

Jacob Beam Public School Meeting Minutes January 23, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Gina Allan at 6:30 p.m. in the library.

In attendance: Christine Waler (Principal), Kelly Phillips, Kathy Horton, Cassie McNiven, Gina Allan, Irene Petsinis, Michelle Weiss, Laurie Arsensault, Liz Martinez, Kellie Svoljsak, Mary Jastremski, Tina Snedden, Michael Wagner (Student Rep) and Jen Moore (Guest—Instructional Math Coach)

Regrets: Bev Boden, Krista Capes

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 21, 2013 meeting were distributed.

Motion to accept the minutes: Cassie McNiven. Seconded by Liz Martinez. Carried.

Student Report—Michael Wagner

Michael advised that currently the grade 8's are starting a unit on the Olympics.

Intermediate basketball is in progress and Junior boys' volleyball is now over for the season.

The grade 7 and 8 students will be going to Camp Wenonah in Bracebridge as their yearend trip. It will be a 5 day, 4 night trip.

Guest Speaker—Jen Moore, Instructional Math Coach

Chris introduced and welcomed Jen Moore, an instructional math coach, who gave an interactive presentation about the different ways that math can be taught. Jen has worked with almost all of the teachers in the school, providing support and instructional techniques that can be utilized when teaching the math programme. She attends Jacob Beam approximately 4 days per month and the goal for math instruction is to “develop lifelong mathematicians, who have the knowledge, thinking skills, confidence and perseverance to solve problems in their current and future lives.”

Part of this is learning process skills: ability to problem solve, communicate, connect, reason and prove, reflect and represent and selecting tools and computational strategies. She stated that all children have an entry point for math and that there are several different strategies that they are learning. The goal is for the kids to be involved and pick the strategy that works the best for them.

Ms. Moore introduced a math problem and asked those present to solve it. She then canvassed the group to see “how” they each solved the problem. There were a number of different strategies used within the small group and although the strategies used were different, they were not wrong and they resulted in the correct answer. Ms. Moore also demonstrated Jacob Beam’s newly acquired class set of Smartboard “clickers”, which will be used in the class by students. The students will be given a problem to solve and the clicker (looks like a television remote control) will compute the length of time the student took to solve the problem, along with the answer and other information. This clicker has the capability of tallying all of the students’ responses and creating graphs to show responses.

Principal’s Report—Chris Waler

Chris did not formally present her report at the meeting, as we were pressed for time; however, they were circulated to the members present and are attached to form part of the minutes.

Principal’s Report for School Council, January 23, 2014

- The BDSS Grade 8 Open House was very well attended by Jacob Beam students. We are grateful to BDSS for participating in our Sip N Sing
- Literacy Day is Monday, January 27th. We have a number of activities planned to promote literacy. It will also be Pajama Day and we will do a Snuggle Up & Read
- Our Sip N Sing in December was very well attended. As a staff, we are looking at what went well and what needed to be improved if we do it again. Our learning included having one person oversee the entire process, having students wait in their classrooms, with their teachers, until their performance, and, perhaps alternating divisions year to year. We enjoyed having the BDSS band playing between performances. Parents were very generous in donating to the basket raffle this year. We made approximately \$500. We are looking for input on next year's event
- Coats and food were collected for Community Care (in our area, not Toronto)
- We finalized our intermediate camping trip. Students will be going for four nights in June to Camp Wenonah in Bracebridge
- Reports cards go home on February 6th
- Kindergarten (Early Learning) registration is now open. We will have our Open House on Thursday, February 6th from 4 - 6 p.m.

- French Immersion registration is now open. Students in SK and grade 3 may apply. French Immersion is housed at Central School in Grimsby
- DSBN Academy applications are due by January 31st for students entering grade 6 and above
- We will be practicing EQAO testing in grades 3 and 6 from February 3rd through February 6th. The actual assessment takes place at the end of May (May 26th - June 6th)
- We have upgraded our technology in the school with the purchase of new computers, document cameras, and Smartboard "clickers"
- Staff Appreciation Week will take place, once again, the week before March break
- Welcome to Mrs. Mathieson who is going to be our staff rep on School Council

A question had been raised regarding the "Me to We" donations of coats going to Toronto. A poster in the hallway of the school indicated that the students were collecting coats which would be distributed to homeless people in Toronto. Chris advised that there were not very many coats collected however, those that were, were distributed to our local Community Care. The consensus of the group seemed to indicate that there was a definite need in our community for these items.

The discussion regarding the Sip and Sing was initiated by Chris. She advised that more people attended than signed up and the original plan was to hold it in the gym, with refreshments being served in the library. The idea was to have a "drop in" type of event, where people would come to have a hot chocolate and a cookie and sing a few Christmas carols. It took on a different look, in that, it turned out to be more of a performance by the students in each grade, rather than a sing along. The staff generally liked the concept of the Sip and Sing, although it was recognized that it needs to have some fine tuning if it happens again next year. There has been no formal decision made at this time for next year, i.e., whether it will be a performance, or a sing-a-long or something else. In any event, it was suggested that the following be considered for next year:

- There would need to be one person who would coordinate it all. There were too many organizers this year which led to confusion
- The basket raffle was switched to the library rather than the original location in the front foyer. Unfortunately, the raffle only made approximately half of the profit that it

did last year, believed to be in part that the library location was out of the way and the parents didn't have to pass right by it

- Kellie Svoljsak was thanked for all her efforts in obtaining donations for the baskets from businesses within the community
- If it is decided that it will be more of a class performance in the future, rather than the children running around the gym, before and after they sing, they should be kept in their classrooms until it is their turn to sing and then return to class or to a seat with their parents in the auditorium after their performance. Mary Jastremski suggested that having a larger venue, such as the high school, would accommodate the children sitting with their parents in the audience afterwards
- There were not enough hot chocolate/cookies for the number of people who attended

Financial Report—Chris Waler

Chris reported that the bank account balance in our general account stood at \$3585.71 although there still is an outstanding bill for the Orff instruments of \$2829.42. Once the instruments are paid for, we will have a total of \$756.29 in our general operating account.

Motion by Laurie Arsenault to provide a cheque to Paulette Hayward in the amount of \$2829.42 to pay for the Orff instruments. Seconded by Liz Martinez. Carried.

The amount owing for the playground repairs (\$2066.21) has been paid off and there is currently a balance of \$2398.23 in our playground account.

The following is the tally of monies made at several fundraising initiatives so far this year:

Basket Raffle:	\$535.00
Poinsettias:	\$566.00
Tax Rebate:	\$54.00
Holiday Fun Shop:	-\$5.00

Action Item: Chris to find out how much we made on the E-Waste recycling fundraiser.

Chris did speak to Paulette and, at the time of this report, Jacob Beam has NOT received a cheque for the E-Waste fundraiser.

Chair's Report—Bev Boden

There was no formal report as Bev was not in attendance; however, the following action item was spoken to:

Action item: Krista will send a few 11 x 17 posters based on the School Council brochure in to the school this week. Jacob Beam will laminate them. (pending)

Parent Involvement Committee Fund (PIC)

- Laurie suggested using some of the funds for a Family Skate Night at the Beamsville arena
- Other ideas included purchasing a television monitor to be installed in the lobby of the school for the purposes of information sharing. Parents coming into the school will be made aware of activities/events/announcements that are taking place at Jacob Beam School
- Continue with the practice of paying for parent volunteers who attend on school trips
- Babysitting at School Council meetings
- Purchase snacks/beverages for School Council meetings

Action item: The disbursement of PIC funds will be tabled for the February meeting.

Fundraising Committee—Laurie Arsenault/Cassie McNiven

Irene asked whether the money that was raised at the basket raffle will go toward the purchase of kindergarten play equipment. There was no firm commitment as to a dollar value by Council at the November meeting and it was dependent on how much money was raised. There had also been a suggestion at a previous Council meeting, that Council donate some funds to enhance the library's inventory. Also, in the past, Council covered the cost of the "Grad pin". As our account balance will stand at approximately \$756.00, we may need to consider additional fundraising initiatives.

Action item: Decide on monetary commitment to Kindergarten outdoor play area (tabled for February meeting).

Green Committee—Gina Allan

No report.

Communication Committee—Irene Petsinis

No report.

New/Ongoing Business

Action item: (Ongoing and Pending) Information on School Council to be included with school start up package in September.

Action item: Laurie Arsenault has agreed to continue trying to contact someone from DeSantis Homes to seek funding for the playground.

Next Meeting Topics

- Money for kindergarten outdoor toys
- Money for grade 8 Grad pins
- Donation to Library
- PIC dollars—how to spend
- Update on budget
- Action items that were tabled from previous meetings

Next Meeting

Thursday, February 20, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Laurie Arsenault. Seconded by Mary Jastremski. Carried.
Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.