

MINUTES

James Hillier School Council

November 18, 2014

6:30-8:30 pm

Meeting called by: Chair, Paula Cavan

Present: Marianne Schuts, Lise-Ann Kneabone, Shannon Curry, Monica Meserve, Laura Welsh, Connie Chisholm, Hilary Visheau, Monica Watson, Luan Ferguson, Paula Cavan, Kelly Lunn, Sarah Leppard, Doug Ouellette, Brent Hachborn,

Regrets: Christine Dickson, Nancy Hunsley, Kara Kelly, Jo-Anne O'Keefe, Laura Smutz
Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm.

1. Welcome

- Paula welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for having their picture taken last month to be included in the School Council newsletter. Monica Meserve also posted the pictures on the School Council board which looks great.
- Minutes from the last School Council meeting were reviewed. Sarah Leppard indicated that she and Crystal Sanderson were present at that meeting but this was not reflected in the minutes. This update will be made and Hilary Visheau made a motion to approve the minutes from October 7, 2014 with the missing names to be added. All in favour.

2. Principal's Report- Doug Ouellette

- Program update- Writing & Citizenship- persuasive writing is the focus. Author Eric Walters came and presented at the school which was a positive experience for the students. Students in grades 4, 5 and 6 classes have written essays on the meaning of home as part of a contest to raise money for Habitat for Humanity.
- New School Website- <http://www.granderie.ca/schools/jameshillier>
Doug brought up the new website up and reviewed some of the features. Teacher can add pages that link to the website as well and there is also a school council tab.
- Earth Rangers Presentation- on Tuesday November 25 from 2-2:45pm for students from grade 1 through 8. They will bring live endangered animals in with them.
- Dad's Movember Night- information recently went home about Wednesday November 26 from 6-8 pm for Dad's only at the school (no mustache required). This is the first time this event is happening and a suggestion was made for next year to make it a father/son or child night to encourage more Dad's to come out.

- Christmas Concert- will be held on Wednesday December 17 and there will be an afternoon and evening show as well as a morning rehearsal which can be attended by parents or other family members.
- James Hillier School will celebrate its 65th anniversary in the fall of 2015. Doug indicates there will be events planned in the fall likely linking with events planned by the Hillier foundation. 65th anniversary pins are being looked into and some suggested a time capsule as well.
- Evening custodian changing- Doug advised Mr. Holterman has left and reports he does not yet know who will be filling this position.
- Discussed Ministry request for input into the proposed new health curriculum. Connie Chisholm completed the survey and spoke briefly about the questions.
- Connie also asked Doug about Daily Physical Activity (DPA) and if this is happening on a regular basis as she hears from her children that it is not. Other individuals get the same mixed reports from their children. Doug indicates DPA is to occur for 20 minutes each day that there is no gym.
- Spirit Wear- Doug indicates the art designs are almost ready to go and notes he will likely not have any samples available until the New Year.
- Follow-up items (below)
- Kindergarten night- Staff has requested a bit more time working with the new program and to have parent/teacher interviews completed prior to setting up an information night.
- Student Led Conferences- An adjustment was made so ever child and parent got 15 mins with the teacher for student led conferences. This was to address the privacy issues previously brought up. Doug has sent home an evaluation form to see what parents thought of the student led conferences.

3. Book Fair- Lise-Ann Kneabone

- Thanks to Sarah Leppard and Shannon Curry for helping out. Lise-Ann indicates we received \$1300 worth of books. Magazine order totals not yet available.

4. Treasure's Report- Monica Watson

- Monica Watson handed out the treasurer's report (attached) and reviewed it.
- Hilary Visheau noted a correction on the credit transfer from the cheque writing account in the amount of \$1533. The report indicates the motion occurred in October 2014 but should read June 2013. Monica will update the report to reflect this.
- *Monica made a motion to cover the ongoing cost of paper plates needed for the kindergarten classes to help keep the tables and desk dairy free (approximately \$15/month). Lise-Ann Kneabone seconded. Motioned carried.*
- Hilary noted in the fun fair account the debit for Jump Math books \$520.25 and then credit for the same amount. Doug indicated that in order to obtain the raffle licence for Fun Fair, School Council was required to use the money raised for a specific purpose. He therefore took \$520.25 from the Fun Fair account to purchase Jump Math Books then replaced this amount from his own budget.

5. Fun Fair- Shannon Curry

- Shannon requests money that is currently in fun fair account is left there as they may need to access this for fun fair this year. Date for fun fair will likely be June 9th or 10th. Hilary wondered why we have a dedicated fun fair account and noted we have not had one in past years. Hilary was concerned that the council has not yet decided how much money will be spend on Fun Fair this year and that a dollar amount should not be attached to Fun Fair until council makes a determination of how much Council is willing to spend on Fun Fair this year. Shannon and Christine Dickson will come up with a plan including costs before the next School Council Meeting. A Fun Fair subcommittee will be formed as per the bylaws. Paula will sit on the committee.

6. Trip Assist Discussion- Monica Watson

- Monica handed out a detailed document proposing a medium fundraising goal to have School Council cover the busing expenses of one curriculum based, educational field trip per year per class. Some classes would need to be combined which was all outlined as well. (see attached Trip Assist document) A discussion was had about the various options Monica had calculated out. *Monica Watson made a motion that school council pay \$4233 to cover the cost of bussing expenses of one curriculum based, educational field trip per year per class. as per Option B of the attached Trip Assist document. Sarah Leppard seconded the motion. All in favour.*

7. Spaghetti Dinner

- In the past Spaghetti dinner has raised about \$3000. No specific fundraising goal has been identified. A discussion was had about if funds raised from such an event could be used towards air conditioning even just in the gym. Doug will look into cost of putting air conditioning into the gym. It was agreed spaghetti dinner will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

8. Health and Safety Committee – discussion and report

- The health and safety committee met on October 21, 2014 (see attached minutes) and discussed the yearly issue of ice buildup on the playground and how this results in students spending many days inside at nutrition breaks. Laura Welsh looked into the cost of plowing (\$100/plough- could cost about \$2600 for the winter). Doug indicated the board will not pay for the playground to be ploughed nor will they allow School Council to pay for the cost either for a variety of reasons. A lengthy discussion was had about these reasons and it was decided that Laura Welsh will write a letter on behalf of School Council to the board challenging their position on not ploughing playgrounds. The letter will be shared with council prior to sending.
- Smell that plagues the front hall- Mr. Hachborn and Mr. McGrath's classrooms will be renovated over Christmas break and the cabinets and sinks will be removed. New cabinets will be installed without sinks and the pipe holes from the old heating system will be sealed. They will also replace the asbestos floors

in these rooms at this time. Additionally an exhaust fan is being put into the boiler room and the eaves troughs have been reinstalled to prevent further moisture from getting into the basement.

- Parking Issues- Doug has purchased larger pylons which are now being used.

9. School Council Newsletter

- First issue was great! The next issue will not come out until after our next School Council Meeting.

10. Wrap-up- Paula Cavan

- To do- the letters Hilary was to do will be brought forth to next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Next Meeting- Tuesday January 20, 2014 at 6:30 pm