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| **Leslieville School Council**  **Meeting Minutes**  **Nov 2019** | **image1.png** |

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| **Item** | **Notes** |
| **Agenda and Minutes** | * Oct 2019 Minutes were reviewed and no changes were made. |
| **Principal’s Report** | **School Budget**   * Overall there was approx. 5% drop in the school budget for 2019/2020 vs. last year. * In the budget from the TDSB, there was approx. $12 per primary child, vs. $15 per child before. * Principal outlined that he took some money (about $4,000) from the general budget called “general school day” (typically used for broken furniture or things of that nature) and put it towards classrooms to increase the amount to $20 per student in each classroom. * Other allocations, for field trips, telephone bills, school council ($419 – used for insurance), physical education, music, special education, library (for books and other resources), technology, etc. remained the same as last school year.   **Labour Report**   * Teachers begin work to rule on Tuesday November 26th. The intention in Phase 1 is to limit impact to the children and instead be more targeted at school board and administration. The work to rule terms include: not participating in EQAO-related activities, not completing term 1 report cards, not participating in school board or ministry professional learning. * At this time, schools will remain ongoing, but negotiations are ongoing and a later phase could require withdrawal of extra-curricular activities or school closures. * For more information, visit the following websites: * <https://etfocb.ca/strike-protocol-work-to-rule-phase-1/> * <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Labour-Negotiations>   **Recess Project**   * Recess has been noted in prior meetings as an ongoing issue and the Principal notes that dealing with unstructured time and related issues in the school yard is most of what he has to deal with, and the children need things to do. * He notes that children who don’t have a friend outside are feeling isolated. In the classroom, the teachers make an effort to include all the children, but outside is different. * Principal noted some issues with toboggans (injuries) and snowball throwing, as well as some fighting. * The Recess Project meeting was attended by Ms. Shelley, Lynn (lunchroom supervisor), Jenn McGoey (parent) and Mr. Yee. The project outlines 6 goals in the manual that was provided as a part of the program. * Plan is to get grade 6s to act as recess leaders and he will be starting a recess committee at the school. He will offer to all parents the option to join the committee (rather than just council members) to ensure opportunity for all. * Principal is going to reach out to Right to Play to see if they can provide some activities. * Principal also outlined that he is looking into an expert to come to the school to discuss resiliency in children and parents.   **Key Dates**   * Nov 29th – pizza lunch (now with larger slices at $2.50/slice) * Dec 2nd, 6pm in the library – Grade 6 ? * Dec 6th – PA day * Dec 12th in the evening – school concert * Dec 13th in the morning – kindergarten concert * Dec 23rd – Jan 5th – school break   **Other items:**   * Riverdale Basket Brigade – for families in need, they provide baskets filled with items for the holidays. If there are any Leslieville families in need they can speak to Mr. Yee discreetly and he will arrange for them to be provided with one. * Grade 5s and 6s can leave school property to go off school property for lunch, with permission. The Principal noted that sometimes they don’t actually go off school property and sit in the yard unsupervised, which can cause problems as other kids aren’t able to do that. 12:20 is when children who are leaving school property should return as there is the extra supervision in the yard. Council suggestion to make this clear to the kids who have permission to leave the school and/or parents of these children as there likely isn’t awareness that this is an issue. |
| **Teacher Report** | **Funding Request from Teachers**   * Teachers have been asking about protocol to come forward for funding from council for a field trip. Ms. Cremer has advised them that it usually needs to be something that benefits a number of children in the school, rather than just one classroom, but has told them to provide a proposal that can be considered. |
| **Recess Discussion (OPAL, Recess Project, Other)** | **OPAL**   * Stacey outlined the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) program that has been piloted in 6 schools across the TDSB and that she has personal experience through her son at Chester PS. * The program involved supplying a shed in the school yard full of different items for the children to free play with at recess time (i.e. crates, tires, make-believe items, etc.) and they can use as they wish. * The purpose is to provide items for play but also teach children risk assessment, negotiation and physical/social and cognitive skills. Feedback on the program has been that children are more engaged and happier, have increased interest in playing outside, has increased mixed age and gender play and fewer visits to principal and reports of bullying/fighting. * Children are encouraged to play outside in all weather conditions and teachers have experienced increased focused and better behaviour in classrooms following recess. * The program would need OPAL champions, and the buy in from the Principal, caretaker, staff, teachers and parents. * Last year it was opened to more schools, though it is not clear what is the cost to implement or whether funding is available.   **Recess Project**   * Jenn McGoey outlined a few further items from the Recess Project, such that some children, in particular, special needs, those living in poverty and girls (particularly grades 4-6) find recess very challenging. * The program requires a Recess Committee and the use of older student leaders to initiate different activities in the yard at recess. * You can request a student from the program to come and train the student leaders and teachers/staff.   **Other**   * The discussion of the above two initiatives led to further council discussion on the overall issues reported at recess. * The Principal outlined that a key issue with some initiatives is safety and liability and that is his hesitation with the OPAL program. * Some parents raised that children have to be allowed to take some risks (within reason) so they can learn. * There was also discussion of the fact that the school yard is not being seen by the students to be an extension of the school and inappropriate behaviour is being reported (especially between older and younger children). Request that programs take into consideration what further resources will be required to ensure that the same principals required inside the school are carried forward into the school yard. * Principal outlined that he and other supervisors try to address issues, but when they turn their back that things continue to happen. * It was noted that reinforcing the message every day in the announcements is helpful to ensure that acceptable behaviour is understood by all. |
| **Council Survey Status Update** | * The following slides were discussed outlining survey results: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1jhoBPukLwujlqP9CMym_3J0Hhsx7GjoNExRG9KBkJbY/edit?usp=sharing> * Overall 103 people responded to the survey (met the goal of 100) * There was also a more diverse population that the previous survey, though it still did not reflect the entire school make-up. * It was noted that our current communication methods are working to get messages out (i.e. through the principals email, backpack notices, etc.) * For fundraising, respondents noted they were most likely to: Attend Fun Fair (94.2%), Buy Leslieville “merch” (68.5%), Donate a lump sum at start of year (53.7%) and purchase from a bake sale (53.7%). * Suggestions for fundraisers are mostly family-focused: Family BBQ, Winter Carnival, Trivia Night. * Respondents felt just as strongly about NOT attending an adults only fundraiser (36.9% answered 1 or 2) as attending (42.7% answered 4 or 5) * Discussion of the key themes that matter to parents, as well as ranking of various problems/initiatives in terms of importance. * It was noted that for future surveys (to be done every 2 years), it would be helpful to ask people to rank initiatives in order rather than rate each one individually but that this wasn’t possible with the software chosen for this year. It was also noted that it would be helpful to separate “problems” to be solved vs. “solutions”. * The rankings had the top 7 as Scientists in the School, support for primary literacy, classroom resources, mental health information, advocacy, specialized phys ed programs and cultural performances.   **Action Plan**   * Following the review of the results, the proposed action plan and cost against these top 7 items, as well as support for recess, was outlined: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1dC56aNitmLxjs44RiOXW3H9WuyxTLMZzyYQCRzNJyYs/edit>   **Top survey responses Proposed actions**  Scientists in the School One per class, as in past ($3200)  Support for primary grades literacy Read-a-thon ($500)  Classroom kits to help kids focus One per class ($1000)  \*Mental health info session Source speaker, host session ($1,000)  Use our power to tell gov’t what matters Continue work of advocacy ctee  Specialized phys ed programs X-Movement ($2560)  Cultural performances Three musical ones proposed by staff ($3200)  \*Students don’t feel safe outside classrooms Recess bags, one per class ($1,000)   * Committees will be required for many of these items. * The cost of each item was outlined and related to each pillar of Well-being, Achievement and Equity. * X Movement initiative includes the following:   + 3 X Social & Emotional Workshops for every student in the school (in the school for 3 days)   + 90 min x Community engagement event/evening   + 12 month DPA health and wellness program for the staff and Parents   + 12 month S & E weekly educator digest for staff * The following existing initiatives were proposed again for this school year: 2-3 movie nights, Fun Fair, Welcome to Kindie Night, Winter Family Dance, hockey team, grade 6 graduation and $150/class discretionary fund for teachers. * Assuming all initiatives were funded at amounts specified, it was outlined that the starting balance for 2020/21 school year would be approx. $16,000 and therefore no fundraising (outside of Fun Fair) was recommended for this year. * Two motions were proposed:   **Motion 1 on new ideas:**   * + Whereas Council has heard from 103 parents/guardians that we need more initiatives that reflect what’s important (focus on achievement, wellbeing and equity),   + And whereas Council has outlined 5 new ideas for initiatives that will benefit students this year (and some for future years)   + Council will spend $6,000 to fund these 5 new initiatives.   + Vote to move the motion: Jenn McGoey   + Second the motion: Stacey McDowall and Sumiko Oda * Approved – funding for X Movement, Read-a-thon, Recess Bags, Focus baskets for classrooms and mental health info session has been approved.   **Motion 2 on existing ideas:**   * + Whereas Council has heard from 103 parents/guardians that we need more initiatives that reflect what’s important (focus on achievement, wellbeing and equity),   + And whereas Council has outlined programs and initiatives that have been successful in the past and in line with what’s important to parents who responded to the survey,   + And whereas these 8 initiatives will benefit students this year,   + Council will spend approx $20,000 to fund these 8 existing initiatives. * It was noted that the second motion means that prior funding for music equipment, phys ed. equipment, technology and transportation would not be funded again this year. In order to allow for more discussion and due to time constraints, the second motion will be voted on at the next meeting. |
| **Upcoming Events** | * Possible date for Family Dance – Feb 28th * Possible date for teacher’s appreciation potluck - Dec 18th |
| **Treasurer’s Report** | * Treasurer provided the Cash Flow Statement but due to time constraints, it was not discussed. |
| **Roundtable** | * Sumiko requested that she be able to get an online Leslieville merchandise store and Fundscript (which provides money to the school when individuals buy gift cards) up and running before the holidays. Council agreed. * Fun Fair was also discussed in the context of the survey results that respondents would be more likely to volunteer for Fun Fair if we were super clear about the ask (47.6%) or if shifts were 1 hour not 2 (43.7%). Sumiko suggested that we hire people to run activities and cut back on certain items. |

**Decisions**

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|  | * Motion 1 on funding for new ideas (as outlined above) was approved. * Leslieville merchandise online store and Fundscript can be set up for use prior to the holidays. |

**Actions**

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|  | * Principal to set up recess committee and to invite parents in broad community to participate. * Items to fulfill new initiatives (in motion 1); in particular recess bags and classroom focus baskets, to be purchased as soon as possible. |

**Future Agenda Items**

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| 1. Motion 2 to be reviewed and approved at the next meeting. 2. Discuss committees required for various initiatives proposed for 2019/20 year. |

**Future Meeting Schedule**

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| 2019-20 | The meeting schedule is as follows:   * December 17, 2019 * January 21, 2020 * February 18, 2020 * March 17, 2020 * April 21, 2020 * May 19, 2020 * June 16, 2020 |