

Jacob Beam Public School Meeting Minutes October 24, 2013

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

In attendance: Christine Waler (Principal), Paulette Hayward (Secretary), Bev Boden, Kathy Horton, Gina Allan, Irene Petsinis, Krista Capes, Michelle Weiss, Laurie Arsensault, Liz Martinez, Kellie Svoljsak, Isabelle Martinez and Emma Gotts (Student Reps).

Regrets: Cassie McNiven, Tina Snedden

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 2, 2013 meeting were distributed.

Motion to accept the minutes: Liz Martinez. Seconded by Michelle Weiss. Carried.

Chair's Report—Bev Boden

Bev reported that the final count for people wishing to be voting members of council this year was 11.

Bev requested that the following action items be spoken to:

Action item: Follow up as to whether "Speak Up" grant application was successful (for grades 7 and 8 students to attend Brock University as a Team building experience).

Chris reports that the Brock University grant has just been sent in by Mme. Rondeau and that it may take a couple of months before we receive word as to whether it has been approved.

Action item: Secure volunteers to man information table at Parent/Teacher interview night.

The following people have volunteered to man the School Council information table on November 5 from 4-7 p.m.

Bev Boden, Michelle Weiss, Liz Martinez and Krista Capes (Krista is available after 5:30 p.m.).

Student Report—Isabelle Martinez and Emma Gotts

The students reported that the (grade 7 and 8) will be selling jewelry, Christmas cards and calendars through Norcard in an effort to raise funds for their trip to Washington at the end of the year. They also plan to do more fundraisers throughout the year.

Performance Club—choir using some of the Orff Instruments. These students will be performing at the Christmas caroling concert at Jacob Beam. They may also be performing at the Pen Centre at Christmas time.

Me to We Club—several students are participating in the "We Scare Hunger" campaign through the "Me to We" Club. The students will be collecting food to donate to Community Care instead of candy on and around Halloween.

The students also have "cardboard schools" to collect money. For every \$20.00 collected, Me to We purchases a brick, which goes towards building a school in a Third World country.

As another "Me to We" initiative, the students are interested in collecting new hats and mittens to donate to Community Care. There are also plans to collect gently used coats.

Mme. Rondeau came in to assist with the initial Me to We meetings and from this point on, Ms. Clark, the new French teacher, will be the Coordinator of this program.

There will be a Halloween Dance on October 31. The grade 7 and 8 students will be going to BDSS on the 31st for a haunted house activity.

The students spoke about the newly implemented "House" system. The House system is comprised of a cross section of approximately 30 students from different grades. Each house is represented by a different colour and they do things as teams. The older students are role models for the younger ones. The purpose of this is to try and promote team building and respect for each other.

Principal's Report—Chris Waler (see attached)

Principal Christine Waler presented her report.

Principal's Report for School Council

October 24, 2013

- **School Council Bulletin Board:** we now have a School Council bulletin board inside the entrance to our school
- **Book Fair:** we are having our Book Fair during the week of November 4th. All proceeds will go towards the purchase of new library books.
- **Parent-Teacher Interviews:** for most teachers, parent-teacher interviews will take place on Tuesday, November 5th between 4 and 7 p.m. (Ms. Penley/Mrs. King are scheduling their own interview times.) The Book Fair will be open until 7:00 p.m.
- **Progress Reports:** go home on Tuesday, October 29th.
- **Me to We:** Some of our intermediate students have been involved in the Me to We initiative, which is an international movement designed to help others both at the local level and at the international level. We will be collecting non-perishable food items for our local community and new hats and mittens for orphans in Ukraine.
- **Current student population:** we currently have 241 students.

- **Cards by Me Fundraiser:** we are, once again, offering Cards by Me to parents. The cards, which can be Christmas themed, blank, thank you cards, etc. use a design created by students. Proceeds will go towards the purchase of technology for our school.
- **Recycling old electronics:** we are currently collecting old electronics in our foyer for the Electronics recycling day on Saturday, October 26th from 10a.m. – 2 p.m.
- **During our Professional Activity Day on October 11th,** most teachers participated in school improvement planning (some attended an Early Learning Conference), looking at where we are and where we need to go. We reviewed our School Improvement Plan and made preliminary adjustments. Since then, we have examined our EQAO data and identified areas of focus for all grades. Our educational assistants worked on Safety Plans, Positive Behaviour Plans, and Student Snapshots. Our next PA Day will be on **November 15th**. We will focus entirely on how mathematics instruction.
- **Instructional Coach:** every school in our board is assigned an Instructional Coach who comes into the school approximately once a month for three to five days to help teachers.
- **On Wednesday, December 18th,** we are inviting parents in to sing Christmas Carols and enjoy hot chocolate from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. There will be no formal concert this year.
- Intermediate **volleyball** is well underway for both girls and boys. Junior teams will begin their season on November 4th.
- **House Teams:** are up and running well...we are going to try sending students out together for one (a.m.) fitness break every other Friday (pizza day) in their team colours so they get to know each other.
- **Playground repairs:** Mrs. Hayward will hand out a report.
- **Volunteer Form:** we have a new form asking volunteers where and how they would like to do in the school. Mrs. Hayward will hand out a rough draft.
- **Holiday Fun Shop:** Irene Petsinis will report on an alternative to the Gingerbread Shop.

Treasurer's Report—Paulette Hayward

Paulette reported that some vandalism occurred over the summer, resulting in damage to our playground equipment. After an inspection was carried out by the Ministry, it was determined that playground repairs were required to meet the Ministry guidelines. At this point, the children are still playing on the equipment and may continue to do so, as it is not deemed to be an immediate hazard; however the Ministry requires proof that the school is initiating a process to have the equipment repaired.

The total cost of repairs is \$2066.21 (includes H.S.T.). There is a \$2000.00 deductible, so using insurance is not an option. If the equipment is not repaired, it will be removed at no cost to us.

The School Council playground account currently stands a \$4,464.44.

Motion by Irene Petsinis to use \$2066.21 from the playground account to pay for the repairs. Seconded by Kellie Svoljsak. Carried.

Discussion ensued around the fact that the playground is for 5-8 year olds only and the junior and senior kindergarten children can't play on the equipment which causes some issues. Laurie Arsenault mentioned that School Council spent \$1000.00 on toys for the kindergarten classes in the past. Irene Petsinis advised that she is the lunchroom supervisor for Shelley Haney's class and noticed that most of the toys are broken. She had purchased hoola hoops and skipping ropes but they need to be of a good quality or they don't last. Chris Waler stated that the company that supplied the mini stick nets has high quality toys and we should consider them if/when purchasing future toys. Laurie Arsenault stated that she has called DeSantis Home builders (building the new subdivision by the arena and children from this area are zoned to attend Jacob Beam). Laurie advised that although she has made several calls to DeSantis, they have yet to call her back.

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

Action item: How School Council can support our kids with toys? This is to be tabled to the November meeting for discussion.

Paulette reported that in the School Council general account there is \$1584.11.

There is currently a "Volunteer Form" that is being developed. The purpose of the form/checklist is to seek volunteers from the parent community that wish to lend a hand or talent. The school is seeking input for the finalized form.

Head Lice

Chris advised that Jacob Beam follows DSNB policy regarding head lice. The school will inform parents that there is a case of head lice in their child's class. They rely on self reporting. The teachers check when the child returns that there are no nits or live eggs and once cleared, the child may return to school. There are no regular teams of volunteers that come in to do head lice checks. Chris reported that there is no documented evidence that indicates there are less lice infestations as a result of regular checks being done for them.

Student of the Month Certificates

The issue was discussed at the last Professional Development day as to whether Jacob Beam should continue to award Student of the Month certificates. Currently the "Principal's Award" is given out to students who perform leadership roles. Jacob Beam no longer has "Character Awards". The "Student of the Month Award" can be given for academic or character traits or merely to recognize that a child has achieved something. A short discussion ensued over the pros and cons of this award but it was decided that it would be tabled to November's meeting.

Action item: Retaining or dispensing with the Student of the Month certificates to be tabled to the November meeting for discussion.

S.P.P.R.A.K.

Gina asked if any more thought had been given to the S.P.P.R.A.K (Special People Performing Random Acts of Kindness) idea or whether staff had given any input on implementing this initiative. This concept involves using post it notes to post a message on a bulletin board noting that someone did a nice thing to you and saying who did it and what it was (i.e. Charlie tied my shoes for me, Chloe made me laugh when I was having a sad day etc...) Chris advised that the staff did like the idea and they would be moving forward with that starting on November 1, which is Random Act of Kindness Day. It will begin as a one day event but will continue as impetus to have it happen all the time within the school.

Parent Involvement Committee Fund (PIC)

Bev asked the members of the Committee to think about what we think is a valuable way to spend the money issued (\$500.00) yearly to each School Council. The money is given to the Councils for the purpose of promoting parents involvement in the school. If it is not spent, it is lost.

Irene Petsinis suggested that we use some of the PIC fund money to make the School Council posters, either laminated 11 x 17 posters or in plaque form. Krista stated that she could easily convert the brochure into poster size and make them at work. Jacob Beam would need to laminate them.

Action item: Krista will make up a few 11 x 17 posters based on the School Council brochure. Jacob Beam will laminate them.

Action item: Come up with ideas on how to spend PIC fund for next meeting.

Follow up to Gingerbread Shop

Irene Petsinis provided information on last month's action item which was to discuss the options for the Gingerbread Shop. Irene was excited to report that Jacob Beam will have a Christmas Shop this year. This is through a company, "The Christmas Shop Fun Services" out of British Columbia who "approved" Jacob Beam to participate. This will be a day and a half long event, occurring on December 12 and 13. Irene and volunteers will set up the merchandise on the morning of Thursday, December 12. The students will do a walk through to see what they would like to purchase. The sale will take place on Friday the 13th. Irene advised that the items seem to be of a higher quality than those of the previous Gingerbread Shop items. There will be a discount table, where some more expensive items (\$6.00-\$8.00) that didn't sell the previous year, will be drastically reduced.

Bev Boden thanked Irene for her perseverance in finding and obtaining the services of this company for the benefit of the Jacob Beam children.

Fundraising Committee

Laurie Arsenault advised that the proposed date for the next E-Waste fundraiser is October 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The orders for cookie dough fundraiser will be due on November 4th and the product will be delivered and ready for pick up on November 27th.

The Hendriks Greenhouse Christmas plant fundraiser forms will be going home on November 15th. Pick up of the plants was scheduled to be on December 19 or 20th but needs to change as there is a PD day on the 20th.

Action item: Cassie will contact Hendriks to arrange the pickup date for December 18th if possible.

M& M fundraiser—the packages will be sent to the school during the first week of December.

Green Committee

There is a proposed yard clean up day on Saturday, November 16 starting at 9:30 a.m.

Communications Committee

Irene is concerned about the safety of the sign outside.

Action item: Paulette will have the DSBN Plant Department take a look at it.

Irene advised that there was an article in the local newspaper including a photo of some Jacob Beam students about the E-Waste fundraiser. She stated that a half page notice to the parent regarding the E-Waste fundraiser was sent home with the students. It was noted that the bulletin board is up in the front foyer and the School Council brochure is posted on it already.

Bev thanked Liz and Irene for their assistance with the advertising of the E-Waste recycling fundraiser.

New/Ongoing Business

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

Next Meeting Topics

- Student of the Month certificates
- Kindergarten playground needs
- PIC fund monies/dispensing

Announcements

Bev will send minutes out to council as soon as they are ready.

Please have agenda items sent via email to Bev Boden prior to the next meeting. If the item is not listed on the agenda, it will be tabled to the following meeting.

Next Meeting

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.