

Essex Street Public School Council Meeting

November 28, 2013 @ 6 p.m.

Minutes

Chair: Vanda Lopes

Note Taker: Karin Trevett

Attendees: Susan Stewart, Samarra Khaja, Jack Phillips, Jode Roberts, Lin Kwan, Margaret Wasley, Letizia Iozzo, Catherine Blair, Jean Hammond, Liz Renzetti, Nancy Amato, Vanda Lopes, George Lopes, Darlene Eriksen, Sonia Antunes, Jim Stathopoulos, Nicole Belcourt, Carma Rosonina, Karin Trevett

1. Communications Report

Jack Phillips gave us a tour on the new Essex Public School Website. Features of the website include:

- Resizes to all devices
- Welcome Message
- Useful info (names of staff)
- Resources (now includes guidance info)
- Calendar
- Instant translation features

To date there have been 358 unique visitors to the blog and over 3,000 views.

Plans for the blog include an Involvement page about School Council, a Virtual Suggestion Box, a Drop-in Centre page, pages for individual teachers, and information about extracurricular activities.

Attendees requested that the website include:

- information about MID classes/ special needs classes at Essex
- Day Care
- Essex's Model School status

2. Chair Vanda Lopes called for a motion to approve minutes (Jean motions, Samarra seconds)

3. Principal's Report

Jim Stathopoulos reports on good things happening at Essex:

- Harbord Collegiate performance
- Anti-Bullying performance by Second City
- Kids are quick to speak up about bullying to support each other, even in Intermediate.
- This year's academic focus is on mathematics. Staff participate in strategy meetings once a month.

Jim gave us a presentation on the school's EQAO results:

EQAO is a snapshot, and the special circumstances of Essex (the inclusion of MID scores and the overall small school size) skew the results. EQAO scores go way up without the inclusion of MID scores.

4. Treasurer's Report provided by George Lopes:
 - Balance has increased.
 - Report includes up to November 26th because Pace hasn't accounted for after that date.
 - George is not pleased with cost of cheques from Pace (\$135)
 - Jim Stathopoulos wants to give teachers money to spend on consumables (\$100 per teacher- would be on top of Scientist in the School)
 - A parent asks if we supplement kids who need help to go on field trips. George says yes, we have traditionally allocated \$1,500 for this need.

5. Fundraising Report provided by Letizia:
 - Jode suggests that we determine a plan for fundraising and spending.
 - Jim says that we have a non-board financial plan
 - Carrie requests that we be able to donate directly to the school, but Jim likes the community building aspect of fundraising
 - Letizia reports on fundraising initiatives, Bingo, QSP, and Pizza Lunch
 - There will be another Bingo night in March.
 - Calls for volunteers for the Garage Sale and for donations will be on the school website.
 - Susan asked if class reps could gather emails to foster better communication and also asked if we can fundraise for bringing visiting theatre groups.

6. Ward Report: Karin was unable to attend the Ward meeting

7. Parent Academy Report provided in absentia by Maria Martinez:
 - We are looking forward to our first parent workshop on Thursday 5 December. Toronto Emergency Services will present an information session on First Aid for parents.

8. Other Business:
 - Letizia has been approached by Hawthorne parents to ask about co-operating on beautifying grounds. Jode is connecting with them.
 - Jim explained that students are not being allowed on the West Field. It is a supervision issue. He notes that the seniors want a place to call their own.
 - Nicole requests that we paint the back of the school and the façade of the building.
 - Request for stickers to deter birds from flying into the bridge.