

Jacob Beam Public School Meeting Minutes September 24, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Chris Waler at 6:00 p.m. in the library.

In attendance: Christine Waler (Principal), Laura Mathieson (Teacher Rep), Bev Boden, Kathy Horton, Gina Allan, Liz Martinez, Cassie McNiven, Laurie Arsenault, Irene Petsinis, Michelle Dawson, Leah Genovese, Sarah Bacchus and Rachael LeBlanc.

Regrets: Krista Capes

Approval of Minutes

There were no minutes for approval, as the June meeting was a "social".

Pita Pit Presentation

Cassie McNiven introduced Alan and Renna from the Pita Pit. They made a presentation to council offering a healthy option for school lunches. They brought samples of the pitas that could be offered to students for their lunches, which a number of council members tried. They advised that they follow the Ontario school lunch programme guidelines and in fact, exceed the standards set. They use nut free bread. There are no "snacks" offered, so therefore they can guarantee that their product is nut free. They service 45-50 schools in the area and there has been no reported allergy contamination. There is virtually no work on our part to this. They offer four (4) varieties of pitas on 6' whole wheat pitas. They will charge \$4.00/pita and we can decide if we want to add to that price to make it a fundraising project. There are no minimum orders and they can do pita orders as many times a month as we wish. They also offer 9" pitas for the teachers at a cost of \$6.00.

Discussion ensued after presentation was made. Will it replace Subway or Pizza days? Could we try alternating with Subway? The pitas seem a little small. Chris advised that our new school secretary, Karen McNeil, has not yet made any arrangements with Subway and that she will follow up with whichever food provider we select.

Action Item: A suggestion was made to try Pita Pit for 1 month at \$5.00 and see how satisfied the students are with the taste. After the first month, we will know if they prefer Subway or Pita Pit. The \$5.00 charge will cover the money the school makes off Subway sales, which funds transportation costs.

Action Item: Cassie offered to call Alan and Renna and ask if they can add extra lettuce/veggies to fill the pita a little more, as the consensus was that they seemed small for the price.

Election of Officers

Chris Waler advised there were here (3) positions up for election: Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. Chris introduced the current members who fill those positions and called for anyone interested in the position or nominations for the position to let her know.

Bev Boden was nominated by Gina Allan for the position of Chair. Seconded by Cassie McNiven. There were no other nominations for Chair and Bev was acclaimed.

Bev Boden nominated Cassie McNiven for the position of Vice Chair. No one else stood for the position and Cassie was acclaimed.

Gina Allan and Kathy Horton offered to continue as co-secretaries. No other persons were nominated or stood. Gina and Kathy were acclaimed.

Principal's Report—Chris Waler

Principal's Report for School Council- September 24, 2014

- Welcome to our new staff members, Mr. Shanks (gr. 4/5), Mrs. Feduck (gr 7/8), and Miss Lysiak (French), Mr. Medhurst (Bridge), Mrs. MacNeil (secretary)
- Our predicted enrolment was 237. We currently have 235 students.
- We now have a fence protecting our kindergarten students from wayward balls that have ended up on the road in the past.
- Our "Meet the Staff" event (a barbeque) was well attended and well received
- Photo Day is Friday, September 26th
- We are continuing our House Team system this year to build community. We are also continuing our Me to We initiative.

EQAO results for Jacob Beam, 2013 - 14:

Results: the percent of students achieving level 3 and above

Grade 3 Reading: 65% (up 17 percentage points from last year)

Grade 3 Writing: 77%

Grade 3 Math: 69%

(35% of our grade 3 students had special education needs excluding gifted)

Grade 6 Reading: 80%

Grade 6 Writing: 67%

Grade 6 Math: 47% (up 20 percentage points from last year)

(30% of our grade 6 students had special education needs excluding gifted)



Financial Report—Chris Waler

2014 Jacob Beam School Council Account Balance

September 24—General Account Opening Balance	\$1068.78
September 24—Playground Maintenance Account	\$2398.23

Other Business—Bev Boden

Bev gave a short description of the three (3) sub committees: Green, Communications and Fundraising.

Green committee volunteers will be Gina Allan, Liz Martinez, Krista Capes and Sarah Bacchus.

Communications committee will be responsible for changing the front sign and providing council information for the monthly school newsletter. Volunteers will also communicate with local paper regarding matters of interest involving Jacob Beam that are newsworthy. Irene Petsinis will continue with the Communications committee and volunteers are welcome to sign up.

Fundraising Committee will meet to discuss and follow up on ways to fundraise. Members of this committee are Cassie McNiven, Laurie Arsenault and Michelle Dawson.

Bev asked Chris to have a wish list, items for which we can fundraise for next month's meeting. Some ideas suggested:

Play equipment for the kindergarten classes. Chris has requested a detailed list of equipment and toys along with their prices from Shelley Haney and is waiting for the list. The area has a problem with tree roots sticking out of the ground, causing children to trip. This is a safety concern that has to be addressed by the board. Chris would like to see this area paved. We now have a fence near the kindergarten doors, the bunker and a sandbox.

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

Chris is 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. The colourful tri-basket basketball equipment was also mentioned as a piece of equipment that would be welcomed.

Money to purchase new books for the library. Typically, \$1000.00 is spent on the purchase of books. Jacob Beam will be having a book fair in November.

Google Chrome books. These computers cost between \$250.00 and \$300.00. The school does get a technology allocation and Chris is waiting on that to find out how much it will be. Traditionally, it has been approximately \$3000.00. It would be nice to use fundraising dollars to purchase a full class set.

Team Uniforms. New team uniforms are another fundraising idea.

Last year, an application for a PIC (Parent Involvement Committee) grant was submitted. The funds were to be used to bring in a speaker on cyber bullying. Chris advised that we were successful in our request for the grant. In addition, we thought to combine the speaker with a spaghetti dinner and basket raffle. Chris advised that Jacob Beam will be purchasing a BBQ, so instead of a spaghetti dinner, a BBQ may also work. She would like to see more events like the Meet the Staff event, which was successful and felt like a family function. She feels that the purchase of the new BBQ will lend itself to more of these types of events.

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). **(Pending)**

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). **(Ms. Mathieson brought information on speaker—to be discussed in October).**

Bev advised that she meets with Chris to discuss the upcoming School Council meetings prior to the meeting (usually the week before). She requested that if someone has an item to discuss, that it be included on the agenda. Items for the agenda should be forwarded to Bev **no later than the Tuesday before** the meeting.

Spirit Wear—Chris advised that there is no longer a parent purchasing Spirit Wear for students. Staff is looking into it for themselves. She knows of 2 companies that sell Spirit Wear and suggested that it might be something to consider and have available for the parent/teacher interview night in November.

Irene Petsinis wanted to mention the Holiday Gift Shop. This event is scheduled for:

Thursday, December 11 (set up and viewing of gifts by the students) and

Friday, December 12 (shopping day).

She will need some volunteers to help with inventory on Tuesday/Wednesday before everything gets set up and then to count inventory after the sale of the merchandise. She advised that we have never used this opportunity as a fundraiser and have always donated any profits to Community Care (usually approximately \$150.00). She asked the council to consider for the next meeting if we wished to use it as a fundraiser this year or continue status quo.

Action item: Vote on whether to make Holiday Gift Shop a fundraiser.

Action item: Discuss Basket raffle fundraiser.

Proposed Meeting Dates

Wednesday, October 22, 2014: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 20, 2014: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 22, 2014: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 5, 2014: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 23, 2014: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

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

June social: TBA

Please note: Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) conference is on Wednesday, November 5th.
Register online at www.dsbn.org

Babysitting will be provided free of charge at all future School Council meetings.

Meeting adjourned.

