

## Jacob Beam Public School Meeting Minutes April 24, 2014

*The meeting was called to order by Bev Boden at 6:30 p.m. in room 13.*

*In attendance: Christine Waler (Principal), Laura Mathieson (Teacher Rep), Michelle Weiss, Suzanne Chipman, Laurie Arsenault, Bev Boden, Kathy Horton, Gina Allan, Irene Petsinis, Liz Martinez, Mary Jastremski and Jacob Kinney, Michael Wagner (Student Reps)*

*Regrets: Krista Capes, Cassie McNiven, Kellie Svoljsak*

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### Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 27, 2014 meeting were distributed.

Motion to accept the minutes: Gina Allan. Seconded by Laurie Arsenault. Carried.

### Student Report—Jacob Kinney/Michael Wagner

The theme for the grade eight graduation is “Dr. Seuss”. Mr. Sotola is working on the slide show for the graduating students. Grad parents are working on details of a party at the Lion’s Club for after graduation. In class, the grade 8’s are working on a poetry unit, specifically on analyzing poems and are investigating the question, “What would the world be like without poetry?” They have recently finished their unit on persuasive writing. There is no further update regarding their end of year trip to Camp Wenonah, just working on getting all of the money in for the trip.

### Chair’s Report—Bev Boden

There was no formal report; however, the following action items were spoken to:

**Action item: Laurie Arsenault has agreed to continue trying to contact someone from DeSantis Homes to seek funding for the playground (ongoing).** Laurie had not heard from DeSantis, however, now that the new subdivision has a large number of houses sold and all are designated for Jacob Beam, Laurie will approach them again.

**Action item (carried forward from February meeting): Kellie Svoljsak offered to ask for donations from businesses for toys but would like an official letter to present from the school to the businesses. Chris suggested that we wait on the letter and approaching businesses until we get the list from Mrs. Haney as to what it is we need.**

**Action item: Chris to obtain a list of items of need from Shelley Haney**

Mrs. Waler has requested that Mrs. Haney provide a list of items required for the kindergarten classes and will provide that information to Council once she receives it, possibly for the May meeting.

Mrs. Waler reported that we would be getting the bunker from Campden School next week. This will be used to house outdoor play equipment.

Chris advised that she contacted the playground equipment company to ask if we could alter our equipment to be used for children under 5 years of age. They told her it was not possible. She is waiting to see if any of the schools that closed recently have any equipment that we might be able to use.

**Action item: The disbursement of PIC funds.** Paulette requested that PIC funds be used to send parent volunteers to ZOOZ. There are 10 volunteers and the cost of the ticket is \$16.00 each. Bev Boden advised that a motion from February's Council meeting that we utilize remaining PIC funds (after babysitting costs) to pay for parent volunteers to attend year end trips was voted on and carried at that meeting and therefore, the funds can be used.

**Action item: Keep track of money spent and IF there is any left over at the end of year, use it to entice new parents to attend council meetings (ongoing).**

**Action item: Paulette Hayward will post the minutes of each School Council meeting on the Jacob Beam School website. The Chair will be responsible for advising Mrs. Hayward when the minutes have been approved and ready for posting (ongoing).**

**Principal's Report—Chris Waler**

**Principal's Report for School Council- April 24, 2014**

- Jacob Beam students and staff raised \$215 for autism research - thanks to Kellie Svoljsak and Tina Snedden
- grade 3 students participated in the Swim to Survive program at the Y in Grimsby (three lessons)
- kindergarten students went to St. John's for their Lambs program on April 1st
- DSBN Road Race is being held on Sunday, April 27th
  
- a four year old Jacob Beam student donated her hair to Locks for Love
- Track & Field will be held on Wednesday, May 7th at Mohawk (school event for gr. 3 - 8); the regional will be on Tuesday, May 13th; the district will be on Monday, June 9th.
- Our Book Fair is taking place from April 22nd through the 25th - thanks to Laurie Arsenault and Kellie Svoljsak for volunteering

- Our badminton tournament is being held Friday, April 25th
- we had a pancake breakfast on Shrove Tuesday for students and parents; it was very well attended
- Students in 1 - 8 went bowling as a whole school on Thursday, March 6th. Students travelled in their house teams and had a great time
- our special spirit days included Tropical Day, Twin Day, Dress Like a Staff Member, and Dress Like Your Favourite Book Character (Friday, April 25th)
- students from Jacob Beam attended a chess tournament at Nelles School on March 28th
- junior basketball is now over - our junior boys' team narrowly lost in the final
- Jacob Beam's gymnastics team was very successful at the tournament held at BDSS - we had several top three results
- "Welcome to Kindergarten" (orientation for new students) is being held on Wednesday, May 28th during the school day so new students can take a bus ride and parents can see the actual classroom in action
- Jump Rope for Heart is coming up in May - kick off is Monday, May 12th; event is on Friday, May 23rd
- EQAO for grades 3 and 6 will take place during the last week in May and the first week in June
- Mrs. Hayward has revised our School Council nomination form and will send it out with info on School Council with registration forms in September
- primary and junior divisions will be going to Zooz as their end of the year trip on Tuesday, June 24th; kindergarten students will be going to Leofest in St. Catharines on Wednesday, June 11th
- Intermediate students will be going to Camp Wenonah from June 9th through June 13th
- Our grade 8 graduation will take place on Thursday, June 26th.
- Thanks to our chess, badminton, basketball, and gymnastics coaches: Mrs. Mathieson, Mrs. MacMillan, Mr. Fung, Mr. Millin, Mrs. Whitehead, Mrs. Haney, Mr. Chuchman, Mrs. Phillips, Ms. Penley, Mrs. Woodland for all their hard work in coaching our teams
- Our student teacher, Ms. Alcorn, started a card club for junior students
- We are starting the staffing process for next year. Our official predicted enrolment is 237. We currently have 240 students.

### **Connect Conference**

Please consider attending the Connect Conference in Niagara Falls on May 8th and/or 9th, a technology conference organized by the DSBN. Parents can attend with a "hall pass" free of charge that will allow them to walk around the exhibits and learn about present and future technology that will shape students' futures in four key areas: mobile, social, cloud, and information technology. Parents can learn more about digital citizenship, cyber bullying, plagiarism, copyrights, etc. They will learn more about the STEAM model which incorporates science, technology, engineering, and math. Please let Mrs. Waler know if you are interested in going and she will forward the names to Eleanore Novak.

### **Municipal Elections Info for School Councils (Monday, October 27, 2014)**

School councils are agents of the school and the DSBN and are bound by the same guidelines as the school. It is not appropriate for the school council as a group to endorse a specific trustee candidate or to campaign on behalf of a specific candidate. The council could, however, *host an all-candidates meeting* to assist parents in learning more about all the candidates. The council shall not distribute information on behalf of, or about, a specific candidate. If it is the normal practice of the school council to meet regularly with the local trustee(s), those meetings can continue as they usually would. Otherwise, individual candidates are not permitted to meet with the council during the campaign period. A school council chair or member who is also a candidate for election as trustee may continue in their elected role for the remainder of the 2013-14 school year. However, they must not use their role to promote their campaign while they are serving in the role of school council member. They are not allowed to distribute campaign material on school property or to discuss their campaign during council meetings.

### **Financial Report—Chris Waler**

Chris reported that the bank account balance in our general account stood at \$756.29.

The question was raised as to whether the School Council should be receiving the H.S.T. tax rebate on each of Council's initiated fundraising projects, as it shows up on our financial statements but the funds are not in Council's bank accounts. Chris explained that according to Paulette, the tax rebate does not belong to Council and these funds are used within the school budget.

Motion: That copies of the School Council bank accounts/monthly financial statements be printed and available at each School Council meeting commencing May 2014. Moved by Gina Allan. Seconded: Liz Martinez. Carried.

### **Code of Conduct—Chris Waler**

The "Jacob Beam Public School Code of Conduct 2014/15" was circulated to parents and Chris touched on some of the changes made (as noted by the applicable section being underlined).

Motion to accept the Code of Conduct, as amended: Mary Jastremski. Seconded: Irene Petsinis. Carried.

### **Pro Grant—Chris Waler**

Chris advised that the Pro Grant is a \$1000.00 grant available to schools and must be applied for by May 16<sup>th</sup> and can be used in the following school year. We did not apply for this grant last year. It is intended to encourage parents to be involved in school based initiatives and to reach parents who face barriers to becoming involved in their child's education. Chris advised

that the application was very lengthy and in the past, Jacob Beam partnered with Vineland to bring out a speaker. Unfortunately, only a handful of people attended this event. Laurie Arsenault advised that she had investigated possible uses of the grant and discovered that the majority of the money was spent on speakers. Chris posed the question as to whether we wanted to apply. She would have to do the application and it would be signed by the Chair. Discussion ensued as to the fact that in the past there was difficulty getting parents to attend for speakers. Gina suggested Laurie Flasko, who does presentations on bullying. She also suggested that there has been success in the Niagara Falls Catholic Elementary Schools with internet safety/cyber bullying topics, which seems to hold the students attention. A suggestion was made that we could combine a spaghetti dinner with a speaker to encourage attendance.

**Action item: Ms. Mathieson advised that she will get feedback on a cyber-bullying speaker that other schools have had, to see if it would be worth booking for Jacob Beam.**

**Action item: Chris Waler will prepare the grant application which will be sent in before the May 16 deadline.**

#### **Fundraising Committee—Irene Petsinis/Laurie Arsenault**

Flower Fundraiser is approaching. Fundraising committee hopes the letter will be sent home by Friday April 25, with the order forms being returned to the school by Wednesday, April 30. The Mother's Day flowers will be delivered Friday May 9 and are to be picked up between 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

**Action item: Decide on monetary commitment to Kindergarten outdoor play area (Done).**

**Motion: The Mother's Day Flower profits will be used for the purchase of outdoor play equipment for the junior and senior kindergarten classes. Moved by Laurie Arsenault. Seconded by Liz Martinez. Carried.**

**Action item: Mrs. Hayward will prepare the notice for the Mother's Day Flower fundraiser to be sent home.**

There was some discussion of the possibility of doing a rain barrel fundraiser. The profit on a barrel worth \$50.00 was only \$10.00. It was decided that this would not be pursued as there was a lot of work for very little profit.

Irene advised that Kellie had not been able to get in touch with anyone from the Waterpark but will try again and provide us with the information on this possible fundraising endeavour.

**Action item: Kellie will continue her efforts to get information from Build a Bear and the Waterpark regarding fundraising opportunities to present to Council and see if this will be worth pursuing.**

Irene suggested that we should try to do one big fundraiser as opposed to several smaller ones, as the parents get tired of putting out money constantly. There was a suggestion to do a chocolate bar fundraiser again. "Simply Delicious" sells chocolate bars for \$2.00 each. In the past, our chocolate bar fundraisers with other companies, have generated profits of \$3500.00 to \$4000.00. Members present concurred that this type of fundraiser tends to be quick, easy and make a decent profit.

**Action item: Laurie will contact Simply Delicious to ascertain what the profit margin is for this fundraiser. Laurie also agreed to look into a "seed" selling fundraiser.**

#### **Green Committee—Liz Martinez**

Mark your calendars for a spring/yard clean up on Friday, May 9, commencing at 6:00 p.m. Pizza will be provided for all those who help out. This date coincides with the Mother's Day plant pick up.

**Action item: Paulette Hayward will send a notice home to parents requesting assistance with spring/yard clean up, including fact that pizza will be provided to helpers.**

Again this year, Mrs. Creechin has arranged for mulch to be delivered which will be spread on our front gardens. This will be in place for graduation on June 26. Laurie Arsenault advised that in the past, ferns for the stage have been purchased from Hendriks Greenhouses for \$10.00 and after the graduation ceremony, parents usually buy them.

**Action item: Liz will contact Nancy Christie at Ridgeview Garden Centre regarding loaning of large urn planters for entrance way for graduation.**

#### **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: Ms. Mathieson requests a list of Council fundraisers and possible proposed dates to prevent duplication and overlap by school.**

#### **Next Meeting**

Thursday, May 22, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

