

Jacob Beam Public School Meeting Minutes April 23, 2015

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

In attendance: Christine Waler (principal), Carrie Cochrane (teacher rep), Bev Boden, Kathy Horton, Gina Allan, Liz Martinez, Krista Capes, Laurie Arsenault, Irene Petsinis, Leah Genovese, Rachael LeBlanc, Sarah Bacchus, Kellie Svoljsak, Charlotte Martin (student rep).

Regrets: Cassie McNiven

Welcome and Introductions—Bev Boden

Approval of Minutes

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

Motion by Liz Martinez to accept the minutes. Seconded by Laurie Arsenault. Carried.

Student Report—Charlotte Martin

The students are working hard on graduation. 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 was through the sale of loose leaf tea. This individual fundraiser went well. Camp will happen during the second week of June—5 days and 4 nights. There is a badminton tournament coming up on Tuesday, April 28 at South Lincoln High School. Currently, there is a "Y" programme running for intermediate girls.

Chair's Report—Bev Boden

Follow up items from February meeting:

- Kindergarten Outdoor Play Equipment
- Chocolate Bar Fundraiser
- Write up by Irene Petsinis and Laura Mathieson for Newspaper
- Food for the Social Networking Safety Speaker Night

These items will be addressed later in the meeting.

2014 Jacob Beam School Council Account Balance—Chris Waler

Chris did not have an updated account balance as Mrs. MacNeil has been off. Chris will email it out once things settle in the office. She doesn't believe the balances have changed from last month.

Playground Account: \$2398.23

General Account: \$2754.29

The report for the playground repairs has just been received. Three areas of the playground equipment will need repair, however, there were no major repairs indicated.

Kindergarten Equipment Update

Mrs. Haney and Mr. Fung have provided pictures/ideas of four pieces of equipment that they would like to purchase. Once the chocolate bar fundraising monies have been tallied, they will be combined with the basket raffle money raised and the total will be donated to the kindergarten playground equipment purchase.

Action item: Chris will put it out to tender and hopefully have some prices by the May meeting.

Social Networking Safety Speaker Night—May 19

Food: As we have the new BBQ, hot dogs and hamburgers were suggested as the meal for the evening, and whatever Cassie and Kellie determine is needed, given a budget of approximately \$250.00

Action item: Cassie had offered to purchase food. Kellie will touch base with Cassie and help organize the food. Kellie has offered to try and get donations of food from local grocers.

Communication to parents: Public announcement in the paper will invite members of the general public to come, starting at 6:30 p.m. Jacob Beam families will be invited earlier to partake in the BBQ, which will be free of charge. Preregistration will be encouraged in order to determine amount of food to be purchased and the number of babysitters required, should parents with small children wish to attend but would otherwise be unable to. Those people that "pre-register" will be eligible to win a door prize. There will be a donation jar available for persons to donate towards new library books should they wish to do so.

Action item: Chris will provide Krista with the information to create a "visually pleasing" letter/flyer to be sent home for parents to pre-register. The letter/flyer will

contain a synopsis of the topic/speaker, details of the event and the opportunity to pre-register. This needs to be drafted and sent home prior to May 19.

Action item: Irene Petsinis and Laura Mathieson will coordinate efforts to do a media release in local papers closer to May 19.

Action item: Chris will purchase gift cards for door prizes for persons who have pre-registered using money from the Pro Grant.

Action item: Chris will put out a call for volunteers to help set up and tear down closer to the day of the presentation.

Principal's Report—Chris Waler

- Jacob Beam hosted a very informative Parent Math Night on Thursday, April 9th. We offered 3 sets of 20 minute workshops. Parents could choose from a selection of workshops designed to help them understand how math is taught today. We had 35 parents in attendance. The feedback was very positive. We hope to offer the same opportunity next year. Thanks to our instructional coach, Kelly Phillips, and our teachers for all their help preparing for the event.
- Our initial staffing allocation for September has been received. Our predicted enrolment is 238 students. We currently have 232 students. We have maintained the same number of teachers from JK through 8 and added a teacher for the Structured Strategies class that will join our school. The Bridge Program will re-locate to Grimsby Secondary School. Mr. Shanks will be leaving our school to join the Park School staff full time.
- Mr. Robinson is still recovering from his foot surgery. He hopes to return soon.
- We are currently finishing up our junior basketball season. Our gymnastics teams competed at BDSS last week and brought back several ribbons. One of our students came 4th out of 60 students in the primary division category. Next week, we will participate in an intermediate badminton tournament.
- There is a new Concussion Policy and Procedure. If a concussion is suspected, whether the injury occurred at school or not, we must follow a prescribed process which includes students staying home for at least 24 hours to be monitored. If any danger signs exist, e.g. one pupil bigger than the other, an ambulance must be called. There is a six-step process that requires 24 hours between each step.
- Many of our teachers now have a D2L (Desire 2 Learn) website attached to their class. These websites are sponsored by the provincial government and are much more secure than public websites.

- Grade 3 and 6 students have completed a mid-year assessment (mock EQAO) in math and language. Teachers have been analyzing the data to help prepare our students for the actual EQAO assessment.
- Jacob Beam students are attending a performance of Cinderella at BDSS next week. Two of our students are in the performance.
- We are currently running two anti-bullying programs, Game On for boys in grades 6 and 7, sponsored by the NRP and Go Girls! for intermediate girls, run through the YMCA. Earlier this year, we ran a Go Girls! program for junior girls. This week, grade 6 and 7 students participated in a program called Stand By Me about volunteer opportunities in our community. Next week, our grade 5 students will participate in the Race Against Drugs program.
- The book fair will run next week. Mr. Sotola may need help with this.
- Mr. Chuchman will be organizing the Track and Field in Mr. Robinson's absence. The school meet will take place on May 22.

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

Chocolate Bar Fundraiser: 45 of 50 boxes have been distributed. Laurie is expected 10 more boxes to arrive. If all of the boxes are sold, monies raised will be \$2700.00. This amount does not include any donations (not through the sale of chocolate bars but merely cheques written to the school instead of selling the bars).

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

We have talked about a spring clean-up; the date has yet to be determined. We are hoping to wait until May, when the weather might be warmer. Krista will ask to borrow a leaf blower to make clean out the beds of fallen leaves a little easier.

Action item: Chris will inquire regarding mulch for the gardens.

Committee Reports—Communications—Member is Irene Petsinis

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. (PENDING)

Irene received an email from the Christmas Shop, wondering if Jacob Beam would be running it again next year. Irene suggested that if anyone is interested in learning how to run it, now

would be the time to start learning, as she will have to pass the torch sooner than later. It is not difficult to run and she would be happy to mentor an interested parent.

Parent resources: A suggestion was made that our parent resources (books that have been purchased with PIC funds) should be more accessible to Jacob Beam parents. Many parents may not be aware that there are books available to be loaned out to parents on a variety of parenting and other topics. Nelles School has a "Parent Resource Shelf" set up in the hallway.

Action item: Chris will make room for the books in the hallway near the office and the books will be more accessible and available for sign out.

New Business/Ongoing items:

Code of Conduct: A code of Conduct was provided to members present. Bev asked that we review them and be prepared to share of thoughts at the May meeting.

Action item: Review Code of Conduct and share views at May meeting.

September 2015 Action Items

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).

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.

Future Meeting Dates

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

June social: TBA