

**St John's Elementary School Council Meeting**  
Monday October 26, 2009

**Present:** Terri Brady, Melanie O'Neil, Dagmar Sagat, Kathy Campbell, Donna Poole, Dominic Richens, Deborah Hamilton Foley, Louise Brown, Diane Jackson, Bev Gemmill, Beth McNally, and Lynn Fowler.

**Regrets:** Cheryl O'Conner, Peter McCracken, Jeannie Hendry, Julie Barr Dowdall and Kevin Hogan.

**Welcome and Prayer:** A Prayer for School Councils

**Minutes of September Meeting:**

Deborah Hamilton Foley motioned to approve the minutes of the September meeting as published. Seconded by Melanie O'Neil. No errors or omissions.

**Correspondence:**

A letter from the Nutrition Program Committee asking us to consider making a donation to them to help keep our great nutrition program running. A motion was put forward to hold off on this donation until February/March 2010, when the program may be in more need, at this time they are working well with what is currently available.

**Principal's Report:**

H1N1 Update:

Teachers continue to stress hand washing and proper etiquette for coughing.

Parents are asked to keep children home if they have a cough and a fever.

Our custodial staff has been regularly disinfecting contact surfaces in the school.

Our School Board is in daily contact with the Medical Health Officers and as a Board we will take our direction from them. There is a Board pandemic plan that is posted on the Board website. Parents are encouraged to check the CDSBEO website for any updates.

[www.cdsbeo.on.ca](http://www.cdsbeo.on.ca)

Our school was nominated for a Tri-Valley Conservation Award. They came in second place and our award was received by Mrs. Cunningham, Mrs. White and their students at a dinner in Almonte on Oct. 21.

The Parent Involvement Committee held a successful evening for School Councils on Oct. 22 that was well attended. We thank our chair, Mr. Dominic Richens for representing St. John's.

Oct. 27 at 12:45 Our monthly mass will feature the grade 4 Bible presentations. It will be followed by a reception in the gymnasium.

Thanks to Lynn Fowler and all parents and students who supported the very successful Movie Night on Oct. 16.

October 30 will be Orange and Black day. The Intermediate students will have a Halloween

dance from 6:30-9:00.

### **Chairperson's Report:**

PRO grant was due last Friday and Jo Bali kindly put this grant together and submitted it for us. The grant was written around the idea of a Parent Symposium on Child Anxiety in cooperation with Open Doors Perth.

Dominic, along with Terri and Kevin attended the Kempville Parent Involvement Committee Fall Meeting on October 22. Unlike previous years there was no key note speaker and as a result there was time for two workshops. Dominic attended the "running an effective council meeting" and "assistive technologies" workshop. The latter was interesting in that the coordinator stated that the board is trying to get these tools out to more than just the kids with IEPs, both because they are useful to lots more kids and it would reduce the stigma that surrounds using of these tools.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

The current balance of our account is \$1156.52 + \$80.65 in the PRO fund. Great Balloon Chase is owed \$600 that they have not yet collected. Deborah Hamilton Foley motioned to pay this bill & the motion was seconded by Kathy Campbell.

### **Movie Night:**

Movie night was a great success again with a turn out of 155 parents and students. Everyone was asking when the next movie night will be. This will be on Tuesday February 2<sup>nd</sup> as the 3<sup>rd</sup> is a PA day. A total of amount will be confirmed at the next meeting. The approximate balance after all bills have been paid is around \$300.

### **Kindergarten Yard:**

Diane Jackson presented information from Let Them Be Kids, and information regarding a grant thru this program, also from the PDC Foundation. Let Them Be Kids will top up what we raise with a ratio of 60/40. There is also a grant available thru Kool Aid Smiles Awards up to \$5000 available. Kool Aid also tops up what we raise, 60/40 ratio.

St Edwards in Westport used the Let Them Be Kids program and was successful. Diane will contact them to find out more information about Let Them Be Kids and how to approach starting this task.

In the grants we need to be specific as to what we are planning. Melanie has asked for a slide, possibly a double one and would like to have some tractor tires. (which we may be able to have donated thru the community)

We will start with the kindergarten yard first as it is in the most need with other areas of the whole yard done in stages.

A small Playground sub-committee will be formed to organize, plan and promote this new endeavour. It will consist of Melanie O'Neil, Diane Jackson, Donna Poole and .

### **Hands Off Policy:**

A small discussion took place regarding the schools "Hands Off Policy" Lynn mentioned that there has been several comments regarding hands on too much in the playground. Terri will put at note in this weeks newsletter reminding parents to remind their children about this policy.

### **Trivia Night:**

Trivia night will be held on Friday November 13<sup>th</sup>, in the gym. This is a council fundraiser and did very well last year. There will be 8-10 people per team, corporate sponsors for \$50 each and there will be a thank you from St John's placed in the courier after the trivia night. Melanie will look into the possibility if tax receipts can be issued.

Melanie will need some volunteers, 2 for the door (Lynn and Dominic) 3 markers (Lynn, Julie and one other). This is a non licensed event, but we will have drinks and snacks available to purchase like last year for a small cost. There will also be a 50/50 draw that will be organized by Peter. Melanie will have a note put in the church bulletin, News letter, an add in the courier as well as advertise on community events on LAKE 88.1 and put posters up around town.

### **Polar Plunge:**

Peter McCracken submitted a letter as he was unable to attend regarding the Polar Plunge. Phil Brackenbury is organizing this years plunge and along with Peter's help would like to put a team together from St John's. This team could include council members, staff and possibly older students. A challenge would be put forward to other schools to do the same and see how much money can be raised. Peter's goal is \$500! This years proceeds will go to the Food Bank. Peter is looking for names from other councils to contact them to present this challenge to. If anyone has contact names from other councils for Peter, please forward them to him. He is also interested in any comments or feedback regarding this challenge!! Please let him know.

### **New Business:**

Kathy opened a discussion regarding students visiting some of the seniors residence in town. All though it is a great idea it is not a good idea at this time due to the H1N1 virus. An idea was put forward by Lynn to have some of the students be pen pals to the residence, they could draw a picture or make a card and send them to the residence over the holidays. Melanie thought this was a great idea and will present it to the staff. As Kathy had to leave before the discussion had ended Terri said she would follow up with her.

### **AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:**

Kindergarten Yard,  
Trivia Night,  
Polar Plunge Challenge,  
Chocolate,  
Insurance: Where does the Board start and stop.

**NEXT MEETING : Monday November 23, 2009**