

## Central School Council Meeting Minutes: November 25, 2014

**Present:** Angela Bromley; Barbara Gibson; Belal El-Hassan; Bridget O’Shaughnessy; Chris Lauzon; Christine Suntz; Cynthia Silversides; Ginelle Polmanter-Gentle; Hailey Mercuri; Jenn Baker; Jennifer Donato; Kristie Kuiper; Laura Davidson; Laura Wohlgemut; Lauren Pitkeathly; Lindsay Padgett; Chris Pollard; Mario Zeoli; Mehrnoosh Afnan; Melisa Barnard; Nicolai Zydownyk; Samantha Bell; Sandra Mercuri; Sue Rapin; Tania Mercuri

<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION/ RESPONSIBILITY</b>
<p><b>Welcome &amp; Chair Report</b></p>	<p>Cynthia Silversides welcomed everyone to the meeting. New attendees and Council Officers were introduced. Name badges were given out to Council Members which will be collected after each meeting and redistributed at each subsequent meeting.</p> <p>It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda for the November 25, 2014 meeting. Motion carried.</p> <p>It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2014 meeting. Motion carried.</p> <p>“Stop - Start - Continue” feedback collected from Council Members at October meeting was to make meetings end earlier.</p> <p>Plans for a free evening presentation for parents on technology hosted by the School Council is underway and feedback on topics of interest was requested.</p> <p>The new Lunch Chair, Melisa Barnard, was introduced and thanked for helping to get Pizza lunches started. It was also noted that Melisa is putting together a Conversational French group for parents to sharpen their French skills.</p> <p>The upcoming M&amp;M Meat Shops “School Shop day” was announced, Wednesday, December 3rd from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. On this date the store will donate 10% of purchases for shoppers who tell them they are supporting Central School. A informational flyer is being sent home with students.</p> <p>Hailey Mercuri volunteered to be a “Student” Council Member. She will provide “student reports” at future meetings. It was also mentioned that the Council can appoint a Community Member.</p> <p>It was moved and seconded to form a subcommittee for planning a Parent Resource Centre proposal to be funded with the PIC Grant funds. Motion carried. Subcommittee members: Cynthia Silversides and Sandra Mercuri. Discussion about ideas for this centre and student resources ensued.</p>	<p>Parent Resource Centre proposal presentation at the January 2015 Council meeting. /Parent Resource Centre Subcommittee</p> <p>Add "Destiny" link to the home page of the Central School website so students can have easy access to websites used during the school day. /Vice Principal Donato</p>
<p><b>Treasurer Report</b></p>	<p>Cynthia Silversides presented the Treasurer Report on behalf of Holly Etherington.</p> <p>Bank balance as of October meeting: \$17,232.50</p>	

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<p><b>Treasurer Report</b></p>	<p>Withdrawals: \$3,400.00 annual contribution to teachers, \$3,000.00 to purchase Pizza Pizza cards through FundScrip to pay for “Pizza Lunch” pizza slices, \$1.50 bank charge for cheque imaging.</p> <p>Deposits: \$3,169.70 in cash and \$1,593.00 in cheques for Pizza Lunch fundraising.</p> <p>Bank balance as of November meeting: \$15,593.70</p> <p>More Pizza Pizza cards may be purchased through FundScrip in December, amount to be determined.</p> <p>Results from Holly’s research with TD Bank about investing the \$3,000.00 earmarked for playground equipment. She was advised that earnings on an investment account would be less than the fees incurred for the Council checking account not maintaining a minimum balance.</p> <p>Discussion about playground equipment ensued. It was moved and seconded to form a subcommittee for planning a playground equipment proposal also including the Kindergarten area. Motion carried. Subcommittee members: Nicolai Zydownnik, Laura Noble Wohlgemut, Sandra Mercuri, Simon Day, Ginelle Polmanter-Gentle, and Lauren Pitkeathly.</p>	<p>Begin playground equipment proposal planning. /Playground Equipment Subcommittee</p>
<p><b>Principal/Vice Principal Report</b></p>	<p>The school magazine fundraiser QSP was successful raising \$3,700.00 and Halloween events raised \$400.00. Food donations, 122 pounds, were collected for the Grimsby Benevolent Fund.</p> <p>Technology funds in the amount of \$12,000.00 will be spent by the school in December. Funds in the amount of \$3,000.00 have recently been spent on library materials.</p> <p>Cultural Days at Central: St. Catharines Day activities were held on November 19th. The next culture day is Reveillon (de Noel) and a Carnival later in the winter. Discussion about parent participation ensued.</p> <p>A review was provided about the Grade 8 Open House at Grimsby Secondary School. Principal Zeoli strongly encourages students to continue with the French program as they transition into Grade 9 and spoke about the French language certificate available after completing Grade 12 of the program.</p> <p>December plans may include carol singing during school hours. There are no plans for an evening event. Central School will walk in the Grimsby Santa Claus Parade on December 6, 2014, and details will be sent home about this.</p>	<p>Report on technology funds spending at January 2014 meeting. /Principal Zeoli</p> <p>Advise Council if the recommended reading list used by the school to purchase French books can be distributed to parents. /Vice Principal Donato.</p>

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<p><b>Principal/Vice Principal Report</b></p>	<p>Big plans are in the works for a spring performance event. There were concerns by parents not able to attend daytime events. Principal Zeoli stated that parent-teacher night is the only evening time requirement for teachers to attend.</p> <p>Principal Zeoli shared with Council that feedback from the parent evening at Central last month funded by the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grant were positive. He cited one, “parents feel teachers care.”</p> <p>The school is required to do three lock-down drills throughout the school year. The first is planned for December 5th, 2014, focused on an inside type threat. Parents are encouraged to stay away from the school on that day. The next drill will be held in the spring, focused on an outside type threat. Parents requested common messaging be used in the school newsletter providing further information on the drill so that parents and teachers are aligned in discussions with children. Concerns were expressed for preparing students who have anxiety challenges.</p> <p>January plans include a Grade 1 French Immersion orientation on January 8th, 2015. Principal Zeoli asked for support from Grade 1 parents to attend and share their experience with parents considering the program, and Council members to share about what Council does. On January 20th and 22nd, 2015, there will be French Immersion open house during the day to see the school in action.</p> <p>Principal Zeoli advised Council he put in a request for building alteration and is looking to replace the marquee in front of the school because it is outdated and not welcoming. Estimated cost to replace current marquee is \$6,000.00, and \$15,000.00 for an electronic marquee. He is requesting funding assistance from Council and for a Council member to be present when vendors are out at the school on December 8, 2014.</p>	<p>Participate in Grade 1 orientation event at Central Public School on January 8, 2015. /Nikolai Zydownyk &amp; Council Member</p> <p>Coordinate time for Council member to attend the December 8, 2014 marquee vendors school visit. /Principal Zeoli</p> <p>New marquee proposal presentation at the January 2015 Council meeting. /Principal Zeoli</p>
<p><b>Vice Chair Report</b></p>	<p>Laura Davidson requested information on year-end trip. Principal Zeoli explained this trip is planned every other year for the Grade 7 and 8 classes, and that there is no trip this year. Planning for next year will begin in spring 2015.</p> <p>During the parent information night Cheryl Keddy-Scott, Trustee for Grimsby/Town of Lincoln, advised Laura Davidson that she wants to promote Central Public School via a media article.</p> <p>Discussion ensued about using the “News Now” monthly feature to focus on events at the school and in the community. Suggestions included listing cultural days and events.</p>	

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<p><b>Agenda Items/ Old Business</b></p>	<p>“Our Outdoor Play Area”: Principal Zeoli advised Council that membership for the Early Childhood Community Development Centre (ECCDC) has been purchased for the Kindergarten Teachers and they are awaiting a date to be scheduled for the outdoor play area assessment.</p> <p>Playground maintenance: Principal Zeoli advised playground inspection has not taken place yet.</p> <p>Canadian Parents for French (CPF) grant: Laura Davidson is researching.</p> <p>Fundraising “Opt-out” recommendation: Discussion ensued about not having an “Opt-out” policy, but having a way for parents who want to make a donation for the school to have a means to do so. Council was advised that the “Donation” button on the Central Public School website does not go directly to the school.</p> <p>Add FundScrip web page link on school website: It is not linking to the FundScrip web page.</p> <p>Children’s yoga sessions: Tania Mercuri has begun sessions.</p> <p>Blog/Threaded Discussion addition for Council page on school website: This is a work in progress.</p> <p>Soap access for younger students: Resolved.</p>	<p>Arrange for Laura Davidson, Vice Chair, to attend the outdoor play area assessment. /Kindergarten Teachers</p> <p>Provide results to Council after annual playground inspection takes place. /Principal Zeoli</p> <p>Provide CPF grant information to Council. /Laura Davidson</p> <p>Investigate ways for parents to make donations directly to Central Public School and inform Council. /Vice Principal Donato</p> <p>Fix FundScrip link on school website. /Vice Principal Donato</p> <p>Inform Council about progress for Council Blog on school website. /Vice Principal Donato</p>
<p><b>Lunch Chair Report</b></p>	<p>Melisa Barnard trained 6 volunteers for pizza lunch days, and our first one was very successful with more than 400 students ordering pizza and estimated weekly profit of \$300.00.</p> <p>There will be a special “Holiday Lunch” offered on Monday, December 15th by the Lunch Lady, a holiday themed turkey dinner. Another special lunch is in the works for February, “Pancake Tuesday.” Focus for this program is providing different lunch options throughout the year, as profits are limited.</p> <p>The Grade 8 Class is looking into doing Pita Pit lunch days in January to raise money for graduation activities. Council is requesting communication of plans so that dates do not conflict with Council Fundraising/Lunch Chair plans.</p>	<p>Communicate lunch dates for Pita Pit with Council. /Grade 8 Class</p>

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<b>Fundraising Report</b>	<p>Bridget O'Shaughnessy shared fundraising activity planning including a spring carnival and popcorn fundraising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• January - Movie Night, volunteers needed!</li> <li>• February - MacMillan's cookie dough sales</li> <li>• April - Dance-a-Rama</li> </ul> <p>Lauren Pitkeathly shared details for the Boston Pizza receipt program in Grimsby, a box will be in the store during December, and the store will donate a percentage of purchases to Central.</p>	
<b>Fundscrip Report</b>	<p>Cynthia Silversides presented the FundScrip report on behalf of Emily Ens. The FundScrip "Holiday Blitz" began and cards will be ordered next week along with more Pizza Pizza cards due to the success of the pizza orders through year-end, more cards are needed to purchase pizza slices.</p>	<p>Place orders for Holiday Blitz and Pizza Pizza cards. /Emily Ens</p>
<b>New Business/ Open Forum</b>	<p>Grade 8 graduation: There are 80 Grade 8 students who will be initiating plans with their teachers in January 2015 for graduation activities tentatively scheduled for Friday, June 19, 2015. Discussion ensued about planning and the location. Many venues have already been booked on this date, and the school is usually too hot to hold events at this time of year. Parent Council members expressed their interest in participating in the planning.</p> <p>Online payment systems: A suggestion to set-up a system for online payments in lieu of cash was discussed. Council was advised that this is against DSBN policy.</p> <p>Assemblies in French: A suggestion to help non-French speaking parents to understand materials and presentations at school assemblies was discussed with examples cited from the recent Remembrance Day presentation. Parents would appreciate translation in some form, possibly sub-titles in programs or by over-head projector.</p> <p>QSP magazine orders: Concerns were raised about people not receiving magazines yet. Council was advised although some people have begun to receive their orders, that everyone should be by January 2015.</p> <p>Raz-Kids: It was suggested to add the Raz-Kids online guided reading program with interactive ebooks into the curriculum as it has been successful for students who had attended other schools before enrolling at Central. Council was advised that this is a costly program.</p>	<p>Invite Council members: Sue Rapin, Melisa Barnard, Tanya Mercuri, Lindsay Padgett, Kristie Kuiper, and other interested parents to participate in planning Grade 8 graduation. /Principal Zeoli</p> <p>Review request for the Raz-Kids program to be available at Central School. /Vice Principal Donato</p>

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm. Next Council meeting is on Tuesday, January 27, 2015, 6:30 p.m. at Central Public School. Minutes recorded by Sue Rapin, Council Secretary.