

**Jacob Beam Public School Meeting Minutes
May 22, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by Bev Boden at 6:33 p.m. in the library.

In attendance: Christine Waler (Principal), Laura Mathieson (Teacher Rep), Bev Boden, Kathy Horton, Gina Allan, Liz Martinez, Krista Capes, Cassie McNiven, Kellie Svoljsak, Emily Cook (Student Rep)

Regrets: Laurie Arsenault, Michelle Weiss, Irene Petsinis

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 24, 2014 meeting were distributed.

Motion to accept the minutes: Kellie Svoljsak. Seconded by Liz Martinez. Carried.

Student Report—Emily Cook

The majority of the grade 7 and 8 class is going to camp. The dance and decorations for grad are coming along nicely. There will be an after graduation dinner and dance at the Lion's Club on Mountain Street in Beamsville. In class, the grade 8 class is working on poetry and narratives. This is going well and the class just finished reading "A Long Walk to Water". Kellie asked if there was any place where the students' poetry can be submitted. Chris advised that sometimes the Standard newspaper takes submissions. Track and Field is finished and the District meet takes place on June 9. The next "in school" sporting activity will be 3 pitch for the juniors and also for the intermediates.

Chair's Report—Bev Boden

Action items from April's meeting were addressed:

Action item: Laurie Arsenault has agreed to continue trying to contact someone from DeSantis Homes to seek funding for the playground (ongoing). No report from Laurie who was absent for this 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. Kellie advised that she would be willing to approach businesses for donations throughout the summer. Chris advised that there is a form letter that can be used and she will have Paulette prepare something suitable that can be used by Kellie when she approaches the local businesses.

Action item: Paulette to prepare a fundraising letter that can be taken to local businesses.

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

Chris is still waiting for a list however, Mrs. Haney has indicated that she would like the climbing logs similar to those owned by Senator Gibson for the outdoor play area.

Note: The bunker has arrived and is situated outside the kindergarten class room outer doors. The kindergarten teachers have some ideas as to how they would like it repainted/decorated.

Action item: Anyone interested in helping with this is asked to contact Mrs. Haney.

Action item: The disbursement of PIC funds. There should be approximately \$169.00 left over in the PIC fund, after paying \$140.00 for babysitting, \$160.00 for parent chaperones at year end trips, \$31.00 was also spent paying for pizza for yard clean up volunteers. Motion: to use remaining PIC funds to purchase food and refreshments for yearend social: Cassie McNiven. Seconded: Kellie Svoljsak. Carried.

Action item: Chris will ask Paulette to include a section for PIC fund disbursements on the monthly School Council Account Balance sheet.

Action item: Paulette 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). Bev advised that she has contacted Paulette and requested that the approved minutes be posted on the Jacob Beam website (October 2, 2013, October 24, 2013, November 21, 2013, January 23, 2014, February 27, 2014, and April 24, 2014).

Action item: Ms. Mathieson requests a list of Council fundraisers and possible proposed dates to prevent duplication and overlap by school. Ms. Mathieson provided a form to Council that can be used next year when coordinating School Council fundraising projects with the school.

Code of Conduct revisions from approved from April's meeting have been applied.

Principal's Report—Chris Waler

Principal's Report for School Council- May 22, 2014

- Changes in staffing: Mrs. Phillips, our Learning Resource Teacher, has accepted the role of instructional coach in our area next year which means she will not be our Learning Resource Teacher. We hope that she will remain connected to our school as an

instructional coach. Mrs. Behnke, our grade 3 teacher, has accepted a position at Smith School and will be leaving Jacob Beam. Staffing is still very fluid. We have not yet finalized assignments for next year.

- EQAO begins on Monday, May 26th and ends on Friday, June 6th.
- Track & Field was a huge success once again. Thanks to our parents, Mr. & Mrs. Arsenault, Mrs. Petsinis, and Mrs. Svoljsak for running the Snack Shack sales. All funds raised go back into the Track & Field program. Seventy of our students went on to the regional meet. Jacob Beam's Atom Boys' group placed first overall in their division. Way to go! The district meet is at the Niagara Olympic Club in St. Catharines on Monday, June 9th.
- Our "Welcome to Kindergarten" event is on Wednesday, May 28th at 9:00 a.m. New students will have the opportunity to ride on a school bus and parents will be given a great deal of information on kindergarten resources.
- Our annual rooftop photo was taken on Wednesday, May 21st.
- Our Jump Rope for Heart event is on Friday, May 23rd.
- Three of our students participated in Beamsville's Got Talent at BDSS on April 24th. Chris Phillips, in grade 6, won the Best Spirit award.
- Students in grades 4 through 8 have now completed the "Tell Them from Me", an anonymous survey on Bullying.

Highlights:

Grades 4 through 6:

- 25% of student in grades 4 through 6 reported being victims of moderate to severe bullying in the previous month. The Canada norm is 26%.

- 85% of students felt safe attending the school; the Canada norm is 87%.

Grades 7 & 8:

- 33% of students in grades 7 and 8 reported being victims of moderate to severe bullying in the previous month. The Canada norm is 26%.

- 84% of the girls and 65% of the boys in grades 7 and 8 felt safe attending the school. The Canada norm is 85% for girls and 83% for boys.

- We had a "Bullying Hurts" presentation to all students in grades 1 through 6 on Tuesday, May 20th. It was very moving and meaningful to all students.
- **School Year Calendar for 14/15:**
 - School begins on Tuesday, September 2nd
 - Christmas Break: December 22nd through January 2nd inclusive
 - March Break: March 16th through March 20th inclusive
 - School ends on Thursday, June 25th
 - Early Release Days are on September 12th and February 13th
 - Professional Activity Days are on October 10th, November 14th, January 16th, May 15th, June 12th, and June 26th

There was some discussion generated over the results of the survey; specifically, that only 65% of the boys surveyed said they felt safe at school. It was felt by most in attendance that perhaps because the survey was anonymous, some didn't take it seriously. Chris advised that she will address this to ensure that the results are truly reflective of the survey's intended purpose.

Cassie and Kellie enquired whether School Council was invited to be present at the Welcome to Kindergarten. Chris invited members to attend for the purpose of handing out School Council brochures.

Financial Report—as prepared by Paulette Hayward

2013-2014 Jacob Beam School Council Account Balance

April 24—General Account Opening Balance	\$756.29
May 22---Mother's Day Flowers	\$312.50
Balance—As of May 22	\$1068.79

There has been no change this month to the funds in the playground account, which stands at \$2398.23.

Pro Grant—Chris Waler

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

Chris suggested that if we receive the Pro Grant funds for next year, we could bring in a speaker and combine it with a spaghetti dinner fundraiser. The speaker's costs would be covered by the grant money and we could charge for the dinner. Antipasto's was suggested as a company that might provide the catering of this meal. If interested this could also be the venue to do a basket raffle.

Action item: Chose a date to have a spaghetti dinner/speaker/basket raffle—tabled to September 2014 meeting. (Note: There are still a number of items left over for a future basket raffle).

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. Mrs. Mathieson provided the name of a speaker who does presentations on bullying to all grade levels. This speaker attended her child's school and gave a very powerful presentation. His name is Paul Davis and he has a website. This may be a possibility for possible "Pro Grant" funds and perhaps coordinate his speaking engagement with a fundraiser spaghetti dinner in the new school year (2014/2015).

Fundraising Committee—Cassie McNiven/Kellie Svoljsak

Bev proposed that we need to make a decision about things for which we would like to fundraise at the commencement of each School Council year, for example; library, kindergarten toys, new school sign.

Action item: Prepare a list of possible items needed and fundraise towards reaching that goal—tabled to September 2014's meeting.

The sign at the front of the school is somewhat unsafe. Kellie advised that she was cut by it and that one side of the sign no longer is held up on its own.

Action item: Chris will contact the Board and inquire if the DSBN is responsible for providing the funds for a new school sign.

Build a Bear's standard donation is a \$10.00 gift card. The bears generally cost \$90.00. It was determined not to be worth pursuing, as it was too expensive. Great Wolf Lodge may be worth pursuing for a gift certificate for a night stay and admission to their waterpark for a family. This item could be used as a fundraiser incentive which could be raffled off.

Action item: Kellie and Cassie will work on obtaining waterpark/hotel stays as donations—tabled to next meeting.

The Mother's Day Flower Fundraiser raised \$312.50. Cassie was a little disappointed with the amount raised however stated that she doesn't mind doing it, as she sees it as providing a

service and there is minimal work involved. Discussion ensued regarding the merits of doing one large fundraiser and it seems that selling chocolate bars is the easiest way to make the largest profit at once.

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. No report from Laurie on this as yet—to be tabled to next meeting.

Cassie mentioned that she would like to look into some new options for lunches. Pita Pit was one suggestion. She also thought that we could use the lunches as a small fundraiser, for example, if the sub cost \$4.50, to charge \$5.00 and make a .50 cent profit.

Green Committee—Liz Martinez

Spring/yard clean up took place on Friday, May 9, at 6:00 p.m. The rain held off but the ground was soft, so pulling weeds was not too difficult. Pizza was provided by School Council for those who helped out. Mulch will be coming in but it is unknown when that will be happening. For the fall clean up, we may need to look at pruning or removing some dead bushes in the garden under the office window.

Action item: Liz will contact Nancy Christie at Ridgeview Garden Centre regarding loaning of large urn planters for entrance way for graduation. Grad committee decided not to buy any plants or use urns for the graduation.

Communication Committee—Kellie Svoljsak

No report.

Action item: Chris will make a request via the newsletter for donations of clothes for Serbia.

New/Ongoing Business

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

Next Meeting

TBA—Social at Cassie McNiven’s house in June. Cassie will cater the event and provide receipts to Paulette.

Organizational meeting—Thursday, September 25, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

