

Leslieville School Council

Minutes for November 19, 2014, meeting

Item	Notes
Review of Minutes	The October 15, 2014 minutes were accepted with no changes required.
Principal's Report	<p>The Principal's Report included the following items:</p> <p>Safe Arrivals Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Office staff are no longer calling when a student is absent• A robo-call program is in effect, which really improves attendance and lateness according to schools that participated.• The robo-call can also inform people about events such as a pizza lunch. It doesn't have CASL info just yet. <p>Communications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parents can receive an email driving them to the school website for newsletter, which will reduce paper copies• Leslieville will have to determine if it will replace something in the future• Some parents getting multiple calls via kids in other schools <p>Grade 8 extension:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The area Superintendent, Mike Gallagher, is wondering about the school community's interest in extending to Grade 8. He has asked Leasa to gauge the School Council's interest in this, with the perception is that our community is not keen on the idea. There were questions of if the next step is to survey the community?• It was noted that Bruce PS's extension to Grade 8 was driven in part by a potential closure of the school.• Leasa noted that many middle schools are finding the rotation model isn't working. Courses such as shop and home economics are no longer offered.• It was suggested that the process of exploring an extension to Grade 8 should be continued, so that more parents can ask their questions. Having an Open House Information Night was also suggested.• Note was made about the Grade 7-8 program at Duke PS being similar to Leslieville: students have core program teachers, and do have lockers.• Discussion about the capacity of Leslieville with Grade 7-8 included:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The school will be at 95% capacity with K-8.○ For daycare and after-school programs, Woodgreen daycare has a lease, while Eastview after-school only has a permit. Eastview should try to go to the board to get a lease. If Grade 7-8 is added, Eastview could not use the room they are currently using because of space.○ A suggestion that Eastview look for space nearby has not been well-received. An advantage of having daycare in the school for older

kids is at they can participate in after school programs like the ukulele club.

Events:

- Friday, November 21 is pizza lunch
- November 21 is also Moustache Day. Grade 6 ambassadors have come up with spirit days, which ties in with Movember. Fundraising for lots including pajama day Mondays. Students can bring a loonie or toonie but not mandatory.
- School concert on December 10. Drop kids off at 6:30. Grades 1-6
- Feedback on Grandparents Day noted a lack of translators caused by the translators being late. It was suggested that, in the future, the newsletter include this event so that the Asian community knows about it.

Sex Education:

- Kate provided an update about sex education session at the recent People for Education conference:
 - The current curriculum is called sexual health and was last updated 1998.
 - Attempts to update the curriculum four years ago received pushback
 - An Environics poll found that 90% of parents said they want the curriculum updated.
 - TDSB got one parent per school to fill out a survey to see if they think curriculum should be updated.
 - Consent needs to be added to the curriculum.
 - There is discussion about having a workshop for Grades 5-6 students to talk about healthy body image, etc.

Administration and TDSB Governance:

- A new school Statement of Needs has been submitted. The TDSB has this on file so that if we need to hire new principal, our requests and needs are noted.
- Leslieville's area has a new school trustee, Jen Story. She has been invited to come to a council meeting.
- A Future Shop grant is being prepared that will ask for STEM support. The intent is to ask for 30 iPads.
- Related to grant applications, Leasa was asked for a list of needs so that School Council can identify which grants should be applied for.
- It was noted that a Ministry Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grant for math literacy night was approved. Leasa is working with Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Cremer to set that up.
- Christine Nero attended the PFED conference which looked at how children succeed. Character building is key and that's what it's all about. Another session was on equity; it was suggested that the speaker, Christopher De Sousa, come to Leslieville.

<p>Event Lead's Report</p>	<p>A summary of the Silent Auction was provided as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall, the event was very successful and well-run and organized • A profit of \$5K is estimated, although not all expenses are paid. There was a question of whether having the Fun Fair and Silent Auction as separate events made more money than in previous years where these were a single event. • The event was also recognized for its social aspect; the event format of being a night out without kids was appreciated and valued. • The event success was attributed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff support ○ School Council and school community volunteers ○ Sponsors and donors, as well the real estate agents who volunteered their time at the event • Suggestions to improve the event were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Set up committees next year to plan and organize, rather than having one person (Charlene) do most of the work ○ Make communications more clear and streamlined for the event ○ Document processes to help with knowledge retention for future volunteers/organizers ○ There were questions about the feasibility of an online silent auction ○ Make the donation process (i.e., request, confirmation, pick-up of items, recognition, thank-you letter) more consistent. It was suggested that the person who gets the donation be responsible for the follow-up recognition and thank-you letter. ○ Consider having a live band. Mr. Barrett has volunteered his band for next year ○ Shannon volunteered to collection suggestions for future Silent Auctions and she will build a plan for next year • There was confusion about the event pricing (\$5 agreed to at School Council but \$10 listed on posters)
<p>Teachers' Report</p>	<p>Items presented in the Teachers' Report were as follows:</p> <p>Technology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ball outlined a new typing program with 8 new netbooks in primary grades; these were funded by a grant. • A second grant will fund the purchase of 12 computers. This will link media, science and social studies, using bit strips. Having the support of colleagues was great too. <p>Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leslieville broke the Guinness record for speed stacking. Studies have proven that this improves hand eye coordination. 67 children crammed in and did it. Mr. Ball has 7 sets of cups but this is not enough. Speed

	<p>stacking is at first recess on Day 3.</p> <p>Fundraising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Grade 6 class wants to continue to sell bracelets to continue sponsorship of Plan Canada children.
Fundraising	<p>An update on fundraising activities was provided as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> QSP Magazines: Diana confirmed that not as many subscriptions were sold as last year. Approximately \$600 was raised. Another fundraiser, Acorn custom cards, has been identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is an activity for kids to do as part of art class; each teacher gets a package, and this work is done as part of the curriculum. It takes about six weeks to run the program; once the artwork is done it goes home with the kids and then parents can choose products to order such as fridge calendars, greeting cards, etc. With a minimum of \$300 sold, 12 cards is \$20 or \$25 with a message. Of this \$8-10 goes to the school. Diana with help will distribute, etc. can include bio of kids. Darren, Mary and Leasa seemed to support this initiative.
Treasurer' Report	<p>Items discussed in the Treasurer's Report were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an unallocated surplus of approximately \$8,000 There was a question about getting a sign for the front of the school
Communications Lead's Report	<p>Items discussed in the Communications Lead's Report were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TDSB CASL compliance names are in but don not have students or classes; need to fill in for room parents.
Sub-Committees	<p>Greening</p> <p>Items discussed in the Greening Team's Report were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eco-club on Tuesday at lunch. May change the date. Nadine is working with staff to figure out greening and grants for spring. It was noted that the wood around hockey rink is falling apart. This is a TDSB Facilities responsibility; they have been contacted but no action has been taken yet. It was also noted that 8 years ago benches were removed from kindergarten yard and haven't been replaced.
Other Business	<p>Other business discussed was as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have new projector, and there was discussion of a motion to purchase a new screen. A popcorn machine was also suggested for purchase.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff Appreciation Holiday event: it was suggested that a staff appreciation event be held before the holidays. This is in addition to the event held at the end of the year. Sherri volunteered to lead this event.• Lunar New Year potluck. Ms Adams, might have to do it differently. We could order from a restaurant instead of having the families donate food. Health/food safety has come into question. Council parents unhappy because it takes away a special event from kids. It's an important part of our school culture. Allergies and food safety the prime concern. Sharon and Tai offered to volunteer and heat up. Option to do a parent and child event separately - community event.
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The next meeting is Wednesday, December 17th and will be held off-site at Alisa's.