

**Island Public School Council
School Council Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2017**

1. Call to order
 - 6:15 pm
 - Acting chair Nadine Sookermany
 - Acting secretary Jennifer Yeung
 - Attending: Connie, Jason, Jennifer, Laura-Maria & Nadine
 - Absent: Shannon & Stephanie

2. Welcome and introductions
 - Attendees all introduced themselves and how they were associated with the school (child and their grade)
 - Review of IPS School Mission Statement and School Council Purpose
 - Fundraise with community and school council in mind
 - Thinking as an island and school community of the children's well being
 - Goal is to build community

3. Acceptance of meetings from meeting on November 30, 2016
 - Accepted by Chris Fernandez
 - Seconded by Jason Doucette

4. Executive report
 - Ski Day on PA day on Feb 17, Council event
 - Marlies game on April 9
 - Parent attendee requested a Save the Date for the BBQ to be sent out to families
 - Lice issue at school
 - Council will defer sending lice info until it is once again needed/requested
 - Request from Nov 30 meeting was during height of lice infestation at the school
 - o Public health nurse came in for assistance
 - o School had a major clean
 - o After the PA day weekend school seems to be all clear
 - o School has purchased 2 (expensive) metal lice combs to be available to parents to borrow if they request
 - o Procedure if lice is found on a child: isolation, contact parent/guardian, check siblings, send letter home, check for lice for 2-3 weeks
 - o It is of note that the school has associated no stigma with children who have contracted lice
 - o It's the nature of the school as children are in close proximity of each other
 - Laura-Maria on fundraising
 - Poinsettia drive brought in \$890
 - Toques were brought in during the holidays as a stocking stuffer
 - Suggest a backpack ad for Marlies and toques together
 - Marlies tickets – cost \$15, we sell for \$20. If we sell 100 tickets, Lighthouse will receive \$500
 - o Jen suggest we collect \$ from parents at the docks to minimize go between of the \$ and receipts
 - o Also school would not count the \$; simply put the \$ into the envelopes to go to Council.
 - o Execs will work out logistics
 - Sept 2016 to Apr 2017 amounts fundraise(d)
 - o Halloween \$2,300

- o Poinsettia \$890
- o Toques – projected \$1,500
- o Marlies – projected \$500
- o BBQ target \$10,000-\$12,000
- Parent attendee question: How much is currently in account? How much will go to school?
 - Response: will have details later with treasurers report. \$15K was committed to the school to fulfill wish list
 - Because we operate as a charity under CRA, we must spend a certain amount.
 - Q: Can we have a reserve in account as backup?
A: From year to year we cannot hold onto much.
 - If we fundraise more than expected we can reassess and possibly spend more in June.
 - Suggested having a backup amount in account to cover instances for when fundraising events are not able to happen or do not bring in the expected amount. Eg. If BBQ is rained out
- Discussed what would happen if bad weather happens during the BBQ (main fundraiser of the school year)
 - Possible to do at school? Yes. But we would be restricted on what we would be able to do. Eg. Cannot serve alcohol, no raffles, etc
 - What would we do if we are rained out?
 - Barry noted that the BBQ has never been canceled, attendance may be low but has not been canceled
 - Would just make less \$
 - Could get tents at last minute
 - LM took quick survey of attendees if they were potentially in support of hiring a professional BBQ company to handle food prep during the BBQ
 - o All were for a professional company
 - o Pro is they would need to handle bringing and prepping the food
 - o Charge is around \$4.25 for main, drink & chips. Will negotiate main only as LM looking into donations from beverage company & snack companies
 - o Will have a more in depth discussion at Feb meeting
- Jen – Skate night
 - Successful, weather worked well, turn out was really good
 - Pizza sold by the school brought in \$680 minus \$300 cost
 - o In support of the school's nutrition program
 - o People were asked to give whatever they wanted for the slice or whole pizza. Only offered cheese pizza
 - Duke from the Marlies was a big success. Really helped promote the Marlies ticket sales.
 - Needed signage!
 - Parent attendee was excited to see most of the teachers were present

5. Teachers' report – Barry North

- Musical is underway, rehearsals have started yesterday
 - Inquiry on budget for school play by parent.
 - o Suggest call out to community for prop donation, Screen now used to display background
 - o Parents volunteer to do makeup
 - o Joel can put together a wish list, LM can reach out to production industry contacts
 - o Show is June 14 & 15. Grades 4-6 performers will be at both nights and grades 1-3 at some nights.
- Boys basketball team selected. Tournament is on Feb 13
- Girls volleyball has begun practices. Tournament date to be determined, will be before Feb 17
- Chess club is underway
- Beading club started today

- Right to Play group on Friday 27th
 - Backed by professional and international players
 - Empowerment from play
 - Play your part program for grades 3-6
 - Feb/Mar Barry will take a few select students to a training event. Event is for grade 3-8 students. 28 schools take part in this. Students at event will become ambassadors for Right to Play. They will setup activities for the rest of the school similar to Track and Field day but more structured
- May 5 – Kindergarten Arts day
- Will be creating teams for track and field and will introduce ultimate Frisbee.

Nadine: thanked the teachers.

- School council meetings are not a dialogue for school issues. Go to Scott directly

Connie taking over as Chair.

- Reiterated mission statement “To enhance Communication, create Involvement, foster Community, and provide Fundraising support to IPS school community.”
- Treasurers report on behalf of Shannon Clancy.
 - \$27K in account, gave \$15K as approved at last council meeting.
 - \$2,300 from Halloween
 - \$380 from poinsettia sales, still waiting on \$500
 - \$543 from United Way contributions
- Parent Q: couldn’t find Lighthouse Foundation on United Way. Seemed to have a \$5 access fee.
 - Will look into getting direct link put onto website and instructions.
- Can always donate directly to Council (aka Lighthouse Foundation)
- Will resend flyer Connie created in October. Flyer about how to support Council & what Council helps to fund.

6. Principal’s report

- Achievement goal “Mistakes are a Powerful Thing”
- School has started tracking card for the students that includes extra-curricular – sports and clubs. See where student interests lie; what are they choosing.
 - Equity of outcome
 - Card is helping with conversations with students
- Budget
 - Link can be found on the School Board’s website
<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/BusinessServices/BudgetsandFinancialStatements/SchoolBudgets.aspx?schoolNo=5236>
 - Based on enrollment – \$ per student registered – plus an extra amount \$5K because we are a small school.
 - Started school year with \$43,524
 - o Take first the non-negotiables/non-variables: professional development, photocopying, phone, school council (meeting room, childcare), special education supplement, tech allocation
 - Tech allocation – last year used to purchase 10 mini iPads. This year tech purchase has not been made, no decision yet.
 - Currently school has 4 smartboards but has found that they are expensive to maintain. Most have areas that are desensitized already. It’s not supported. Moving away from that tech.
 - Of the \$29,614 left
 - o Online program for students (snap, jump math,...)
 - o Arts (4 categories, most going towards the school play)

- o French, science & technology, social studies,
- o Gym (school wide, equipment are considered consumables)
- o Library (not just books, razkids, author visits – Council has supported a portion of this so school has more to spend)
- o Field trip supplement to keep costs to no more than \$15 per student
- o Cost of deliveries to school (ferry), supply teacher reimbursement, event bussing fee (to pay for drivers)
- o Athletics – cover \$ for teachers, specific equipment (tournaments)
- Extra \$6,608
 - o Divisional spending – at the discretion of the teachers
- \$3,008 balance as backup for things that come up
- Parent comment regarding tech purchase:
 - Suggest getting appleTV to make easier for classes as a replacement for smartboards, should be able to work with digital projectors school currently has given proper HDMI cable, can project whatever is on their apple device. May also work as a smart board
 - Can also consider Chromecast (similar to appleTV)
 - Scott: currently considering a pen that turns any surface into a smartboard. Much easier to use and cheaper to maintain. Would need to check if it is available in school's catalogue. May consider purchasing one for the Common Room as a tester
 - Will ask Mark to look into this as he has tech time allocation – uses the time to work with kids and teachers
 - Had purchased Chromebooks in the past as it was cheap and very portable.
- Currently the school has Chromebooks, mini iPads and laptops available for students to use. Gives students variety of devices to work and learn with
- Middle school info and transition
 - Jesse Ketchum visit day will be in February. Scott will send out date shortly.
 - Middle school availability differs from year to year depending on their available space and expected registration from their own catchment
 - IPS auto feeds into Waterfront School, school can arrange transition
 - Very important to take note and follow the timelines for registration
 - o Some deadlines are in January
 - o Optional attendance applications are due mid-February
 - o Will know where student will be attending grade 7 by end of February/definitely before March Break
 - o IPS tracks where students go. Currently 50% Jesse Ketchum, 50% alternatives
 - o We have 16 graduating grade 6s this year
 - o Alternative school acceptance is by lottery if more students apply than there is space for
 - At one point had discussed IPS going to grade 8. Not followed thru. Better to transition to different environment in grade 7 versus in grade 9 where it will be a much bigger change.
- Parent question: has IPS ever done a survey to see how IPS students are doing in grades 7/8?
 - Scott: No, expects it to be a transition as their new environment is quite different from IPS
 - o EQAO results tend to predict how they will do in the future
 - o Most grade 6s tend to go to Jesse Ketchum, probably easier as it's just a straight bus ride up. Jesse Ketchum currently has 6 classes of grade 7/8 split
 - o Alternative schools still follow curriculum set by the school board but they each differ in what they focus on/manner in which they teach or deliver the information. Eg arts, science... determined by parents or the school board
 - o One big difference, in grade 7 you can eat lunch outside!
- Valentine's Day Dance-a-Thon

- In support of Right to Play
- Connie: suggests a family pledge card so that families with multiple children would be able to hit tiers on one pledge form
- 2015-16 Dance-a-Thon raised enough to reduce \$100 per child for the Grade 5/6 Ottawa trip
- Can consider Indigo gift cards for next year's incentive – can consider getting from School Council's Flipgive account
- Incentive gift cards purchased by Scott direct from Cineplex/Tim Hortons/Toys R Us. Jen suggest to use Fundscrip instead to get gift cards directly. Will send info to Scott
- NEW Outdoor Classroom
 - For use for kindergarten to grade 2
 - Working with Toronto Parks and Recreation to determine the location of the fence on parks land
 - Posts will be put down by a Fencing Company
 - o Has received 3 quotes from companies who have done work around the island. Work all seems comparable – has seen the work. The lowest quote is around \$5K
 - o Suggest to find out if possible to do a portion of the cost as a donation in exchange for a donation receipt to lower the actual cost for the school.
 - Kinder-grade 2 students will be designing the panels for the fence (goes between the posts)
 - Students from Central Tech Collegiate will be creating the actual panels and coming to do the installation
 - Process has already begun
 - This Outdoor Classroom will be available to students all year round
 - Expected to be completed before end of May 2017 so it can be enjoyed this year!
 - Budget has already been allocated for this – no fundraising required
- Inspirational Math
 - Over 5 weeks at Monday assemblies
 - Allows classes to do the math over the week
 - This week was Try Everything: music and lyrics from Zootopia
 - Student voice – kids come up to share what they did in the spirit of the topic of the week
 - Can't necessarily see the results immediately but will review in Sept 2017 so it will be there for parents to see during Curriculum Night
 - Scott: showed a picture of dots and asked each attendee to say how many dots they see. There were 6. Then gave us each a small page to ask how we determined that there were 6.
 - o The point of the exercise: to show that we all see math differently.
 - o It's creative but we all get to the same answer
 - Check <https://www.youcubed.org/> for more details and information. Good idea to follow along with the students at home
 - Research has shown that kids make mistakes and their brains grow
 - o Grows more when you know you have made the mistake
 - o If a student gets 100% on a math test you are supposed to say "you didn't learn anything"
 - o Scott likes the Inspirational Math being a school-wide purpose as everyone talks about it
- Report cards are going home Feb 14, parent interviews scheduled for Feb 15-16 mainly by invite from teacher or request by parent. (Not for SK, JK only)
 - Question: Consider city side interviews?
 - o Scott: no, would need private space. School recognizes the investment of time from parents coming to the school for a 15 minute interview. Gives a diff tone to have families come and see their kids' work. Can do phone interviews or a meet at the docks but can't do that with everyone.
- School enrollment status is CLOSED – decision made in Dec meeting with Scott, Superintendent, Trustee, ...

- Previous status was limited – only accepting some optional attendance enrollment
- No longer accepting optional attendance
 - o Even a sibling of a student is not currently attending IPS, they will no longer be accepted. This includes kids currently registered in Nursery
- Only kids in catchment will be accepted
- Our student numbers have been increasing dramatically from 149 initially □ 208 (in 2014) □ 223 (in 2015) □ 240 (in 2016) □ projected 250 in 2017
- Main issue restricting number is due to ferry capacity limiting to 220 bodies on the ferry at one time
- Next year kinders may not be able to use earlier ferry
- Will be contacting families that will be effected over the next 2 weeks
- This year 28 students were rejected from optional attendance; 6 from nursery were accepted, 5 denied
- Many people are moving into the catchment; they aren't leaving as they were in the past
- If student is already accepted as optional attendance, they cannot be kicked out unless they decide to leave or move away
- If in catchment but move during school year, student can finish the year but then must register for their home school
- Currently looking into a fourth grade 1 class for 2017-18
- Question: When will you know classes for next year?
 - o Answer: how schools are organized □ board will tell you how many teachers you get next year
 - o Classes are determined by the grades 1-3 where the cap is set at 20 students per class
 - o There is no cap for juniors grades 4-6, the average is 25-28 students per class
 - o Not likely to move to single grade classes, teachers like and want the team approach of split classes
 - o Team organization has been developed
 - o Difficult based on #s not to have the split classes
 - o We get extra staff for prep; currently 2.5 for prep
 - o Jr has French as prep; Brian & Janet do dance/gym
 - o Miss Parry doesn't do prep, she only does student support
 - o Prep teachers have become more creative to work better and allow teachers more time with students
 - o Barry & Mark do student support in well-being and tech, respectively
 - o Cross division split is not ideal

7. Open forum

- SK transition to grade 1 – moving from play base to structure: becomes subjects, there are expectations, dance, drama, gym and assessments
 - Need to build transition from kinder to grade ½
 - Outdoor classroom is meant to help
 - Considering to put in sand/water play, removing desks to bring tables and chairs
 - In kindergarten its very structured play
 - Determining what good learning areas in kinder can we move to grade 1
 - All need to look to transitions for kinder to grade 1 and grade 6 to grade 7
 - Ministry coming to look at idea of inquiry
 - Grade 1 still student led but more directed
 - Still need to be within curriculum
 - The Who, What, Where and When is easy but the How and Why are bigger things
 - o What factual information do they need to know before moving to the question Why?
 - o What are the root questions?

- o Move the “I wonder” to and actual “inquiry”
- o Curriculum covers the big question, not focusing on the answer
- Need to follow up on Parent Presentation date and topic ☐ presenter Trevor Brown? Please confirm

8. Meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm

Next meeting February 22, 2017 at 6pm at Loblaws