

Ecole Jasper Elementary Parent Association Meeting Minutes October 26, 2023

Attendance:

Present: Myka Jones, Megan LeBlanc, Jenn Stolfa, Danielle Duffy-Mills, Michelle Flores, Stephanie English, Sandra Campbell

Staff: Eric Bouchard

1. Call to order: 7:04pm
2. Agenda review and additions
3. Approval of minutes completed
4. Brief introductions completed
5. JES Parent's Association
 - a. Financial and fundraising update – S. English
 - i. The flower basket sale was very successful, the truck is full and that's about \$10,000 that goes directly back to the kids. The 50-60 extra baskets will be sold on a first come, first served basis. Funds could be spent on cross country skis, which will need to be replaced soon. Need to pass on organization to someone else soon.
 - ii. Action items:
 1. : _____ to do an inventory on skis to see what needs to be replaced/purchased.
 2. Myka to get in touch with Leslie to learn how to run the fundraiser.
6. New business
 - a. Jenn: Book sale summary- The Scholastic book sale's proceeds are split between the public library and our school, but right now the library staff are doing the brunt of the work. We need to take responsibility for ordering our books to ensure this a fair partnership.
 - i. Action items:
 1. Eric will find a staff member to order books.
 2. Eric will ask for teachers to provide a wishlist of books, which will be shared with the person ordering the books- they will order from this list.
 - b. Discussion: Due to the current government's lack of funding there is no librarian at the school, so that extra work is falling on the teachers and EAs. How can we alternatively get that work done? Kids and/or parents could volunteer. Sandra volunteered to offer 3 hours per week. Stephanie's kid(s)? could volunteer?
 - i. Action items:
 1. Stephanie and Sandra to work with Eric to organize child and parent volunteer schedule/system.

- c. Jenn: It's a better use of money to spend the scholastic fund on "Walk-down" books (Gr. 6 graduation) instead of Welcome books (Kindergarteners). All in agreement. This will be the practice moving forward.
 - d. Grant opportunities discussion: Due to the current government's lack of funding and support, the Parent Association has had to take on extra responsibilities and costs, like upgrading playground bedding/surfaces to keep them safe/insurable. This should be kept in mind as we consider funding/grant opportunities. Myka wants to reignite a "landscaping" working committee to see about maintaining/enhancing the outdoor play areas.
 - i. Action items:
 - 1. Myka to organize a working committee
 - 2. Eric to reach out to Ecole Desrochers to see if anyone would like to join this committee.
7. Old business
8. Committee member share
- a. Eric (summary): We are so proud of the fact that we now have 0 At Risk students in literacy/numeracy. Teachers are doing an amazing job. Unfortunately, we have no control over factors that relate to "access to services" (scored low). The Division has not been able to hire a BEST coach, SLP, Wellness Navigator, etc. Increasing parent involvement is a goal this year (another low score).
 - b. Discussion: What can we do to increase parental involvement in the school? Teachers will need to invite parents in (start with one per month), they're not going to come in otherwise. Links to the vulnerable sector check should be sent to parents wishing to volunteer. It would be good to develop relationships with families that are new to Canada too.
 - i. Action items
 - 1. Eric to talk to teachers about drafting a survey to send the parents, used as a means to invite parents into class to share their interests, skills, culture, etc.
 - c. Bus Transit System discussion/summary: there are safety concerns - of all the entities involved in the partnership, it is not clear who is responsible for what. There are issues going unaddressed, and parents are now taking alternative measures to have their voices heard, as there hasn't been any serious consideration or action thus far.
10. Next meeting: November 23, 2023 at the school, 7pm.