

## **Minutes of the School Council – September 27, 2017**

**Present:** Ms. Petko, Ms. Bellehumeur, M. Young, T. Pryke, S. McKechnie, V. Zeballos, T. Mignon, A. Vasil, N. Campbell, N. Sullivan, F. Oland, V. Oland, G. Kim

### **School Council Election**

All positions were acclaimed. The school council executive for 2017-18:

Co-Chairs – Morgen Young and Tara Pryke

Treasurer – Shannon McKechnie

Secretary – Veronica Zeballos

Parent Representatives – Tamar Mignon, Natasha Campbell, Amy Vasil, Nicole Sullivan

### **Principal's Report – J. Petko**

- *Opening Remarks*
  - Ms. Petko distributed her Principal's Report. She is excited to be the principal at JSB, and she will respect the programs and policies already in place, and will add her own spin in consultation with the school community.
  - Her philosophy as a principal is that people make the difference for students and that relationships are the key to success. Her focus will always be on children as human beings, and on developing the whole child, instilling kindness, a love of learning, and a sense of social responsibility and awareness, so students can grow to be solid citizens.
- *School-Wide Initiatives and Areas of Focus*
  - **Achievement, Equity and Well-Being** - There will be high and reasonable expectations of students, so they can achieve to the best of their ability. Numeracy will be a focus at the school and in the school board. Ensure every child, regardless of ability or background, has a sense of well-being and inclusion. Well-being includes physical health, mental health and wellness, in particular reducing stress and anxiety.
  - **Mental Health and Well-Being – Mental Health Leaders** - Last year, the school had a school-wide Health and Wellness Month. This year, students in grades 6-8 had the opportunity to apply to be one of 14 Mental Health and Wellness Leaders. Leaders had a half-day of training this week, and are now planning activities to work on self-esteem with younger kids and teach stress relief and breathing techniques to students.
  - **Sports and Athletic Endeavours** - The school has treadmills and stationary bikes in classrooms. Students receive 150 minutes of physical education each week (most school have 80 minutes per week).
  - **Technology** - Keep up with technology. The school uses Chrome books, classroom iPad sets and Smart boards.
  - **Environmental Awareness and Education** - The school will work to maintain its Gold Eco-School certification by promoting litter-less lunches and boomerang lunches. Encourage the use of reusable containers and bringing waste back home. Keep the environment clean.
  - The school welcomes feedback and input on these areas of focus.

- *Entry Bell Change*
  - Beginning on Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, the first bell will be at 8:45am. The second bell will still be at 8:50am, and students will have 5 minutes to move into the school and their classrooms.
  - Playground supervision will begin at 8:30am.
- *Recent Events*
  - The character trait highlighted in September is “Respect”.
  - There was a Welcome Back assembly for students on September 7<sup>th</sup>.
    - Students were informed of the school rules and Ms. Petko’s three rules: 1) if a caring adult asks you to do something, always do it the first time asked; 2) to have good friends be a good friend; and 3) do your best at everything you attempt.
    - Cellphones are a useful learning tool as directed by teachers, but they can become a tool for bullying. Cellphones can be used at lunch recess, but otherwise they are to be kept in lockers.
  - On September 19<sup>th</sup>, the guidance counsellor spoke at a digital citizenship and responsible online behaviour assembly for grade 4-8 students.
  - Many sports have begun (cross-country, soccer, border ball, touch and flag football, volleyball).
  - The Welcome Back BBQ and Curriculum Night was on September 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - The Terry Fox Run/Walk was on September 27<sup>th</sup>.
- *JSB Field Update*
  - The track and field are complete. The school is looking into have a pole railing installed at the top step of the armourstone to prevent students from jumping off from the top. There will also be repaving near the garbage bins.
  - The grand opening is on Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.
- *Email Addresses*
  - The school wants parents/guardians to ensure it has their most current email addresses. [Note: the school and JSB School Council maintain separate/distinct email distribution lists]
- *EQAO*
  - EQAO tests are intended to measure students’ abilities to make sense of what they read, express their thoughts in writing and use appropriate math skills. The results indicate the percentage of students that met or exceeded the provincial standard (level 3 or 4) in reading, writing and math. Results are not reflected on report cards or permanent records. Parents can opt their children out of writing the test (must speak to the Principal or Vice-Principal).
  - Ms. Petko circulated the school’s 2016-17 EQAO results, with comparisons to the board’s results, and to the school’s previous year results. Results are also [online](#). The grade three and six scores exceeded or met the board scores.
  - The grade three scores were 82 in reading, 93 in writing and 65 in math.
  - The grade six scores were 77 in reading, 78 in writing and 54 in math.
    - Math was an area of focus last year and the score increased from last year.
  - Individual assessments for students who wrote the test in grades 3 and 6 last year will be sent home soon.

## Treasurer's Report

- Read and received.
- As of August 31, 2017, the total bank balance was \$7,551.21. After earmarking funds for end-of-year allocations (teacher classroom enhancements) and Hot Lunch Room fund, the closing operating balance was \$3,897.31.

## School Council Report and New Business

- *Volunteer Communication*
  - Last year the School Council conducted a survey to ask parents/guardians for their views on volunteering, attending School Council activities, events they wanted to attend, and barriers to participation. Parents identified issues regarding having sufficient notice and communication about volunteer activities and events.
  - There was a discussion on how to attract more volunteers, recognizing there are active volunteers not engaged with the School Council.
  - The School Council will have a volunteer coordinator and a separate dedicated email address to communicate with volunteers, and will build a database of volunteers.
  - Volunteer opportunities will include initiatives led by the School Council as well as those led by the school. Teachers will continue to manage their own classroom volunteers.
- *First Day of School Procedure*
  - There was a discussion about how the First Day of School Procedures and information about posting class lists was communicated to parents, and the role of communication to parents by the school and the School Council.
- *Parent Education Workshops*
  - There was a discussion about the School Council organizing three parent workshops on a variety of topics throughout the year beginning in the new year, and whether these workshops could be held on the same nights as School Council meetings, either before the meeting or after.
  - The School Council will look into getting speakers, and will provide further information at the next meeting.
- *MLSE Fundraiser*
  - Last year, a representative of MLSE–Marlies, presented its school fundraising program to the School Council. Our school can partner with the Toronto Marlies hockey team to sell tickets to a Marlies game. The tickets are made available to the school at a discounted price, and the school sells them at a mark-up and keeps the difference (i.e., \$5 mark-up per ticket sold). In addition, there are incentives for selling a minimum number of tickets, such as a family skate before or after the game.
  - The School Council completed the School Commitment Form online, and selected its preferred three game dates (in February) over the summer. The dates the School Council selected are very popular and the preferred incentive of a pre- or post-game skate may not be available.
  - There was a discussion of selecting a Friday evening game, however it was decided that a weekend game is preferred. It was also decided that games in December, during March Break or late spring are not preferred. Another incentive the School Council could consider if the family skate is unavailable, is the Fan Tunnel, in which up to 40 students can high five the players on their way from the change room to the bench.
- *Pizza Lunch Competition*
  - To motivate students to participate in Pizza Lunch, there will be a contest throughout the year. For each slice of pizza purchased, a class will receive a point. By the end of the May

Pizza Lunch, the class with the most points will win \$300 to be used towards a class activity chosen by the teacher.

- The School Council asked if a teacher or class could make a poster to track the monthly sales of each class in a prominent location.
- *School Cash Online*
  - The School Council asked if JSB is one of the schools being phased in for School Cash Online, which allows parents to pay for school fees (field trips, Friday fundraising lunches, yearbooks, etc.) online.
  - Ms. Petko will inquire when JSB is expected to adopt School Cash Online.
- *School Wish List*
  - Next month, the school will provide the School Council with a wish list for fundraising.
- *Dates of Future Meetings*
  - The School Council set the dates for the year's meetings:
    - Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>
    - Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>
    - Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>
    - Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>
    - Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>
    - Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup>
    - Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup>
    - Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm**

**Next School Council Meeting**

- Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm.

**TREASURER'S REPORT  
JUNE-AUGUST 2017**

**OPENING OPERATING BALANCE – June 1, 2017** **\$6,842.03**

**ADD:**

**Bellapalooza Earnings - \$12,519.13**

**Pizza and Subway Earnings April/May/June - \$1,216.42**

**LESS:**

Chq. 083 - Bellapalooza BBQ - Donna Beasant	(\$487.06)
Chq. 084 - Bellapalooza BBQ - Cyndi Machin	(\$77.40)
Chq. 085 - Bellapalooza General - Mark McKeon	(\$263.00)
Chq. 086 - Bellapalooza Lemonade - Sherri Enns	(\$34.18)
Chq. 088 - Bellapalooza Rental - TDSB	(\$1,745.62)
Chq. 090 - Bellapalooza Bake Sale - Shannon McKechnie	(\$18.65)
Chq. 091 - Bellapalooza General - Veronica Zeballos	(\$156.38)
Chq. 092 - Scientists - TDSB	(\$597.00)
Chq. 093 - Tech Purchases - TDSB	(\$8,400.40)
Chq. 082 - Bellapalooza BBQ - Jennifer Smith	(\$491.07)
Chq. 087 - Bellapalooza General - Lola Marcocchio	(\$118.00)
Chq. 089 - Kindie Night Refreshments - Colleen Bellehumeur	(\$37.61)

**CLOSING OPERATING BALANCE – August 31, 2017** **\$7,551.21**

**Shannon McKechnie**  
Treasurer  
September 27, 2017

**TREASURER'S REPORT  
JUNE-AUGUST 2017**

**STATEMENT AS OF AUGUST 31, 2017 FOR ALLOCATED MONIES**

SPORTS	\$0
TECHNOLOGY	\$0
ARTISTIC FUND	\$0
TEACHER FUND (CLASSROOM IMPROVEMENTS)	\$2,600.00
HOT LUNCH ROOM FUND	\$1,053.90
STUDENT RESOURCES (RAZ KIDS, SCIENTISTS)	\$0
GRADE 8 GRAD LUNCH	\$0
MATH RESOURCES	\$0
GREEN SPACE	\$0
OUTSTANDING CHEQUES	\$0

**STATEMENT OF TOTAL BANK BALANCE AS OF AUGUST 31, 2017**

SPORTS	\$0
TECHNOLOGY	\$0
OPERATING	\$3,897.31
ARTISTIC FUND	\$0
TEACHER FUND (CLASSROOM IMPROVEMENTS)	\$2,600.00
HOT LUNCH ROOM FUND	\$1,053.90
STUDENT RESOURCES (RAZ-KIDS)	\$0
GRADE 8 GRAD LUNCH	\$0
MATH RESOURCES	\$0
GREEN SPACE	\$0
OUTSTANDING CHEQUES	\$0
TOTAL	\$7,551.21

**TOTAL BANK BALANCE AS OF AUGUST 31, 2017** **\$7,551.21**

**Shannon McKechnie**  
Treasurer  
September 27, 2017

## James S. Bell Council Meeting, Sept. 27, 2017

### Principal/VP's Report

**A warm welcome to all new families and welcome back to all of our returning families to the James S. Bell School community. We look forward to working with all of you alongside our new School Council this year.**

#### School Wide initiatives/focuses for this school year:

1. Achievement, Equity and Well Being for students
2. Technology in the learning environment to enhance all areas of learning
3. Mental Health and Well Being-including School Community Building-working on building cohesion, student leadership, in a safe, caring and equitable learning environment for all students. We will be using the board character education traits you are familiar with including: Respect, Responsibility, Empathy, Kindness and Caring, Teamwork, Fairness, Honesty, Co-operation, Integrity, Perseverance to drive our collaborative work.
4. Environmental awareness and education-maintaining Gold certification  
We welcome your feedback and input in our areas of focus.

#### Slight change in entry bell time

- Beginning after Thanksgiving Oct. 10, the morning entry bell will be at 8:45 a.m. Thank-you for your understanding.

#### Recent Events: September is 'Respect' month

- We had a welcome back assembly for students on Sept.7
- Cross country has begun first meet will be on Oct. 5 (please refer to permission forms)
- Soccer, borden ball, (volleyball practices) all underway
- Welcome back BBQ and Curriculum night on Sept. 21
- We had great Terry Fox Run/Walk on the 27. Thanks for donating to this annual event!

#### Facility News:

- Track and Field is completed. We are looking into a railing and new pavement for yard.
- Grand opening is on Friday, Sept. 29
- Thanks for your understanding and patience over the past several years.

#### Eco-schools:

We are working to maintain our Gold certification this year. Eco-schools kick off workshop will be Oct. 17 at John English.

#### Email addresses:

Please ensure that we have your email address updated on our student data base. We are striving to be eco-friendly and use e-communication wherever possible.

#### EQAO: Education Quality and Accountability Office

As mentioned, EQAO tests are intended to measure the students' ability to:

- Make sense of what they read in different kinds of texts;
- Express their thoughts in writing using appropriate grammar, spelling and punctuation and
- Use appropriate math skills to solve problems

#### Calendar of Events:

- Sept. 28- Terrific Tigers assembly a.m.
- Sept. 29-Grand opening of Field 1:15 p.m.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Jennie Petko

Colleen Bellehumeur

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