

Essex Street Public School Council Meeting

October 16, 2013 @ 6 p.m.

Minutes

Chair: Patti Parashos

Note Taker: Karin Trevett

Attendees: Alex Norman, Maria Martinez, Charleen Edwards, Nelson Caetano, Sandy Caetano, Letizia Iozzo, Nadine Arzumanian, Jean Hammond, Jack Phillips, Sonia Antunes, Jim Stathopoulos, Peter Galanis, Connie Galanis, Zahra Toyserkani, Maria Videira, Milisa Burns, Karin Trevett, Patti Parashos, Stacy Psarris, Vanda Lopes, George Lopes, Qzu Yan Huang, Yee Lin Kwan.

1. Presentation

The meeting began with a presentation from Milisa Burns, Essex parent and Life Coach. The subject of the presentation was fulfilling potential through a *growth mindset*.

2. Principal's Report

Jim Stathopoulos provided the Principal's Report:

- EQAO results are here
 - Grades 4 and 7 will have received them already
 - Scores will be discussed at our next meeting
- Progress Reports will go out mid-November, followed by Parent-Teacher interviews
 - The first official Report Cards go out in January
- Essex had a successful Terry Fox Event (figures to come)
- Grade 7 & 8's had a session with Jordan Clark of "You Got Dance Canada"
 - Media were invited and a record of the event was submitted to the TDSB website.
- In consultation with the teachers, it has been decided that Essex P.S. will have a special focus this year on mathematics.

3. Treasurer's Report

George Lopes provided the Treasurer's Report:

- As of October 10th, we have switched for convenience from TD Bank to Pace Credit Union.
- There is some discrepancy regarding the total balance to date, with confusion over the Pizza Lunch money.
- Next meeting we will have a full breakdown of the total.

4. Fundraising

Mitch Blum of Simply Fundraising made a presentation of his company's products. He will connect with the fundraising committee.

5. Fundraising Report

- Pizza Lunch is doing very well. Money from the Pizza Lunch now goes to Scientist in the Classroom.
- A QSP fundraiser is ongoing.
- November 22nd is Bingo Night. It will include a Bake Sale. Fiesta Farms to be approached for help. Call for donation of prizes (contact Jean Hammond). Volunteers needed to distribute bingo cards and pizza.
- There are plans for a Mabel's Labels fundraiser as well as a Garage Sale.
- Please get in touch with the committee if you have other fundraising ideas.

6. Communications Report

- The school blog is ready to go.
- Call for copy editing of the school blog. Karin Trevett volunteered.
- The blog is currently in beta mode and will go live very soon.
- Families will be able to sign-up for blog updates and to customize the update's content and frequency.

7. Parent Academy Report

- Essex is a Model School.
- Last year a survey was taken of parents' interests.
- There was particular interest in nutrition and bullying.
- There will be a parent conference in the spring.

8. Other Business

A parent raised concerns about the new drop-off policy. One concern was that teachers are not as available to parents. Jim Stathopoulos reminds parents they can communicate with their child's teacher by email, phone, and in writing through the Student Agenda. The other concern was that some parents now have to wait outside for 15 minutes, after picking up their Kindergarten child, until their older children are dismissed. Jim Stathopoulos explained that dismissal times are not within his power to change, since they are determined by contracts.

9. Announcement

Special Education Conference at Earl Haig, October 19th.