

Jennie Elliot School Council Meeting Minutes

October 17th, 2023 at 7:00am

1. Call to Order and Review of Agenda
2. Approve of Minutes from meeting as presented (or amended) – Motion by Alicia, seconded by Ryan. Approved.
3. Financial Report given by Brandon
 - \$6k expenses carried over from last year on the “non-casino” side;
 - \$9k expenses carried over from last year on the “casino” side;
 - Will need to remember this and tweak budget going forward potentially;
 - Income from the first fun lunch was \$650 – has been deposited;
 - Motion to approve, Amy, Seconded by Helen.
4. Principal and Teachers Report moved up on the agenda
 - Principal’s report:
 - A number of main office changes, with both Nicki and Leanne out on leave at the same time;
 - Leanne will be off until at least Winter break;
 - Difficult to staff these positions in any school, so finding replacement for them has been difficult;
 - Postings have been for substitutes throughout the week, and hoping for a long term person (through subs or otherwise) but substitutes don’t want to take on long term positions;
 - A previous retired “Admin E” individual has come in recently this week to get a handle on the priorities, but she does not want to be long term because she is retired;
 - Will continue posting training opportunities and trying to entice people as much as possible;
 - Terry has come back to be with the office until the end of month, but still trying to find someone long term as this is not a permanent solution;
 - Parents have been better since they’ve been notified of this short staff issue – but there are still a number of early pickups etc. which is taxing on the front staff;

- Child safety is the most important and everything is more time consuming and difficult than parents maybe realize;
- Wanda, our new AP, has been introduced – she is getting up to speed but it is a steep learning curve with such a big school
- The different groups have come together and the kids have a lot of ideas for the front foyer, including living wall and/or fish tank.
 - a number of their proposals need fine tuning and then the kids themselves will present them;
 - There may be a need for “Student Leadership” money;
- The new curriculum includes a large jump in the expectations of children at their grade, and this is going to impact what some of the students report cards look like;
 - There will be coordination and messaging with parents about this, so that parents aren’t taken off guard;
 - Parents should ask about how the child is progressing and what the number on the report card actually means rather than worry about the number being different than expected;
 - Foundational resources are going to be quite pricey – there had been some sitting back on previous spending while waiting for the new curriculum in this respect;
 - Math, literacy decodables and wellness and sensory mainly
- The buses are currently not reliable due to a shortage of drivers (messaging from CBE) but so far the buses in JE have managed to get all the kids home even when there was a shortage of driver – it just took longer;
- Grade 6 teacher’s Report
- Ms. Danchuck (third year teaching at JE), Powell (new at JE) and Turn (brand new graduate from University) are current grade 6 teachers;
- The focus for grade 6 this year is on the outdoors – want to be outside and learn as much from nature as they can
- November 1 field trip and April 8-11 outdoor school
 - At Camp Chief Hector, will have mandatory parent information session on February 22 at 6:30pm in the JE gym
- Grade 6 provincial achievement tests – will be communicated further and work with students

5. Committee Updates:

- Fundraising Committee:
 - Fun Lunches- Jenny – first Fun Lunch was a success, lots of orders. Need to ensure that families in need are added throughout the year as necessary. Otherwise it was “seamless”
 - Future Events – Gingerbread and School Dance
 - Robin and Eva will be lead Coordinators on both of these events again for this year
 - Proposed December 7 for Gingerbread Night
 - Will need permission to go to Costco to get the houses, and from the School (and After-Care) to go ahead with that date;
 - May be a shortage of tables as some JE tables had to be given away, so walk through prior to event should occur to count up tables;
 - “ok” to store houses on the stage again
 - School Dance discussion adjourned until next meeting to discuss
 - Future Events – Spring Gala
 - Alicia has met with Earl Grey Golf Course and Jeff is working on it as well;
 - Proposed early April for event;
 - Will need at least 10-15 dedicated volunteers to make this happen;
 - Previous BoD at Earl Grey had been interested in community outreach so hoping current BoD will be as well
 - Currently set up just as a general fundraiser, but note to consider the oversight of the funds and potential for specific item to use funds on (potentially curriculum foundation items, as these are expensive and do benefit all K-6 kids);
 - Ongoing Events – Families In Need (item added to Agenda by Ryan)
 - Significant number of families identified as families in need on the forms sent out at the beginning of the year
 - Meredith (last name?) is the (something) liaison who has the details of this list, so anyone who needs to can coordinate through her for the numbers without causing a privacy or confidentiality issue;

6. Carryover Discussions from the AGM -Budget refinement

- Adjourned to next week

7. Casino Reports (Amy Olivier)

- Still need a number of volunteers – have 12 spots open remaining and NEED these volunteers;
- Casino advisor can offer a few volunteers but certainly not all 12
- Can only run it every other year, and it's a huge fundraiser
- Important for everyone to spread the word – word of mouth – to fill these spots
- Mailing list is only 130 people, and corporate list is only around 200
- School is approx. 600 so there are a lot of people the emails aren't reaching
- Approved to hand out hardcopy fliers at pickup or drop off time
- Discussion about what should(or shouldn't) be included on the information sheets -f or example, good to include that the casino money was used for "residencies" (and explain what that is)
- Consider whether a video could be made and posted on social medias?

8. New Business – Social Media Coordinator and Update

- Helen is the new social media coordinator – she has a School Council Instagram account set up
- Has 40 followers currently, but notes that every "story" posted reaches 5-10 people who are non-followers;
- Has been posting images provided by Nicole, and same images also posted on SC Facebook Page (by Kate)

9. New Business – virtual attendance

- We need a new "Owl" speaker thing (or equivalent) as the current one belongs to Ryan personally
- Nicole advised her work is replacing their "Owls" so she may be able to get one at a discount for SC

10. Next Meeting – November 21, 2023

11. Adjourned – at 8:10pm