

Jacob Beam School Minutes

November 19, 2015

In Attendance: Christine Waler, Kathy Horton, Irene Petsinis, Laurie Arsenault, Rachael LeBlanc, Karen Mills, Jeff Mills, Mel Jones, Cassie McNiven, Michelle Weiss, Krista Capes, Kellie Svoljsak, Samantha Felsbourg

Regrets: Sarah Bacchus, Liz Martinez, Leah Genovese

Students in Attendance: Halle and Mya

1. Call to Order, Introductions – Cassie McNiven (Chair)

2. Grade 8 Student Report:

Harvest Play day and Mathletics - great. Junior volleyball was a success, girls won 4 out of 5 games in the tournament and won at super night.

Progress reports will go out on December 11th. We had a nice Remembrance Day ceremony on November 11th, thank you to Mr. Woelk.

Grade 4 to 6 girls YWCA group is great.

On December 16th we are watching the Peanuts movie, the 15th is the Christmas performance; we are donating hats and mitts, candy grams, basket raffle and turkey dinner

3. Approval of Minutes from October 29, 2015, motion to pass the minutes: First – Jeff Mills, Second – Karen Mills. Any discussion regarding the minutes? No.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes:

The laminator is repaired.

Submitted plant priorities include flattening the back area and new windows.

Kindergarten equipment application has been approved and can now be tendered.

5. Account Balance Update

School Council balance: \$6,158.21 with \$5,000 committed to kindergarten playground equipment. (no change from last report)

Playground Equipment balance (for repairs, pea gravel, etc.): \$2,239.80. The last expense for rototilling (\$150-\$170). (No change from last report)

6. Principal's Report – Christine Waler

Progress reports will go home on December 11th for grades 1 through 8. First term reports for SK through 8 will go home on February 5th. Junior kindergarten observations will take place next week.

Our Christmas concert will take place on Tuesday, December 15, 2015. We will have a dress rehearsal at 1:40pm and a performance at 6:00pm. The concert will feature students in JK through grade 3 this year. We encourage parents/grandparents to attend the afternoon performance if they are available. Karen Mills and Kellie Svoljsak have started soliciting donations for our holiday baskets.

The Holiday Gift Shoppe will take place on Friday, December 11th.

Our kindergarten open house and registration for 2016/17 will take place on Thursday, January 28th.

Our kindergarten equipment proposal has been approved by the Board and is now ready to go to tender.

Our magazine sales were over \$5,000. That means that we will have \$1,700 to spend on library resources. Mr. Woelk visited a book vendor fair and already purchased over \$1,300 in books for our library.

Our Student Council is collecting hats and mittens for children in need in our community.

We are planning a turkey dinner as a community event for our students. We will keep the cost minimal: \$2-\$5. All students will participate regardless of the ability to pay. The turkey dinner will take place on Thursday, December 17th at 1pm in the gym. We will borrow tables from Twenty Valley. Santa and Mrs. Claus are planning to come. Students will eat in their house teams. Thanks to Mrs. MacMillan and Ms. Taylor for organizing the event. We will be looking for parents to help us serve.

We will be starting a Snack Shack, run by our Structured Strategies class, from Monday through Thursday, second break. Students will be able to purchase Ministry approved snacks. Proceeds will go toward our turkey dinner and supporting students in need in our school.

Our whole school is going to see The Peanuts Movie at Landmark Cinemas in St. Catharines on Wednesday, December 16th.

Our intermediate volleyball teams were very successful this season. Our girls team is going to Super Night at Eastdale High School in Welland on Monday, November 23rd at 5pm. Our intermediate boys team did very well and just missed out on going to Super Night.

We had a very successful Book Fair in November. Thanks to Mrs. Arsenault, Mr. Sotola, and Mr. Woelk for making it possible. Our net sales were \$2,193.68. This means that we will be able to purchase \$1,096.84 in resources for our school.

A moving and memorable Remembrance Day ceremony was held on November 11th in our gym.

Our school spirit wear orders and grad hoodie orders have been submitted and should be in before Christmas.

Our intermediate students will have the opportunity to participate in Battle of the Books with other schools in our area. The competition will be in the spring. Ms. Howe will facilitate the club.

School priorities submitted to the plant department for 2015/2016:

- New windows throughout the school
- Level the back area of the school
- Paint the lockers from Twenty Valley
- New roof over the gym
- New drapes in most classrooms

Last year, we asked for an expanded tarmac area for kindergarten students, painting of the school exterior, and new windows. We received our first two priorities.

School Priorities vs. School Improvement Plan: School Priorities are submitted every year and are paid for by the board. We are hoping for 2-3 this year as well. The School Improvement Plan is focused on math.

For Bullying Awareness Week Carrie worked on a “Buddy Bench” project. She asked students “Can kids change the world?” Their response was “No.” They looked at examples, read, watched videos, etc. They came up with ideas on how to be a ‘hidden hero’ to help build empathy. The Buddy Bench idea was an invitation for other kids to be kind and build friendships. RONA in Grimsby donated a bench for free. The kids designed and painted it and made 2 videos. Question: can we send them to the news? Possibly. Thank you Carrie Cochrane.

Question: (Kellie) Does everyone do scholastic book orders? It is up to the teacher, some do.

Education Foundation of Niagara: how we benefit from and support this worthwhile organization. It is a charity that ensures everyone has what they need, i.e. food, clothing, etc. We submit an application for a child who may not have healthy lunches. Can buy snacks for the office.

7. Chair’s Report – Cassie McNiven

- PIC conference learning: Great workshops, Cassie went to a School Council workshop focused on how to bring new parents in and make us more noticeable in the school and community. Have a representative at each event with info, T-shirts “School Council Member.” **Action Item:** Krista can design. Question (Karen): Where will \$ come from? Chris: Every school is given \$500 for school council, some goes to babysitting. **Action Item:** Chris will look into how much \$ from Board. Question: Use money given or lose it? Yes. Motion to do T-shirts. 1st-Kathy Horton, 2nd-Irene Petsinis
- Sub-committee organization/facilitators: Basket Raffle fundraiser – Karen went to 60 businesses (thank you Karen). Karen and Jeff head of basket raffle, with help from Kellie and Mel. Cassie

bought lots of tickets for the raffle. Karen: Wendy's GM was very generous and wants to participate in a lunch program possibly. Christmas giftshop – Irene is co-ordinating, Mel and Kellie helpers. Wednesday afternoon set up (2:50pm). Question: Can we put pictures of the baskets on the school website? **Action Item:** Chris will look into putting pictures up. Communications – nothing to report. Question (Cassie): Have any connections with newspapers? Irene – No. **Action Item:** Carrie will email the Buddy Bench video/pictures to Kellie, Kellie will contact paper, Krista may contact Cogeco. Green Committee – nothing to report.

- School Council Survey – Cassie sent out survey
- Christmas concert and holiday baskets – suggestion: have holiday baskets on display a few days before and give kids the opportunity to see them and buy tickets.
- Calendar for the year

Next meeting is Thursday, January 21, 2016, 6:30pm.

Motion to Adjourn – 1st: Mel Jones, 2nd: Michelle Weiss