

Jacob Beam Public School Meeting Minutes May 21, 2015

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

In attendance: Christine Waler (principal), Bev Boden, Kathy Horton, Gina Allan, Liz Martinez, Krista Capes, Laurie Arsenault, Irene Petsinis, Rachael LeBlanc, Sarah Bacchus, Mya Capes (student rep) and Abbey Parker (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 Irene Petsinis to accept the minutes. Seconded by Laurie Arsenault. Carried.

Student Report—Mya Capes and Abbey Parker

The valedictorians for this year's grade 8 graduation will be Charlotte Martin and Robert Freeman. Every other Friday, the students will be selling frozen treats for \$1.00. Camp will be from June 8-12. Today the students participated in the Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser. It was a great day for it. There will be a new way of selecting students who want to read the morning announcements and who want to volunteer for student secretary. Starting in June, there will be try outs for the announcer's position. There will be an "application" process, for those students interested in becoming a student secretary.

Chair's Report—Bev Boden

Follow up items from April 23 meeting:

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. DONE—Thanks to Cassie for purchasing food.

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. DONE—Thanks to Krista for making the flyer look great.

Action item: Irene Petsinis and Laura Mathieson will coordinate efforts to do a media release in local papers closer to May 19. **DONE—Thanks Irene for attending the local papers and placing the announcement. Irene was under the impression that the Grimsby paper was planning on having a reporter attend the Internet Safety Presentation. They were a no show.**

Action item: Chris will purchase gift cards for door prizes for persons who have pre-registered using money from the Pro Grant. **DONE—Chris purchased some books and 1 gift card to give out as door prizes.**

Action item: Chris will put out a call for volunteers to help set up and tear down closer to the day of the presentation. **DONE—There were enough volunteers to set up and clean up.**

2014 Jacob Beam School Council Account Balance—Chris Waler

Opening Balances

Playground Account: \$2398.23

General Account: \$2794.29

Closing Balances

Playground Account: \$2119.88

General Account: \$8191.29

The Playground Account was reduced by \$278.35 as there were \$158.35 worth of minor repairs to the slide and swings completed and included \$120.00 for babysitting. It was discovered that an error occurred and that the \$120.00 for babysitting costs should have been taken from the General Account and not the playground account.

The General Account had increased by \$5397.00, from the sale of the chocolate bars to date.

Note The chocolate bar sales profits are not final. The bill for the chocolate bars has ***not*** been paid to the company as there are still 15 families that have not returned unsold chocolate bars or money. A letter has been sent home requesting immediate attention to the return of either/both. Laurie will follow up with a phone call. Laurie had originally ordered 75 boxes but returned 10. She figures that the profit will be approximately \$3600 if the families sell the chocolates and return the money. If they return unsold chocolates, the profit will be approximately \$2800-\$2900.

PIC Funds

There was a balance of \$380.00 as of the last meeting. After paying the babysitters for tonight, the balance will be \$360.00. So far this year, the money used for the PIC fund has gone towards babysitters for the children of parents who attend School Council meetings.

Motion by Bev Boden to use \$200.00 for the purchase and installation of a bookshelf/bookcase for the hall. Any money left over from the \$200.00 can be used to purchase books. The shelf will be similar to those in the library (IKEA cube storage shelving unit). Seconded by Liz Martinez. Carried.

Action item: Once approval has been granted by the Fire Department, 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. **PENDING**—Chris has called and subsequently sent a letter to the Fire Department, requesting their approval to set up the bookshelf, as it may restrict the flow of pedestrian traffic. So far, she has not received any response to her requests.

Social Networking Safety Speaker Night—May 19

We had 36 people attend the Social Networking Safety night. It was a fantastic presentation by Paul Davis. It was informative and entertaining and he had the attention of the parents but most importantly, had the students' complete attention when he presented to them earlier that day at two separate assemblies. His website is www.socialnetworkingsafety.net

Code of Conduct and By-Laws

Chris advised that she has made no changes to the Code of Conduct since it was last presented to the School Council. Laurie Arsenault advised that she went through the by-laws and as long as all are in agreement with the number of meetings being at least 4 per year and 15 members to vote, then they should be fine to pass. Chris advised that there have been no changes by the Ministry as far as number of meetings. There will need to be a review of the by-laws again in 2017.

Motion to approve the Code of Conduct as written by Liz Martinez. Seconded by Laurie Arsenault. Carried.

Motion by Laurie Arsenault to accept by-laws as written. Seconded by Bev Boden. Carried.

Kindergarten Equipment

Mrs. Haney and Mr. Fung have provided pictures/ideas of four pieces of equipment that they would like to purchase. Their first choice was a climbing piece that totaled approximately \$14,432. As this is very expensive, they would like to purchase the climbing tunnel. The cost from the company, New World Park Solutions Inc., would be \$6045 which includes installation. Chris would put this out for tender and the price could potentially be lower.

Motion by Irene Petsinis that School Council allocate \$4500.00 to the Kindergarten KLP programme to be used toward the purchase of their choice of outdoor play equipment. Seconded by Liz Martinez. Carried.

School Sign

Chris provided a photograph of the outdoor sign at Woodland Public School, as a suggestion for what the council could consider for their fundraising efforts next year. The purchase of a sign similar to this would be approximately \$5000. Electronic signs range from 10,000-15,000. Laurie suggested that funds from the school's magazine fundraiser be used to purchase the new sign. Chris will consider this option.

End of Year Social

Cassie had contacted Bev to offer her home as the venue for the end of year. She has offered to prepare the food again this year. There is \$160.00 remaining from the PIC funds to put toward the social. The suggested date is Thursday, June 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Principal's Report—Chris Waler

- **Staffing Update:** Kelly Fung and Amy Woodland will be leaving Jacob Beam at the end of this school year. Mr. Fung is leaving to accept a position at the new Harriet Tubman School in St. Catharines and Mrs. Woodland has accepted a position as Instructional Coach in Area 4 (St. Catharines). We will miss both teachers very much and thank them for their service to Jacob Beam. As reported earlier, Mr. Shanks is also leaving to take a full time position at Park School. In addition, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs. Feduck who is finishing up a long term contract. Mr. Robinson will be returning to his Grade 7 homeroom class as of June 1st. We are very grateful to Ms. Christie for doing such a great job. We do not have our EA allocation yet however, we do know that one of our kindergarten classes will not have an ECE. Katie Canal will be leaving our school as a result. Katie has been a breath of fresh air and will be greatly missed. As you are already

aware, the Bridge Program will be leaving our school. Mr. Medhurst , teacher, and Ms. Tucker, educational assistant will be leaving as well.

- Joining our staff next year will be Mrs. D'Intino who will teach our 4/5 homeroom. Mrs. D'Intino (formerly Ms. Warkenton from the Bridge Program) and Mrs. Zulauf who will teach the Structured Strategies Program. Both look forward to joining our team.
- Thanks to Jordan and Gina Allan and Krista and Mya Capes for cleaning our front yard. It looks beautiful!
- Thanks to Cassie for purchasing all the food for our Social Media Safety Speaker night. Thanks to Laurie, Bev, Gina, Irene, Marlene MacMillan and her husband, Sandro, and Katie Canal for helping us. Thanks to Krista for doing the promotional material and Irene for contacting the media. The feedback on the presentation has been very positive. I have applied for a PRO Grant for next year (the deadline was May 19th) related to organizing another math night for parents.
- Our playground pea gravel has been rototilled (approx. \$160.00). There are a few other repairs that must be done to the equipment.
- Normally, at this time of the year, students in Grades 3 and 6 would be preparing to write the EQAO assessment, which provides a snapshot of student learning in reading, writing, and math. Due to the current labour action, EQAO will not be sending assessment materials at this time to English-language school board in Ontario, therefore, our students will not be writing the assessment beginning on Monday, May 25th as previously planned.
- Track & Field at Mohawk was a great success, once again. Thanks to the Mr. & Mrs. Arsenault and Mrs. Petsinis for running our Snack Shack sales. We will be looking at moving our school Track & Field event to BDSS next year as regionals now take place at the NOC in St. Catharines.
- Our Welcome to Kindergarten event is being held on Thursday, May 28th from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- Our annual rooftop photo was taken on Wednesday, May 20th
- Our next school year begins on Tuesday, September 8th
- Our Jump Rope for Heart event took place on Thursday, May 21st
- Our Holiday Gift Shoppe will be held December 10th and 11th next year. Thanks, Irene.

- We have had our roundabout, parking, and hopscotch/basketball lines re-painted
- We are expecting (cross your fingers) 48 lockers for our intermediate students and we plan to build shoe/boot cubbies (subject to approval from the fire department)

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

Chocolate bar fundraising initiative has been addressed in the "Account Balance" section of these minutes.

Ideas for next September's fundraisers were discussed:

- Basket Raffle
- Spring chocolate bar sale
- Vendor Fair—could coordinate the date with Trinity United Church's bazaar in November
- Gift card fundraiser—this could also be included with the Vendor Fair

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

Two beds were cleaned of leaves, weeds and debris last weekend. We would like to clean the beds near the kindergarten fence and under the Principal's office windows as well. Tuesday, June 9th at 4:30 p.m. will be dedicated to this yard clean up. Once the beds are tidied, Mrs. Creechan will make the call and order mulch for all garden beds.

Action item: Chris to send a Remind out to parents asking them to attend yard clean up on Tuesday June 9th at 4:30 p.m.

Action item: Chris will have Mrs. Creechan call for mulch for the gardens prior to grad.

Committee Reports—Communications—Member is Irene Petsinis

Nothing to report.

New Business/Ongoing Items—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.

Action item: Commit to fundraisers for the 2015/2016 school year at September's school council meeting to avoid overlap with school fundraising efforts (PENDING).

Future Meeting Date

June Social: Thursday, June 18, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. to be held at Cassie McNiven's house.

