

## **Jacob Beam Public School Meeting Minutes October 22, 2014**

*The meeting was called to order by Bev Boden at 6:30 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, Leah Genovese, Sarah Bacchus, Rachael LeBlanc, Krista Capes, Jessica Boyer, Kaitlyn Kelly (Student Rep) and Jordan Allan (Student Rep) .*

*Regrets: Irene Petsinis, Michelle Dawson*

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### **Welcome and Introductions—Bev Boden**

#### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the September meeting had been distributed via email.

*Motion by Laurie Arsenault to accept the minutes. Seconded by Liz Martinez. Carried.*

#### **Student Report—Jordan Allan and Kaitlyn Kelly**

Volleyball teams are doing very well. They have not lost any games to date. The teachers are hoping to get Chrome books and there is a heavy focus on math this year. The kindergarten children went on a field trip to Bry-Ann Farms today. October 30<sup>th</sup> is the Harvest Day Play-date Day. For this, the grade eight students are organizing the games, grade seven students will be leading the games and the younger children will be participating/playing. For Halloween, the Kindergarten to grade 4 students will have a Halloween parade and the students in grades 5 to 8 will have a dance. Pita Pit lunches were great and filling and the students would like to continue with the option of Pitas. A letter went home to the intermediate students asking if they are interested in going to camp or visiting Washington. No decision has been made yet.

#### **Chair's Report—Bev Boden**

Bev advised that we currently have eleven voting members on school council. There had been four parents who had submitted their name to be voting members, however; with the change in secretarial staff at the commencement of the year, the requests had been filed and not discovered until after the September meeting. The following names are submitted for consideration:

- Tanya Woodcox
- Tina Snedden
- Cora Babcock
- Kellie Svoljsak

**(NEW) Action item: This item will be tabled until the November meeting. (Pending).**

The by-laws require voting members not miss more than 2 meetings in a school year or send regrets advising that they can't attend, in order to retain voting status. Bev has requested that if you are unable to attend a meeting, that you email Chris Waler or the Chair prior to the meeting.

Bev advised that some items from our last official meeting last year (May 22, 2014), had not been followed up on at the September meeting. Bev had emailed out the May 22 minutes prior to this evening and requested that anyone who had action items be prepared to speak to them tonight.

### **Follow up items from May 22 meeting:**

**Action item: Laurie Arsenault has agreed to continue trying to contact someone from DeSantis Homes to seek funding for the playground (ongoing).** Laurie will contact DeSantis and get an answer for the November meeting.

**Action item: Paulette to prepare a fundraising letter that can be taken to local businesses.** Chris advised that she had typed up the letter and provided it to Kellie Svoljsak to take to businesses.

**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.** As Kellie was absent, this item will be tabled at the November meeting.

**Action item: Chris to obtain a list of items of need from Shelley Haney.** Chris has the list and will address this later in the meeting.

**Action item: Chris will ask Paulette to include a section for PIC fund disbursements on the monthly School Council Account Balance sheet.** Chris will ask our new secretary, Karen to add this line to our account balance sheet going forward.

**Action item: Chris will contact the Board and inquire if the DSBN is responsible for providing the funds for a new school sign.** Chris checked and they are not responsible to fund this.

**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.** Laurie has information on the Simply Delicious fundraiser which she will explain later in the meeting. She advised that she had not contacted anyone regarding the seed selling.

## **Follow Up items from September 24 meeting:**

**Action item: Chris to obtain a list of items of need from Shelley Haney.** This item will be discussed later on in the meeting.

**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.** Ms. Mathieson has spoken to other colleagues who have had Paul Davis give his talk on "Social Networking Safety". He does a presentation during the day, tailored to the students and then a presentation for adults/parents in the evening. Her colleagues were very impressed and his engagements fill up quickly. Mr. Davis has been booked to come to our school on Tuesday, May 19, 2015. The cost for the speaker is covered by the Pro-Grant.

**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). Chris advised that Jacob Beam now has a large BBQ and we could have a BBQ instead of the spaghetti dinner. It was suggested that we host a BBQ on Tuesday, May 19, 2015, in conjunction with the presentation by Paul Davis. Cassie McNiven suggested that we offer a BBQ "package" to families, which would include food/drinks/snacks for one price.

**(NEW) Action item: Cassie has arranged to coordinate the dinner package and will head up the volunteers closer to the date. (Pending)**

**Action item: Vote on whether to make Holiday Gift Shop a fundraiser. Motion by Laurie Arsenault to continue to donate any profits to Community Care and not make the Holiday Gift Shop a fundraising opportunity for Jacob Beam. Seconded by Liz Martinez. Carried**

**\*Note from September minutes:** The Holiday Gift Shop 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

Liz asked if Jacob Beam does a food drive. Chris advised that they usually collect food twice a year, once being at Halloween through the "Me to We" programme. She reported that we do have Me to We this year but it is now attached to Student Council, which is just getting up and running.

**Action item: Discuss Basket raffle fundraiser.** We agree that we do want to do a basket raffle in conjunction with our Christmas event, which will be held on Wednesday, December 17, 2014. At this time, staff has not decided whether they wish to do a

Christmas concert or something else. Staff is open to ideas. It is the intermediates turn to perform this year, if the Christmas concert is going ahead. Liz Martinez asked whether a concert/event could be conducted with students by their houses (There are 8 colour houses and 10 home room classes).

**(NEW) Action item: Cassie suggested a Penny Sale and will look into organizing this along with the basket raffle.**

**(NEW) Action item: Chris will speak to Mr. Woelk and Mrs. Woodland and ask for a proposal for what will happen that night, suggesting doing something by house teams.**

It was noted that the Book Fair will be held during the week of Parent/Teacher interviews.

### **Principal's Report—Chris Waler**

- Progress reports go home on Thursday, November 6th.
- Our parent-teacher interviews will take place on Tuesday, November 11th after school. Times will vary according to teacher.
- A spirit wear company has been contacted to request sample sizes be available for our parent-teacher interviews on Tuesday, November 11th.
- Our school's focus (School Improvement Plan) this year is on increasing our math achievement; many strategies have been put in place by all teachers; we are also purchasing math resources to support our School Improvement Plan. Our staff worked really hard on the Professional Development Day to identify areas of strength and areas of need in our approach. Our instructional coach, Kelly Phillips, is working with teachers to align resources and build coherence. We are very excited about this year.
- Our school has, once again, purchased Dreambox licences (an interactive math program) for all students in grades K through 4. Dreambox is coming out with a new site for students in grades 5 - 8. We have a representative coming in on October 30th to speak to our teachers about it. Dreambox has proven to be very effective with students in terms of increasing fundamental skills in math. Parents who have access to the internet at home should check it out! A half hour a day will make a huge difference to students.
- Our school has also received a very intense reading support program for children (LLI) in the primary division. We look forward to significant reading gains in children who need the most support.
- We have contacted a line painting company to have the roundabout lines freshly painted and to have hopscotch and four-square painted for kindergarten students.
- Our soccer and cross country season is over and we have just started our volleyball season.
- Our website is currently being updated; please be patient while we work on it.

- We have had the DSBN technology team in to do an audit of our resources. They will be able to convert some of our older netbooks to Chromebooks. We are hoping to purchase a number of Chromebooks to support student learning.
- Please don't forget to send in permission to receive emails if you would like our newsletter delivered to your inbox.
- Representatives from Beamsville District Secondary School will be at Jacob Beam on Tuesday, October 28th at 9:20 a.m. to speak to grade 8 students about the programs available at BDSS.
- On Tuesday, November 4th, all students at Jacob Beam will be treated to a performance from Acoustic Opera, an anti-bullying, fun interactive and engaging act.
- Grade 8 Open House at Beamsville Secondary School will take place on Wednesday, November 19th from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Our grade 8 students will visit BDSS on Wednesday, November 5th.
- The annual PIC (Parent Involvement) conference will take place on Wednesday, November 5th from 4 - 8:30 p.m. at Eden Secondary School in St. Catharines. The theme is THRIVE! Sign up on the DSBN website: [www.dsbm.org](http://www.dsbm.org).
- We have booked a Social Networking Safety speaker, Paul Davis, for May 19th (paid for by approved PRO grant). We will combine the speaker with a family barbeque. We plan to purchase a barbeque for the school with funds raised by Mrs. Creechan's collection of used K-cups and Tassimo cups.
- Our grade 3 students will participate in Swim to Survive in December, 2014. Swim to Survive provides three swimming lessons for children in grade 3 at the Grimsby YMCA. The cost is covered by the Educational Foundation of Niagara.

### **School Improvement Updates—Chris Waler**

- We have a fence now in the kindergarten area and a bunker to store things in.
- There is a large tree with big roots sticking out of the ground where the JK and SK children play. The roots present a tripping hazard. The Board has approved tarmacking this area, which will cover the roots and increase the size of the play area. Due to the weather changing, the paving may not happen until the spring.
- The entire outside of the school has been approved to be repainted.

### **Spirit Wear-Parent Teacher Night—Chris Waler**

There will be a selection of Spirit Wear available to order, with sizes available on the night of the Parent/Teacher interviews, November 11. Leah asked if the Spirit Wear will be at the office for those parents who are not able to attend on the night of the interviews.

**Action item: Chris will ensure that the clothing will be left at the office for approximately one week to facilitate trying on for correct size and ordering.**

## **Pita Pit Feedback—Chris Waler**

**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.**

Feedback from the students has been very positive. The size of the pitas is sufficient to fill most students. There may be a possibility of ordering a 9" pita for the older students once the new Pita Pit opens in Beamsville, as opposed to having them purchase 2-6" pitas for a total of \$10.00. Laurie Arsenault advised that for the month of September, there has been approximately \$150.00-\$160.00 in profit made from the sale of Pita Pit pitas.

**Motion by Gina Allan to continue with the Pita Pit this year instead of Sub Days. Seconded by Krista Capes. Carried.**

## **PIC Funds—Bev Boden**

Bev explained that each year School Council receives a \$500.00 parent involvement grant. This money has to be spent on promoting parent involvement. We pay for babysitting so parents can attend school council meetings. This typically costs \$120.00. This leaves \$380.00 to spend. Bev suggested some ideas: purchase snacks for meetings, purchase food for our end of the year social, use it towards food for BBQ/Speaker night.

**Motion by Liz Martinez to allocated \$250.00 from PIC funds to put towards BBQ/Speaker night on May 19, 2015. Seconded by Rachael LeBlanc. Carried.**

**Motion by Liz Martinez that the remainder of the funds will be used for the end of the year social. Seconded by Laurie Arsenault. Carried.**

## **Fundraising Wish List—Chris Waler**

Chris provided a number of items from various catalogues that have been suggested by Mrs. Haney as useful items for the outdoor kindergarten play area. They are as follows:

- Drive Time signs--\$74.95/set
- Tree House climber--\$649.95
- Octagon Stepping Stools--\$164.95 each or \$949.95 for a set of 6

- Climb and Discover Cave--\$4493.75
- Gym-I-Nee Goal--\$839.00
- Hollowed out synthetic logs for climbing in and on--?

Chris stated that Mrs. Haney and Mr. Fung were very interested in the Climb and Discover Cave but they would be happy to have any of the items. Chris advised that any item over \$2000.00 would have to go to tender. Cassie wondered if Chris had asked parents if they would be interested in donating money directly toward purchasing a big ticket item, particularly if they happen to be passionate about having that item for their child at the school. She said that she had not. Leah asked if swings for the kindergarten students had been considered and asked about the cost of same. The swings would have to be positioned on the tarmac and it is felt that it would be too tight to put the swings in this location.

**Action item: Chris will contact DSNB purchasing and see if Climb and Discover Cave can be purchased cheaper than for \$4493.75 through any other company.**

### **2014 Jacob Beam School Council Account Balance**

October 22—General Account Opening Balance	\$1068.78
October 22—Playground Maintenance Account	\$2398.23

Laurie mentioned that 33% of profits from magazines sales will come back to the school. She has not calculated all of the receipts from the magazine sales.

**Action item: Laurie will have this figure for the November meeting.**

Laurie Arsenault suggested that we prioritize our fundraising goals list.

**Motion by Laurie that our first priority be to put fundraising monies towards the kindergarten play area, our second priority—front sign replacement, our third priority—raise funds for books for the library and last but not least, the purchase of chrome books. Seconded by Sarah Bacchus. Carried.**

### **Committee Reports—Fundraising—Cassie McNiven, Laurie Arsenault and Michelle Dawson**

Cassie advised that Hendriks is not doing planter fundraisers this year. The committee has looked into gift card fundraisers. Laurie found a new company called "Shop and Support", which gives the school 15% off the top. Essentially, families have a choice of over 200 businesses and can order gift cards for these businesses online or with order forms (similar to pita/pizza days). There is an \$8.00-\$12.00 shipping charge and the gift cards would arrive to be

distributed to the families that ordered them. Laurie was told by the company that by running a 2 week shop-a-thon, with 150 families, there is a potential to raise \$35,000.00.

*Motion by Laurie to do a Shop-a-Thon gift card fundraiser for November. Seconded by Sarah. Carried.*

**Action item: Laurie to arrange for gift card fundraiser to take place in November.**

Laurie spoke to the chocolate fundraiser. She advised that there is a 48% profit with "Simply Delicious". The bars are sold for \$2.00 each and there are 30 bars per box, so each box makes \$60.00. World's Finest Chocolate sell for \$3.00 each, with 30 bars per box, so each box makes \$90.00. Simply Delicious will not take back unsold bars, where World's Finest will. Since the preference to sell chocolate bars would be in the spring, this item will be tabled until that time.

**Action item: Decision on company and date to sell chocolate bars as fundraiser. This will be tabled until spring meeting). (Pending).**

Laurie suggested considering Cinnabon Cinnamon Buns fundraiser. No other schools in our area are doing this as a fundraiser and we can make \$3.00 per box on a box of 9 cinnamon buns. They are sold for \$12.00 and we make collect \$3.00. The orders would have to be picked up in Hamilton and distributed.

**Action item: This fundraising idea will be tabled at the November school council meeting for discussion and decision. (Pending).**

Cassie suggested a Boston Pizza fundraiser. Tickets are sold for \$20.00. The school gets \$10.00. Included in the price is gourmet pizza, Caesar salad and pop/tea/coffee. It provides a chance to socialize, as well as making some money for the school.

**Action item: This will be tabled at our November meeting for discussion and decision. (Pending).**

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

No report.

### **Committee Reports—Communications—Member is Irene Petsinis**

No report.

## **Other Business—Bev Boden**

Jessica Boyer suggested that frequent communication of events using email would assist with notifying parents of upcoming events such as fundraising, speakers etc... Chris advised that parents were asked at the beginning of the school year to sign and return a consent form, allow communications via email to be sent to them. They are working on the school website, which, admittedly is very outdated but it is in the process of being updated. Discussion ensued about Facebook as avenue of communicating information to parents.

**(NEW) Action item: Mrs. Mathieson will investigate the possibility of a Jacob Beam Facebook page and present this information to School Council at November's meeting.**

## **Future Meeting Dates**

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 5<sup>th</sup>. For information and to register online, please visit [www.dsbn.org](http://www.dsbn.org)

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

**Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.**

