**Ecole Publique John Fisher**

**School Council Meeting Minutes**

**September 27, 2016**

**In attendance:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Meredith Weir | Tanya Razek | Cindy Frasier |
| Laurelle Look Kin | Deborah Levy | Magdalena Popescu |
| Stephanie Tjon | Radu Criveanu | Jacques Katz |
| Liane Downs | Shoko Kokuryo | Christina Thomas |
| Shari Dworkin | Etienne deVilliers | Anne Abbass Harkness |
| Vicki Bailey | Gera Nevolovich | Stavros Rougas |
| Laurence Nolevaux | Vanessa Silver | Arliss Collins |
| Sogol Zamanian | Sandra Kwon | Masoumeh Ghanbarian |
| Allison Lewis | Anne Carty | Maryam Meffe |
| Linda Van den Brink | Ligaya Horhager | Shamira Kassam |
| Erika Boone | Julia Norman |  |

**Principal:** Marlene Harroun

**Vice Principal:** Lee-Anne Maier

**Teachers:** None

**1. Welcome**

Anne Carty called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

**2. Re-instate the Parent Council members and officers (Carty)**

The parent council will be comprised of a minimum of 8 parents, plus the principal, vice principal, the prime minister of the student council, one teacher (usually appointed), and non-teaching staff (usually from French Connection staff).

**Motion:** to elect the voting members of the parent council – members identified by those present at tonight’s meeting, plus others who contacted A. Carty by email

Moved by: A. Collins

Seconded by: M. Popescu

Motion carried for the election of the voting members of the parent council for the 2016-2017 school year.

**Motion:** to nominate the past chair, Anne Carty

Nominated by: A. Abbass Harkness, A. Carty accepts the nomination

Appointed by: M. Weir

Seconded by: A. Lewis

Motion carried.

**Motion:** to nominate the chair, Tanya Razek

Nominated by: M. Weir, T. Razek accepts nomination

Appointed by: A. Collins

Seconded by: S. Kwon

Motion carried.

**Motion:** to nominate the secretary, Julia Norman

Nominated by: S. Kwon, J. Norman accepts nomination

Appointed by: M. Popescu

Seconded by: C. Frasier

Motion carried.

**Motion:** to operate on the assumption that Lisa MacLean will take the treasurer role, to allow the budgeting process to commence in preparation for the October council meeting

Moved by: M. Weir

Seconded by: A. Carty

Motion carried.

**Motion:** to elect the members of the finance committee – members identified by those present who indicated (on paper), or emailed

Moved by: M. Popescu

Seconded by: C. Frasier

Motion carried

**A note about the finance committee:** (M. Meffe) in previous years, there were about 5-7 members on the committee who were required to meet 2 or 3 times early in the year. In October, the committee will receive proposals from various committees (run by parents/staff) and staff, for funds to support their projects or initiatives. The finance committee will discuss the merits of the proposals, compare, analyze and prioritize the proposals to allocated funds and outline a budget for the school year. This budget is then presented to the parent council for approval. M. Harroun commented that it is good to have a diverse group of parents on the finance committee who can see the needs and priorities of the school through different lenses; the last couple of years saw the same parents on the committee and Marlene would like to see new parents participate.

**2. Committees, chairs, co-chairs, members (T. Razek)**

There are several committees that require a chair or co-chairs, or have very few members. Tanya encourages all parents to please complete the survey monkey (link on JF twitter, website, and Squawk) to find out more about each committee and sign up to participate! Arliss suggested parent friends could work together as co-chairs for an area, if they weren’t comfortable taking on the role alone. Stavros expressed interest in the construction committee.

**3. Principal and Vice Principal’s Remarks (Harroun & Maier)**

Marlene Harroun began by welcoming and thanking the parents for attending, asking those in attendance to introduce themselves to the group. Lee Anne provided a brief ‘walk-through’ of the John Fisher website.

Marlene thanked the exiting executive committee, including the chair, and welcomed our new chair, Tanya. It’s been a good start to the school year, busy with lots of meetings. New JF staff includes Mme LaFlair (SK), Mme Lim (SK) and M. Chin (gr. 1). We say goodbye to Mme Di Lorenzi, Mme Sementelli and Mme. Payette. A re-organization of classes will not be required this year, because our projections (school/grade populations) were accurate and our limitations in admitting new students to our school. No re-organization is good news, as uprooting dozens of students after a couple of weeks of settling into routines and expectations can be challenging.

Thank you to parents who have been so patient with the difficult bussing situation this year. Since French immersion schools often have a large proportion of bussed kids, this situation applied to a lot of JF families. The TDSB has apologized profusely. Bus company Sharp began the school year unprepared. Marlene has been told that the yellow bus route is at the ‘top of the pile’ in being resolved; currently the bus is leaving the school at 4:15pm. It has been challenging supervising the kids waiting for their bus, as the playground becomes a community space, not for the exclusive use by our students.

A large portion of Marlene and Lee-Anne’s time has been spent on the construction situation on/near our site. Safety for our students is a priority, so time and energy gets devoted to construction projects. The TDSB continues with their work on the soffit and fascia around the building. Progress was delayed as what was to be restoration became more of a replacement issue; expected completion is Oct. 31. Summer work included waterproofing and the weeping system. Windows in classroom B3 will be replaced, resulting in some temporary relocation of classes. TDSB project manager Hassan, says John Fisher is mentioned regularly at the board level. As for the condo development just west of our school, developer KG group is discussing with the TDSB and the Toronto Lands Corporation about the temporary use of John Fisher property during the construction phase. A community meeting is expected soon; Marlene and Lee-Anne encourage parents to attend and voice their concerns.

EQAO results for John Fisher from June were very positive, with higher than provincial standards performance by our students across all areas. School performance can be found here: <https://eqaoweb.eqao.com/eqaoweborgprofile/profile.aspx?_Mident=3071>

Individual results for students will be sent home; Marlene and Lee-Anne will look at trends over the last 5 years.

Fun events in the opening weeks of the school year included the Terry Fox assembly (last week), and the run (this week). The assembly was wonderful (as usual) and very touching. Cross country training has begun for grade 1 to 6 runners. The first meet will take place on Oct. 14 at Earl Bales. With the current school bus situation, only one bus was secured from a private bus company. This means we are asking parents to provide transportation for their children to/from Earl Bales, if possible, since not all students can fit on one bus. Grade 1 and 2 runners must be driven by parents on Oct. 14, because their races are scheduled early in the day. After 4 program will begin soon, and the noon enrichment forms will be sent home this week. The first penguin pizza is tomorrow!

Stay tuned for information in the Squawk about the TDSB Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) conference in November.

**4. Other business**

**Council meeting dates:** the next meeting will be on Oct. 18. The remaining dates for the meetings can be found on the JF website.

**Snack offerings at school:** (J. Katz) John Fisher parent Jacques expressed concern about the types of snacks (sugary, unhealthy) offered through school events (pizza lunches, Fun Fridays, classroom birthday celebrations), and the number of times these unhealthy snacks are offered through the course of one school year; he estimates a few dozen times a year. He feels offering this food is incongruous with ideas in the health curriculum and the promotion of making healthy choices. Jacques would like to see alternate ideas considered in the future; he distributed a document titled Health Eating Promotion Ideas. Marlene is willing to limit unhealthy food, and suggest or promote healthier choices, but is not in a position to make a school statement or policy on the subject. Some teachers have their own rules for their students regarding snacks or classroom birthday celebrations. Parents with experience from other schools have seen healthy snack options (e.g. apple distributed at pizza lunch) tossed in the garbage, or traded in the school yard for a more desirable treat.

**Thank you Anne:** Erika presented a gift basket to our past chair, Anne, for her work over the last two years. A donation to Pathways to Education (Kingston, ON) was made in Anne’s name also.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Minutes prepared by Sandra Kwon