feelers to other recycling companies too. They are waiting to see what is recyclable. There was a suggestion made to hold **electronics fundraiser April 6th** and advertise for **Club 54 fundraiser**, which is to be held on **April 13**, at the electronics event.

The question was raised as to whether it would be possible for Jacob Beam to have a Face book page. Discussed whether it might become a forum for negative comments.

Action item: Chris Waler to ask other schools what experience they have had with this if any.

Action Item: Create an event on "Face book" to advertise out fundraising events.

Club 54 Fundraiser will be held on April 13. The club will print the tickets. A proposal was tabled that if you sell nine (9) tickets, you get one (1) free, which may encourage people to book a table.

Gingerbread Shop raised \$313.99 in profits. It was agreed that all proceeds would be donated to Community Care.

Action item: Contact Community Care to make arrangements for donation.

Green—Gina Allan

Nicole Whitehead has received no response from Blue Sky Nursery regarding donations of plants/flowers for the school. BDSS will provide plants at a substantially reduced cost in the spring. BDSS has many options for plants including annuals and perennials. Nicole has also approached her family, who are gardeners, to split some of their perennials, which will be donated.

Action item: Laurie Arsenault knows the owner of Blue Sky Nurseries and will follow up on Nicole's request for donations.

Action item: Chris Waler will see if the plans for the bus loop will have any impact on the gardens along the wall of the gymnasium.

Communications—Irene Petsinis

No report.

Parents raised question if they could add their phone/cell number to a blaze cast, which may serve to reach more parents. Mrs. Hayward has the ability to do this. The point was raised about reaching more families by having them sign up to an email list. This would be used to send out the monthly newsletter and any other pertinent communications. Many members were in favour of this idea.

New Business

Question was raised as to whether we (parents) can hire people to run in-school sports. Prior to Christmas, the answer was no as the teachers did not have a contract. Now that the teachers do, has that changed?

Action item: Chris Waler will be attending a meeting about these issues and will seek answers to this question. There is a rule in place however, that there must be a teacher present in order to run sports. Chris will advise outcome after meeting.

Next Meeting

Thursday, February 21, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

