

# Central Public School Council Minutes



Tuesday, September 16, 2014 - Central Public School Library

**In attendance:** Angela Bromley, Barbara Gibson, Belal S. El-Hassan, Bridget O'Shaughnessy, Chris Lauzon, Christine Suntz, Cynthia Silversides, Emily Ens, Heather Verrall, Holly Etherington, Jen Lawson, Jennifer Donato, Jennifer MacDonnell, Kathryn Litke, Kristie Kuiper, Kristin O'Connor, Laura Davidson, Laura Noble Wohlgemut, Lauren Pitkeathly, Leanne Greenwood, Lee Wilson, Marina Muller, Mario Zeoli, Mehrnoash Afnan, Melinda Cowan, Nicole Parker, Randa A.wahed, Rosi Zirger, Samantha Bell, Sandra Mercuri, Sarah Rangaratnam, Sue Rapin, Susan Van Buuren.

## Welcome and Outgoing Chair Report – Nicole Parker

Nicole Parker welcomed everyone in attendance to the Central Public School Council meeting. She introduced herself and Heather Verrall, the outgoing Vice-Chair. At Nicole's suggestion, everyone in attendance introduced themselves and shared what grade(s) their children are in.

Nicole informed meeting attendees what transpired since the Council last met on June 3rd, 2014. The Year-end Council report was sent home to each family the third week of June. No cheques were written and no expenses incurred. The Council received 4 cheques over the summer:

- **\$617.00** - Pizza Pizza rewards program
- **\$371.00** - Fundscrip payout for 2nd quarter
- **\$280.00** - Boston Pizza receipt program
- **\$180.00** - Scientist in School workshop refund

Holly Etherington completed the annual DSBN Financial Report for Parent Administered Funds, Nicole Parker reviewed the report and filed it on September 15, 2014 with Mario Zeoli, the Central Public School Principal.

The Council received a \$1,000.00 PRO Grant from the Ministry of Education entitled, *Support Your Student in French Immersion*. The grant was written and submitted on the behalf of the Council by Shellee Niznik, the former Central Public School Principal.

## Officer Appointments – Nicole Parker and Heather Verrall

Nicole Parker distributed Self-Nomination Forms to each family per the Central School Council's By-laws. She informed everyone in attendance that the Council holds at least six meetings during the school year and collected Self-Nominating forms from parents/guardians. She welcomed meeting attendance and involvement in Council activities for non-voters.

Nicole informed everyone of the open Officers of the Council positions: Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Fundraising Coordinator, and Fundscrip Coordinator with a brief description of each. She advised that one person can hold two positions, for example, there can

be co-chairs for the Fundraising Coordinator position. Nicole recommended to hold off on appointing a Pizza Day Coordinator until after Council holds a discussion about Pizza Day.

Nicole put forth a resolution for the Council to accept these appointments. Sarah Rangaratnam seconded the resolution and it was carried. The following parents/guardians were appointed as Officers of the Central School Council for 2014-2015:

- **Chair:** Cynthia Silversides
- **Vice-Chair:** Laura Davidson
- **Treasurer:** Holly Etherington
- **Secretary:** Sue Rapin
- **Fundraising Coordinators:** Bridget O'Shaughnessy and Lauren Pitkeathly
- **Fundscrip Coordinator:** Emily Ens

Nicole and Heather departed the meeting after the Officers of the Council were appointed.

Cynthia Silversides put forward a resolution to expand the size of the Council to over 20 parents/guardians to accommodate for all the self-nominations. Lauren Pitkeathly seconded the resolution and it was carried. The following parents/guardians were appointed as members of the Central School Council for 2014-2015: Angela Bromley, Barbara Gibson, Belal S. El-Hassan, Christine Sultz, Danielle Fawcett, Jen Lawson, Jen MacDonnell, Kathryn Litke, Kristin O'Connor, Laura Dockray, Laura Noble Wohlgemut, Leanne Greenwood, Marina Muller, Mehrnoash Afnan, Melinda Cowan, Nikolai Zydownyk, Oksana Glukhov, Patti Rockey, Rosi Zirger, Samantha Bell, Sandra Mercuri, Sarah Rangaratnam.

## Principal/Vice Principal Report – Mario Zeoli and Jennifer Donato

Mario Zeoli, the new Central Public School Principal, informed the Council that the Principal and Vice Principal reports will be provided jointly at meetings.

Principal Mario Zeoli and Vice Principal Jennifer Donato provided their career backgrounds to the Council. This is their first year at Central Public School and also their first time working together as Principal and Vice Principal. School number projections assembled last June were estimated at 574 students and the school is currently at 577 students. Next year there will be only a Grade 1 entry point. This is the last year of Grade 4 entry.

Staffing changes were highlighted:

- **Karen Campbell-High**, LRT, will be part-time at Lakeview this year with time split between Lakeview and Central.
- **Danielle Kingston**, Grade 2, will be a part-time, French LRT to fill the time no longer covered by Karen. She will continue to be home-room teacher in the morning, and a new teacher will be hired to cover afternoons with this Grade 2 class.

Cimo, night-time caretaker and well-regarded longtime school employee, recently passed away.

There will be only one official school fundraiser this year, QSP magazine subscriptions. There is a good profit margin on this program handled by an outside company, limiting the use of school resources to collect money and distribute purchases. A comment was raised by a parent regarding the “prizes” associated with these fundraising programs, where an atmosphere is created at home where children are in tears over cheap toys/prizes.

Principal Zeoli said he is “super excited to be at Central” and highlighted the various communication tools such as the newsletter and calendar on the website, and that a paper copy of the calendar will be sent home monthly. A comment was raised by a parent regarding the use of only French on the exterior school sign, making it challenging for English speaking parents to read. Principal Zeoli indicated that typically one side will be French and the other side English, with the English side taking into account important information for parents/guardians.

The “Lunch Time” policy regarding off-site lunches was discussed. It was explained that only Grade 7 and 8 students will be allowed off-site for lunch, and that they must have a note from the parent or guardian each and every single time. These notes will be reviewed by the Principal or Vice-Principal and initialed prior to student release.

The Terry Fox event will be held on September 24, with Mme. Miller, the lead teacher organizing the event. Kindergarten and Primary (Grades 1, 2, 3) will participate with a walk in the school yard. Junior (Grades 4, 5, 6) and Intermediate (Grades 7, 8) will walk a local route around the school. Parents were encouraged to remind their children to wear school colours black and red for the event.

A discussion was held regarding the “Colour Teams” of last year. This was a program where all grades were mixed into different colour teams for various school events. Activities were intended to build leadership skills and school spirit. This program is under review by the school for continued use in 2014-2015.

The recent “Jour de Jeux” (Play Day) was a success. The Grade 8 classes ran the activities and the Grade 7 students were team leaders. A lot of French was spoken and a total of \$600.00 was raised for a charitable donation by selling freezies.

There is a potential \$1,000.00 grant through the Canadian Parents for French (CFP) available for use to support parents of French children, such as workshop events. A few ideas for were discussed, one being French classes for English speaking parents.

About the use of French culture in the curriculum, Principal Zeoli confirmed this is taken into account in all areas of the school, and highlighted that their teachers come from many places including Northern Ontario, Quebec, and France.

It was requested for children to always talk first with their teacher before elevating concerns to the Principal/Vice Principal level. In most cases issues get resolved at the Teacher level.

An example of the strict “No Electronics” policy on school property was given. If a child is asked to text a parent at a certain time of day, the child is expected to bring their phone to the office to send the text in the presence of the Principal or Vice Principal. Field trips are considered as school property and this policy continues to apply.

In response to a parent question about communication, teachers have a variety of means to communicate including emails and school web page. Some emails have not been provided.

## Treasurer Report – Holly Etherington

Holly presented the Council financial report for the month of September. The balance is currently at \$17,232.50 with \$3,000.00 of that amount in Capital Reserves for the Playground Fund to go towards maintenance and replacement.

The Council has \$3,900.00 in outstanding commitments, outlined as follows:

Item	Amount	Source of Funds
Teacher Supplies	\$3,400	Pizza Day Revenue
Grade 8 Graduation Ceremony	\$500.00	Pizza Day Revenue

Cynthia Silversides put forward a motion to honour these two outstanding commitments. Sarah Rangaratnam seconded the motion and it was carried.

The adjusted account balance is currently \$10,332.50

## Council Matters – Fall Fundraiser

The need for a fall fundraiser was questioned considering the current funds available. It was noted that in the past the Council wanted to start saving for the replacement of playground equipment. The cost could potentially be around \$40,000.00, and it was decided to consider needs and long term planning at a future Council meeting.

**Action:** Principal Zeoli - Provide a school wish list to the Council for consideration.

**Due:** Next Council meeting, Tuesday, October 28, 2014

Past fall fundraisers raised approximately \$3,500.00 - \$4,000.00. Considerations for fundraisers include questions of product quality and if the product is something parents can use, also product distribution, especially if the product requires refrigeration. It was noted that the timing for

fundraising with MacMillan's is usually around Christmas, aligning with holiday celebrations and baking.

**Action:** Fundraising Co-Chairs - Review the Lamontagne and MacMillan's programs for a fall fundraiser. Provide a proposal for online voting by the Council members.

**Due:** Friday, September 19, 2014

**Action:** Secretary - Create a voter distribution list.

**Due:** Friday September 19, 2014

**Action:** Chair - Confirm amount of votes required for Quorum for purposes of the online voting for the Fall fundraiser.

**Due:** Friday September 19, 2014

## Council Matters – Fundscrip

A summary of the Fundscrip program was provided. Gift cards can be purchased and used for every day spending, such as groceries. This fundraiser is considered to get good results.

## Council Matters – Pizza Day

Pizza Day is considered an excellent fundraiser. Using Fundscrip gift cards for purchasing pizza allows additional funds to be raised. A Pizza Day Chair was not identified during the meeting.

**Actions:** Fundraising Co-chairs - Review Pizza Day materials, establish a Pizza Committee, and provide a proposal to the Chair for next steps including the need to appoint a Pizza Day Chair.

**Due:** ASAP

## Council Matters – \$500 PIC Funds Programming

Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) funding in the amount of \$500.00 for parent related support has been received and the Council needs to decide how to spend it. The Council has all year to determine how to use the funding.

## Council Fundraising Opt-out – Laura Noble-Wohlgemut

A discussion was held regarding the potential to “Opt-out” of Council fundraising making it possible for parents/guardians to make a donation in lieu of participating in fundraising efforts. A question was raised on how this would be handled. For donations received through the DSBN program, a donation receipt is provided, and funding is sent to the school for spending. Receipts cannot be provided for donations received by the Council.

**Action:** Fundraising Co-chairs: Discuss Opt-out and make recommendations to the Chair for further action.

**Due:** Next Council meeting, Tuesday, October 28, 2014

## Open Forum

A suggestion was made to create an event fundraiser calendar to ensure no overlap of events between Council initiatives and School initiatives. No action was assigned, although the Fundraising Co-chairs can take this into account when planning proposals.

It was decided to hold Council meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month during the school year with the exception of December and March. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 28th at 6:30 p.m. in the Central Public School library.

The Council meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Minutes were taken by Sue Rapin, Council Secretary.