

VISCOUNT ALEXANDER PUBLIC SCHOOL

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, March 4, 2019

<p><u>Present</u></p> <p>Members: <i>Paula Slesar – Principal</i> <i>Kate Wigston – Co-chair</i> <i>Mia Hunt – Co-chair</i> <i>Charlene Blaszczyk – Treasurer</i> <i>Karen Benjamin – Teacher Rep</i></p> <p>Members at Large: <i>Michael Barnes – Community Rep.</i> <i>Leila Heikkila</i> <i>Adam Peters</i> <i>Esther Peters</i> <i>Betsy Schuurman</i> <i>Juliana Laboucane (Substitute Secretary)</i> <i>Cara Oastler</i> <i>Hitham Jleed</i> <i>David Collister</i> <i>Michelle MacAfee</i></p>	<p><u>Regrets</u> <i>Magda-Lena Capkun –Secretary</i> <i>Chris Evans – Co-Treasurer</i> <i>Susan Green</i> <i>Tirsan Hujaleh</i> <i>Assia Mokrani</i> <i>Lisa Chen Obrist</i> <i>Stephen Cudmore</i> <i>Scott Oastler</i> <i>Christine Thompson</i></p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.2. Minutes from February were approved.3. Agenda for March was approved.4. <u>Principal's Report:</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">Kids looking forward to Skate-a-Thon, Winter Games at Lisgar (March 6/19), Game On (visiting), Let's Talk Science (visiting), Right to Play (visiting)Report cards went out in FebruaryApril – Volunteer breakfast needs to be scheduled (office handling)Upcoming: Christie's Wax Museum - Paper Bag Princess (mid-April), Drumming workshops (all classes), Bike Rodeo (May 2019), Multicultural potluck (May 2019), EQAO (June 2019 – Grades 3 and 6), Love to Groove (June 2019)Geneva Center for Autism Training (ASD training March 20/19): skill building, service delivery, community building, 4 teachers plus counselorKevin organizing a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst: reward based intervention, antecedence to and deescalating behaviour, skill building (daily transitions)BMS: Behaviour Management Systems training for staff: crisis intervention, safetyPRIME: Math improvement plan for Junior grades, development maps, identifying gaps in understanding of curriculum	

5. Teacher's Report

- Ottawa Senators donated complete set of floor hockey equipment, school visit with Spartacat (February 2019)
- Volleyball: Teams showed great sportsmanship and school spirit, Girls took 2nd place and boys made it to the finals, but lost to Lady Eveline
- Field trips: Grades 3-6 Mozart Concert (March 5/19),
- Library and office to get new flooring
- Only five kindergarten registrations so far for 2019/2020 year; some concerns about provincial government ending full day kindergarten, but the school board is set to go ahead as normal next year
- Draft calendar of the OCDSB 2019/2020 year available online at:
https://www.ocdsb.ca/news/proposed_2019-2020_school_year_calendar

6. Treasurer's Report

Opening Balance: \$16,077.21

Closing Balance: \$15,274.54

- Reconciled balance of \$10,616.87 after outstanding cheque for \$4,657.67 (approved items, receipts with Janice) – will appear on next budget report
- Scientist in Schools invoices are starting to come in
- Additional \$500 grant (raise school) + \$96 (David) + \$443.44 (Movie night) will also appear in next budget statement
- Successfully spent \$5,000 Sandy Hill Community Health grant on sports equipment, nutrition and yoga books, and a stationary bike/desk that allows students to work and move at the same time for the WAVE room (see attachment)
- Juliana to contact Mrs. Miller re: Chapters grant spending
- Next meeting: discuss cost estimate of sound system; Karen contacted board approved Dynamix, who has very specific questions. Sound tech/dad Don Ellis to be contacted for assistance for assessing needs of the gym space.
- Ideas about other types of spending in the school:
 - Roll over investments year-to-year to support swim lessons, music lessons, subsidize program for field trips, multi-school programming
 - A dedicated teacher spending allowance for school supplies, ex. \$200 at the beginning or middle of the year

7. Community Report

- Michael reported no news from Capital Priorities
- With new provincial government threatening cuts, likely won't see funding for a couple years on certain projects, like school renovations and expansions. Board should have already had meetings, and have not yet called for submissions.
- Anxiety in parents and teaching community over questions of cuts: class size caps, budget cuts, hiring freezes, prudent hiring suggested
- Action Sandy Hill would appreciate school council assistance in respect of single family homes in our community being turned into illegal rooming houses, i.e. "bunk houses" with 16 students in single dwelling. There is no national approach to this problem as yet. Betsy, Kate and Michael to draft letter for school council signatures outlining how rooming houses hurt our neighbourhoods/communities/schools
- Next IMAGE in May: Spartacat photo, other photos and submissions welcome

8. Movie Night: February 22nd

Profits: \$705

Costs: \$261.56

Total raised: \$443.44

- Great turnout, lots of help, teacher's help immensely appreciated
- For future events, janitorial staff should be alerted prior to end of film to expedite clean-up process.
- Question of missing tables. (Found under the stage of the gym.) Ensure things are put back in their expected places.

9. Allocation / spending of funds:

- To be discussed at April meeting
- Last wish list items to be approved: baseball gloves
- Karen to go back to teachers for new wish list requests
- Janice pleased with current spending, no needs or requests at this time. 'Famine or flood' in terms of money: right now, flood season.

10. Skate-a-thon

- Need volunteers to hand out prizes March 20-22 beginning at 10:45 a.m.
- Leila and Charlene to hand out prizes
- 8 bigger prizes, including swim passes. First pick goes to highest earner, and 7 to raffle winners. Thank you to Charlene for amazing prizes – 200+
- Also, big Thank you to Betsy: additional prizes (Mastermind)
- \$200 donation from Lynda and Jim Cox, Faulkner Real Estate
- Juliana to email Paula: safe service request put in and where will safe go?
- Bigger prizes need labels – Juliana to handle
- Money counting at Kate's: Leila, Mia, Juliana, Charlene, Magda-Lena possible helpers
- Remove the 'cost of lap' on the forms for the future, keep things simple with flat donation requests to get money in a timely fashion

11. Social Media / Other

- Facebook chat group open one week with 30 members already – community discussion board – Betsy to be additional admin on board
- Question of whether we have a School Council Charter. Does it need to be updated? Post on School Council section of website. Also, constitution needed. Mia to send "Council Regulations"
- Minutes to be available online.
- Mia meeting with school board rep for training on updating school website

NEXT MEETING: April 1st, 2019, at 6:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.