

Elgin Street Public School
School Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 3rd, 2021
6:00 P.M. Google Meet

School Council Chair: Lorraine Isaac
School Council Secretary: France Leclair-Kekes
School Council Treasurer: Zaida Moss

Member Attendance:

- Allan Mackay, Principal
- Amanpreet Dhaul, Vice Principal
- Lorraine Isaac, School Council Chair
- France Leclair-Kekes, School Council Secretary
- Zaida Moss, School Council Treasurer
- Sabeen Khan, Parent
- Heather Fischer, Parent
- Emily Jaarsma, Executive Director for Greenway-Chaplin Community Centre
- Stephan Gagné

- Melissa Schrader, Teacher
- Rose Kowalczyk, Teacher'

1. Purpose of Impromptu Meeting to Discuss Pizza Fundraiser

- Domino's has a promotion for a school fundraiser. Domino's would like to know which night we prefer so that they can plan ahead for increased business. Pizza Nova has also put forth an offer. Frankie to inquire with Cambridge Pizza.
- Thus far, Domino' seems to be the best option since they offer an electronic menu. This is online only with a code to use.
- School Council agreed to coordinate regarding this via email and to plan the fundraiser for twice a month on Friday night and/or a Saturday.
 - A council member suggested that we run the fundraiser once/month (i.e., The first Friday of each month for the next three months of the remaining school year.).
 - Council members voted for once/month to start March 26/27th. Members voted in favour of Friday/Saturday weekend combo.
 - Members will now wait for information from Cambridge Pizza before deciding on which pizza place to select.
- Purpose of this Fundraiser: To raise funds for the supplemental cost of the guest speaker/some towards the playground/to save for the upcoming school year.

2. Discussion of New Chair:

- This month will be the last Lorraine Isaac acts as chair for the School Council.

- It was recommended that moving forward we have a rotating School Council Chair. This way we will have a School Council Chair for each meeting that we have until the end of the year.
- Please email Ms. Dhaur if you are interested in being School Council Chair.

3. Principal's Report (Allan MacKay)

- Principal Allan MacKay will be retiring March 31st.
- He encouraged the School Council to support the Greenway-Chaplin Community Centre with their fundraiser.

4. Greenway-Chaplin Community Centre (Emily Jaarsma)

- Neighbourhood Action Grant
 - If two parents from Elgin participate we could earn \$500.00. See leaflet attached below. <https://greenwaychaplin.com/engage-now/>
 - Stephan – Greenway-Chaplin Community Centre has a project for this upcoming spring -> Community Gardens.
 - For all ages and demographics of the neighborhood to work together socially distanced and safely.
 - What would the School Council like to see in a community garden?
 - Sitting areas, shelter, a lot of Indigenous plants, flowers and wild grasses, seeds, plants and vegetables.
 - Stephan is open to receiving any help for this project. The School Council will look into donating plants. Teacher, Melissa Schrader said that if her students can grow plants successfully in the classroom that they would donate them to Greenway.
 - Greenway-Chaplin Community Centre is seeking funds for picnic tables, benches (i.e., whether from recycled pieces or new).

5. Open Forum

- Outdoor Learning Classroom
 - Proposed that we look into an area for the students to learn outdoors once the weather gets warmer outside.
 - It was mentioned that Wendy (previous school principal) moved large rocks to one area for outdoor learning space.
 - Sabeen Khan asked if staff would like more outdoor classroom areas?
 - Rose Kowalczyk added that the Kindergarten students have a super outdoor area, which is not accessible to other staff and students. There was a suggestion at one point to add logs/rocks/etc. close to the grade 6 area, but nothing was done.
 - School Council member suggested that we add more outdoor areas.
 - Rose Kowalczyk had an idea that the students could sit on the raised concrete, and the wall close to the raised concrete could hold up a chalkboard.

- Melissa Schrader shared that one chalkboard would be small enough for two people, and questioned how valuable this would be for a long term investment considering the spacing is required due to Covid19 health and safety measures.
 - **Vice Principal, Amanpreet** Dhaul echos Mrs. Schrader's point. Students are being encouraged to maintain physical distancing when outside. The school has invested money in temporary 'tents,' which are available for any staff member to put up. These have no sides, but offer some shelter from the sun for staff and students.
 - Lorraine Isaac, School Council Chair, would like to discuss this further at the next School Council Meeting.
- Black History Month Presentation
 - Ms. Dhaul shared that the Primary students, K-Gr.3, will participate in a virtual Black History Month Presentation on Thursday, March 4th at 12:30 p.m. Zianne Chambers and Taiysia Andrew, Gr. 12 WRDSB students at GCI, have been working hard on both Primary and Junior assemblies.
- New Principal
 - Has there been any discussion regarding who will replace Allan MacKay as school principal?
 - Mr. MacKay indicated that we will know who the next principal will be in two weeks time.
 - Thank you's expressed to Mr. MacKay for all that he's done to support the Elgin school community. Wishing you a very Happy Retirement Mr. MacKay!

6. Adjournment

- Meeting concluded.
- Next meetings scheduled for:
 - Wednesday, April 7th at 6:00 p.m. (No longer on April 14th due to April Break)
 - Wednesday, May 12th at 6:00 p.m.
 - Wednesday, June 9th at 6:00 p.m.
- All meetings to occur virtually via Google Meets
- Continue to look for communication updates via Elgin School Council Google Group