

JSPS School Council Feb. 28, 2017

In attendance: Andrea Michelutti, Kelly Wildi, Stephanie Morris, Chris Ryan, Aniko Kasos, Lori Peebles, Ana Cabral, Christine Bunz, Jaime Demsey, Rebeca Klein, Kelly DeCoppel, Sherri Davidson, Cinnamon Abdallah, Kendra Gastmeier, Meaghan Smith

Call to order - Kelly Wildi - 6:05 pm

City of Kitchener Presentation- Sarah Anderson (sarah.anderson@kitchener.ca)

- Sarah is the Neighbourhood Liaison for South Western area of Kitchener
- Her role is to help communities who want to try new initiatives - ie. street parties, community gardens etc. She helps make key connections and overcome obstacles
- Her role also includes some proactive involvement in activities and events that are already occurring for example - #lovemyhood trying to discern how they can help in new neighbourhood strategies
- Council just approved new strategy yesterday (there are 20 different items we can access - ie party in a trailer - tables, chairs etc.) Over the next three years different aspects of the strategies will be rolled out
- You can check it out along with lots of other opportunities online:
www.kitchener.ca/niighbourhoods - search neighbours day or the project you are looking for
- As council we could work on a project like “we need shade” ...how do we get a gazebo at our park? - Sarah could partner with us to work through the process
- There is a neighbourhood matching grant that is available as well - the pot of money has been increased to \$60 000, as a community group we can apply for up to \$10 000 now increased from \$5000 (i.e. to build a gazebo - but splash pads would not fit into this project it would be closer to a \$300 000 project)
- Placemaking challenge will be rolled out next year - fund that is focused on how you can better animate or change a space to make it more welcoming or engaging or safe for community members (children, seniors etc.) - details for the contest will be launched later this year
- Resources will be available for neighbourhood action planning as well - a group of community members who want to look at their community as a wider picture and not a single project - a wider process that could include gathering and documenting data that would produce an action plan for change - after the process you can apply for a grant of up to \$4000
- Another smaller pocket of funds is available for June 10th - Neighbours day - for small groups to host their own events not sponsored necessarily by a community association - could be a picnic in the park or scavenger hunt etc. There is \$200 available for the first 20 groups who register with an idea. The information is going to be posted as of March 1st - the faster a group looks into this opportunity the better
- Sarah wanted to know if neighbourhood action planning is something that council is interested in (the big picture, data gathering and larger conversation process that leads to a plan that has funds available) (i.e. how could we get more families to walk to school - traffic calming, crosswalks, safe sidewalks, parking lot issues etc.) - we can think about this and get back to her

- Sarah is very flexible about where she works from - she works out of Forest Heights community centre as well as city hall, but can come to us as well

Other key community dates to be aware of:

- Community clean-up day April 22
- Jane's walks - Janeswalk.ca - festival of citizen lead walks to share stories of your community May 5,6 and 7 is the festival weekend

Hot Lunches

Pizza:

- Council sells about 87 pizzas a week now for pizza lunches
- We have been making about \$280 a week (average)
- Profits are down this year because we dropped the price a bit due to assumed slice size
- Suggestion is to keep the provider (Little Caesars) they are on time and easy to deal with and pick up their boxes - but to increase the cost per slice next year since the slices were not that much smaller than last year
- Next pizza order will go out in the next few weeks and will go until the end of the year

Lunch Lady:

- 9 delivery days since our last meeting - 705 lunches were ordered - equalled \$246.75 profit for council
- We have had to do little to no organization for this initiative, we will continue to offer this service

Movie Night - Friday April 28th

- Kelly has been in contact with Criterion - the board has a license through them to show movies
- Lego Batman will be released mid April to mid May - so we will hope to show this movie- back up would be another animated family film
- 6:30 movie show time - doors open at 6:00 so families can arrive and pick up their food
- Movie will cost \$20 plus shipping and handling - so profits will be quite large
- Suggestion to sell tickets \$2.00/ticket
- Anyone who wants to be on the sub committee for Movie night - sign up with Kelly
- Sherry will book the gym for us

Other movie night discussion / reflections from last year:

- Sound was an issue last year - we need to test run sound beforehand
- Suggestion to have pizza preordered so families could purchase ahead of time
- We could section off into pods as a space to sell or hand out food (split up by alpha to pick up pizza)
- We could sell snacks ahead of time as well - Potential to sell popcorn/candy other snacks - but preordered as well
- We may want to avoid selling drinks to avoid additional messes/garbage and encourage families to bring their own water bottles
- No mats this year, families will be encouraged to bring their own blankets or sleeping bags -this will hopefully help contain the mess and help with clean up afterwards
- More garbages and recycling bins needed IN the gym to encourage families to help with the clean up

- PJ theme - wear your jammies!
- Fire permit only allows 680 adults - so we will sell tickets to the show ahead of time to ensure we remain within the fire code limit

Fun Fair - Thursday June 8th 5-8 pm

- Separate sub committee list will be passed around - Chris is heading up the Fun Fair sub committee -please see either him or Kelly if you would like to be on the organizing committee or just have a smaller role the night of the event
- The theme is healthy and active living
- Chris has already been in contact with Kitchener Rangers who will be sending their mascot and travelling game stations
- Game Asylum will be back - at a very low price
- Rock climbing is confirmed to be back as well

Principal report - Andrea Michelutti

School Day Updates

- Only 11 students - 4 families not on School Days
- There are a few issues on School Days that are being addressed- (i.e. having to chase after cash payment options and maintaining firm deadlines)
- Teachers have been struggling with firm deadlines for permission forms to be returned - parents will be receiving a letter within the week to address this issue
- Moving forward you will only be able to pay with credit or debit on school days - cash will only be accepted through the office
- Families who do need support for field trips can access subsidized funds - please see the office for further information

Communication from the office

- Andrea would like to do a survey of the school community about communication from the main office in order to get feedback about consistency and frequency
- Survey will be a google form and provide parents the ability to provide constructive feedback

Parking Lot Issues

- There has been an increase in office complaints about issues in the parking lot
- Discussion followed: What would closing the parking lot off to parents look like? (make lot staff only)
 - Pros and cons were discussed- crossing Parkvale would be even more dangerous
 - Day care needs parking lot open for their clients
 - Police and by laws would support the closure of the lot
 - City may be opposed to closing the lot
 - There are also issues about closing the lot for those who are using the lot and drop off zone properly
 - Maybe if lot is kept open - after drop off drivers should only be allowed to turn right - could help with the flow of traffic

- Rainy days are actually better in the lot because students go directly into the school - could we let students in from 8:25 on? This option does not work as it would cause a supervision issue with teachers
- Could we have by law officers here more often? - There are three of them who go between all the schools (public and catholic)
- There is still a paid position available to monitor the lot - if anyone is interested please see Andrea
- Parents are asked not to PARK in the spots in the lot - Teachers have been receiving tickets because they have to park on the street when the lot is full
- Next steps could include a boundary review to address the number of students feeding into the school

JK registration

- JK registration is now open- only 40 JK students have currently registered for the fall (in comparison to the 116 JSPS had last year)
- Parents are encouraged to register before April so the school is more appropriately staffed
- Last year 36 students were added after numbers went to the board in April
- Registering early will help prevent reorganizing classes in September

Computer labs

- Lab will be dismantled tomorrow
- Lab in the library will be turned into another classroom space
- In exchange more mobile devices will be added to school

Late issues

- Secretaries have begun to ask more questions about WHY students are arriving to school late
- Record was last Tuesday - 208 students were late (between 8:30-9:00) - this is a very large percentage of school population
- Parents are encouraged to try harder to get to school on time
- Andrea would like to put out a survey for parents to complete to help discern the issues for lateness
- There is a correlation between students who are late and their academic accomplishments

Canada 150 play

- Music teachers are putting on a show focusing on Canada's 150th birthday
- It will be a whole school wide production
- There will be two nights of performances in the second week of May so families can choose one or the other performance to attend

Before and After school Program

- Starting next year the YWCA will be taking over the before and after school extended day care programs
- Nothing will change for our students who use this program- it will just change *who* is running the program
- We currently have the largest after school day care program in the region

- Andrea has been working Jennifer from YWCA and they have been holding open houses for parents to view extended day program
- As a result of this change the school will lose a minimum of three DECEs who will be moving to other schools

Supervision of yard after school

- Students are not allowed to play on the yard (active sports or large group games) for the fifteen minutes immediately following dismissal so it is clear to supervision staff who has been picked up
- Tarmac games are not played before school in order to keep the yard (and parents and small children) safer
- The field is a pure mudpit right now - there is almost no grass left on the field
- The field is school board property - not city - the only way to replace the field would be if the fields were cordoned off for one entire year - which would be impossible to monitor
- Artificial turf would be \$125 000 and would only last about 8-10 years so is not the most effective alternative
- The space is not suitable to move the portables to in order to open up more tarmac space
- Students don't seem to mind playing on the field in the condition it is in now

Staffing changes

- Amanda B - SERT (Special Education Resource Teacher) has been promoted to the VP pool
- Brandon Power has been hired to replace her to work with grade 7s and fill the SERT role - he will also be working with Mr. Dashpur for track and field and various other sports
- Since JSPS is a large school the level C secretaries here are trained on more duties
- As a result when level C secretaries apply to other opportunities coming from a large school they are desired candidates (hence the large turnover of JSPS office staff)
- Barb will also be moving to a new position as head secretary at another school
- Andrea will be posting again for a 35 hours a week level C secretary
- Starting after March break Lynn Heart will be an addition to the secretary team as well
- There are currently 4 secretaries - Andrea will be asking for 3 full time secretaries for the fall -the team is currently tracking the amount of phone calls and door openings and other interruptions to have data to support the request for 3 full time staff
- Andrea is also asking for a full time CYW (an increase from the current half time CYW hours - Child and Youth Worker)

Treasurer's Report

- Kelly met with Micky in the office and she has developed a more easy to read and track spreadsheet

Current report passed on from Kelly:

2016/2017 School Year - Up to February	
Starting Balance	\$42,917.16

Income	
Mov-a-thon	\$8,132.40
Pizza	\$13,890.47
GST Rebate	\$91.46
Total Income	\$22,114.33
Starting balance + Income	\$65,031.49
Expenses	
Moved to principals account (previously approved spending)	\$40,829.14
Pizza Supplies	\$60.73
Mov-a-Thon	\$892.72
Pizza	\$8,286.71
	\$50,069.30
Income - Expenses =	\$14,962.19
To be transferred out (Approved spending \$360.79 from 2016/2017)	\$13,866.09
	\$1,096.10
Still to come out of account - March Pizza Days!	

Approved 2016/2017		
September		
Pizza Days		
Pizza Day Supplies		
October		
None		
November		
Document cameras/projectors	\$7,800.00	7755.3
French Immersion online reading accounts	\$350.00	350
Home Reading (English)	\$1,000.00	1000
Home Reading (French)	\$1,000.00	1000

Robotics/Makerspace tech	\$500.00	500
Ushape Tables x 6	\$2,400.00	2400
February		
Grade 8 Grad	\$500	500
TOTAL AMOUNT OF APPROVED SPENDING		13505.3

NOTE: Kelly does not have a total for our bottom line yet because we don't have up to date pizza receipts. We are probably about \$1000 in the negative right now. Thus the movie night should include our intentions for funds raised to go towards the Grade 8 graduation ceremonies (funds we've approved to spend, but don't actually have yet have).

Requests for funding:

- School play wish list would be to have \$4000 (mics, mixer, sound equipment)
- Grad committee would like \$500 to support grade 8 graduation ceremonies

Kelly motioned to approve spending for Grade 8 graduation
 Ana seconded motion - All in favour, motion passed

Our hope would be to continue to fundraise to support the School play/musical project

Fundraising

- Movie night will hopefully be approx \$1000-\$1500 profits
- Discussion followed about holding another fundraiser this year
- Pros and cons of running a simple fundraiser (like the gift cards) was discussed
- Council has approved to do a gift card fundraiser (gas, groceries, restaurants) along with the garden center gift cards again (last year we raised \$945 with this easy to manage fundraiser)
- Communication will go out right after March Break regarding the timelines and access to the fundraiser (gift cards online, garden center cards paid by cash through office)
- Profits raised from the gift card fundraiser will go towards the equipment needed for the upcoming (and future) school play/musical

Meeting Adjourned: 7:50pm

Next Meeting: April 25th, 6:00 in the library

