



Minutes reflect the order of the circulated agenda and not necessarily the order in which the items were discussed.

DRAFT Minutes

École Forest Trail School Council Meeting

April 1, 2017

7:00 p.m. – 9:00p.m.

Attendance for April 1, 2017 ÉFT School Council

A. Abraha
S. Awasthi
S. Basaraba
P. Brzezinski
C. Cibotari
L. Cowan
L. Cummings
S. Darabnia
C. Han *
A. K'Oduol *
L. Leung
C. Marineau
T. Monteith
D. Moshkforoush
C. Swankie
S. Van Wyk
S. Waite
N. Yousif

ÉFT Staff

S. Pilibbossian *
S. DiFelice
K. Spalding

Non-Voting Parents

J. Hand
S. Fu *

* Denotes Regrets
** Not in attendance

1. Council Information and Communication: T. Monteith

- T. Monteith welcomed all parents and members and mentioned the regrets.

2. School Administration Report –S. DiFelice

- S. Pilibbossian sends regrets.

S. DiFelice Shares the following:

1. **Aussie X** is back this week! This time students are participating in the X-Power program that focuses on conflict resolution skills, self-advocacy, perseverance, and positivity through tai chi inspired movements. We are grateful for the financial support from our ÉFT School Council and our HDSB student fees to provide this learning opportunity for our students.

2. We were very thankful to the Arora family for their sponsorship via HSBC to have **Earth Rangers** come to ÉFT this past week. Students from grade 1-6 watched a 45-minute dynamic, interactive, multi-media experience that featured LIVE animal ambassadors demonstrating their natural behaviours. Students learned about the importance of protecting biodiversity and the 5 animal conservation initiatives that the Earth Rangers organization is helping this year. The projects are: the Woodland Caribou, Pine Marten, Midland Painted Turtle, Eastern Small-footed Bat, and Bees and other pollinators.

3. Students from **Me to We** had a very successful **We Make Change** campaign last month. As a school, we raised \$2,200 to help families in developing countries. Club members were very impressed with the effort students made to help others and make a difference.

4. Back in the fall, grade 3 students had the opportunity to take part in the **Canada 150 quilt making program**. Each grade 3 class has now finished making a different quilt. On March 21st, the Halton Quilters Guild returned to our school to share with us the finished quilts. Students in each class gave their quilts a name and now the quilts are on their way to be



showcased at the "Stitches Through Time" quilt show, which will be part of Canada's 150 year Celebration. This show will take place at the Crossroads Centre in Burlington on April 22nd and 23rd.

5. Two child behavioural experts will be providing a **free parent presentation** titled, **'Looking Beyond the Behaviour'**, on Tuesday, April 4 in Burlington to teach parents/guardians strategies to help children develop emotional strength. Presented by Community & Parent Partners for Kids (C.A.P.P. for KIDS), the event runs from 7-8:30 pm at New St. Education Centre (3250 New St., Burlington). There will be community displays from 6:45-7:00 pm.

6. **Earth Day School Garden Clean Up** will take place on Saturday, April 29 from 9am-12pm, at our front garden. Please join us in helping to spruce up our school gardens. Please contact Mme Brodner if you can volunteer your time with your child(ren), even for a short period of time. We value and appreciate everyone's support. Thank you to Nancy Mills for organizing a number of RBC volunteers who will be assisting with the garden clean-up. We would like to access the funds from the PIC grant to purchase juice boxes and cheese pizza from Panago.

7. Under the leadership of Cynthia O'Halloran, a group of grade 7 and 8 students are busy organizing the yearbook photos. We are currently holding a **yearbook cover contest** and all submissions are due Wednesday, April 12th. The yearbook will be available for purchase via cashless and will be available at the end of June.

8. **Hatch Canada's Coding After School Program** has started as of March 30th and will run every Thursday for the next 8 weeks for students in grades 2-8 interested in learning how to code. The students will learn how to write computer code in Javascript. Hatch's self-paced and mastery-based platform allows students to choose their own projects to build from themes like Minecraft, Star Wars, Disney, Art, and more.

9. **Trips:** the grade 8 team is busy finalizing their overnight trip to Quebec city (June 19 -22). The grade 6s will be participating in the McMaster Altitude program (June 14th) that focuses on group initiatives and leadership building through science and technology and outdoor education. Based on the feedback from last year's overnight trip to Brock University, the grade 6s will not be attending an overnight trip this year as there seemed to be some anxiety experienced from students being away from home and the feedback about the learning portion of the program was not positive. The grade 7s will continue to attend an overnight trip to Camp Muskoka (which we have already booked for October 18-20).

10. There have been some discussions around why the **ski trip** was cancelled. We had booked the trip with Glen Eden but unfortunately, Glen Eden could not accommodate our numbers and supervision continues to be an issue, especially if we went to another venue. Hopefully, the weather will be more cooperative next year.

3. **Treasurer's Report – C. Cibotari**

- Our current bank balance is 83,404.78\$



- We also got a HST reimbursement in amount of 1175.08\$
- Our Term 3 pizza revenue is 9926\$ and Pita Pit is 3570\$.
- Funds available for council to allocate we have around 15,000\$
- We also have an overspending for Carnaval in amount of 148.97\$

4. French Movie Night

- D. Moshkforoush and S. Waite mentioned that the movie Trolls has been chosen, we forgot to update the flyer to indicate the start time for the movie is 6:00 pm. This flyer is out mentioning 6:15 pm. For the next movie night, we can send some info earlier and get some votes to choose a movie. We have not purchase or order drinks. Pizza is available to purchase only through cashless, no outside drink and food allowed. Bring your own water bottles. We will ask to vote for the next movie and set it up on school council website.
- Next one, Zootopia or Sing. If anyone has the movie. Please bring them for the night.

5. EFT Trading Post

- C. Swankie talks about our own EFT kijiji. Called EFT trading post. The draft has been written up. This allows everyone to post to offer items they no longer need for free or for sale, and post if they are looking for a specific item. Personal contact information to be posted so everyone will contact the owner of the post. Items will not get exchanged at school.

6. Committee Updates/Overview & Volunteer Opportunities

- Constitution Committee: Looking into making changes to the Coyotes Den. When we created it, we had so many areas. We are going to tighten up the guidelines, so the funds will be used for lunches that are served/offered at school, field trips or part of the field trip, up to \$250 gift card in groceries/emergency money, per child per school year. This will give the administration some tools and guidelines and Communication will be sent to everyone to review. Provisions have to be considered in case funds are not available, so wording has to be prepared to mention if funds are available.
- Communications Committee: Work will be starting on the school kijiji
- PEP Committee: No Updates



- Pay it forward: Planning on running a diaper drive. Will decide about details and think if we are going to tie it with a food drive or not. Communication will be sent when we finalize.
- Fundraising: L. Cummings: All details finalized for spring plant fundraiser. Waiting for confirmation on delivery date, planned May 18 before the long weekend. Price is the same as last year. Volunteers are needed on delivery date from 2:30 pm onwards.

We heard that Chapters at Dorval crossing is closing. Planned to close for December. Our Chapters night is booked for November. 403/Dundas Chapters will be our alternate option.

Funfair: Sponsorship letter is prepared and passed around; feel free to pass more out for more sponsors. Quilts that were made by our students at school can be showcased during the fun fair and auction off. It can be done in form of silent auction. Rules about raffles and auctions should be reviewed from communication through super council.

Funfair food trucks: School Board is not specific with what they would like our school to submit. The document is vague as for what kind of license they require. We need proper clarification from the board as what they exactly needs from us. And the specific person to approve all the licenses and food trucks is not responsive.

We would like to ask Ozzy movement to come back for Fun Fair.

The total amount of our costs is \$4200 and the funds paid by our sponsors will cover the cost of some items and activities. All rental equipment is up to \$3000; this will keep the cost of tickets low otherwise we have to charge the kids 5-6 tickets for each activity. A break down of costs will be sent if businesses would like to sponsor specific activities. Clarification will be taken from S. Pilibbossian for a 10th year anniversary celebration. The date might be changed to 2017/18.

Question was also raised if we want to change the June meeting date to a date after the Fun Fair. All members agreed to move June meeting to June 12, 2017.

- Safety and Well Being: S.DiFelice mentioned about that we have blitzes like pink day and green day, and promoting smiles squad. We are also looking to work on physical activity to help stress. Effective strategies to manage stress for grade 5-6, grade 7-8 building self worth through goal setting, also watching videos about what mental health really means to them and work on strategy, e.g. write a letter to themselves. Our staff looked at indigenous blanket program, starts from grade 3, takes staff through colonization of Inuit



people and an entry point to what truly happened to them. Getting all staff recognize people in our society and teach students to realize, understand and learn about some realities.

- Canadian Parents for French: We registered for a Webinar and share the link to register with all parents. Unfortunately, the time slot available was at 11:00 am, which is not convenient for a lot of people who work. We just received a link of the Webinar's recording that will be shared with the school, teachers and parents.

7. New Business

- Breakfast club: Joanna Oliver sent an email and is trying to see if there is any interest to set up a breakfast club at school. Super council is having a meeting at Abbey Lane to observe how the breakfast club is run and if it is feasible to run the same club at our school. You can join on April 10th, 7-9 am. This might be something important to look into as there are students who come to school without a breakfast.
- Carnival: we had some posters made by the art club students and we needed to have them laminated. Smallest one is 36x48. We can laminate them for \$207. It will be done at the board.
- Letters for class placement special requests are due end of April.
- Google Canada is inviting teachers and students in a contest to submit a Google logo. School is already looking into that.
- Do we need to order extra pizza for movie night? No since Pizza is only available through cashless schools.

8. Voting

- On a motion duly moved by T. Monteith seconded by N. Yousif and 12 members in favor and 2 abstain; School Council Minutes of March 2017 was approved.
- On a motion duly moved by C. Swankie, seconded by L. Cowan and 14 members in favor; it was approved to increase \$600 to the budget for Carnival to cover all extra expenses.

9. Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.