



Kars on the Rideau School Council Meeting Minutes of May 9, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: Rick Haggar, Denise St. Jules, Kim Cable, Michelle Marette, Jen Wright, Andrea Winter, Diane Dey, Rachel Polite, Shereene De Rosayro, Rowena Pearl, Kirsten Mooney, Steve Montero, Lynn Scott, Shawn Lehman (8:30)

Regrets: Paula Panetta Lori Gruber, Jen Ball, Robin Churchill, Michelle Crogie, Jennifer Mercer, Leeanne Van der Burgt, Michelle Farncombe, Pouneh Shalkeri, Rachel Polite, Bonnie Fiarchuk, Tanya Simard

Chair Report

Kim welcomed everyone and informed the group that she would not be running for Chair on Council for the 2017/18 year, as the Bylaws allow you to serve as Chair for a maximum of 2 consecutive years.

Kim welcomed Lynn Scott, mentioning Shawn Lehman would also join the meeting around 8:30. Shawn Lehman and Lynn Scott were invited Council guests to discuss a decrease of our Vice-Principal allocation to 0.5 (Half Position) at KOTR and logistics surrounding that.

Treasurer Report

- Used Book Sales results are in - very successful with \$5500 net income.
- Council's closing balance is comfortable with almost \$11,000 surplus. We are in a better position to fund outstanding spending requests.
- We increased budget Teacher Appreciation Luncheon to accommodate HST.
- We still have some lunch bills to pay, teacher appreciation luncheon and gr. 8 grad expenses. Rick will let us know if there is anything else.
- Michelle asked what date monies must be spent by, and Kim said we try to have cheques written by the first week of June in order to close out the school year before summer.

Principal Report

- Rick passed around the 2017-18 school year calendar draft, which gives a snapshot of the upcoming school year. Our goal is for Kim, Rick (and all) to look at this further and make adjustments according with notes made from this school year.
- Staff Meeting – Rick mentioned staff working hard at balancing class lists for next year. New registrations are coming in steadily, with the most in SK.
- Band/Choir Pot Luck is this coming Thursday. The band and choir invite family to enjoy performance/social together.
- RACE (Runs Across Canada Everyday) Team Day Launch
 - This coming Friday May 12th is our grand opening RACE DAY.
 - Kids/staff will receive a T-Shirt at Assembly on Friday
 - Rooftop panoramic photo will be taken.
 - There will be 20-25 themed days per year, dedicated to physical education (like the old 'Participation') and striving for excellence.
 - As students accomplish distance goals (on back of shirt) they receive a check mark (which will motivate and validate their accomplishments of reaching fitness goals).
 - Track is ready to run on. Students can walk or run. 105 laps is a marathon.
 - Binders are ready in each class to chart each student's journey.
- Grade 8 photo will be taken on hill on Race Day also for group graduation photo.

Current Business:

a) *Approval of May Minutes.*

MOTION to accept minutes as published:

Motion made by Kim

1st Shareen, 2nd Rowena

Motion **PASSED**

b) *School Funding Requests:*

- \$10,817 is our account balance we can spend on top of budget. (All fundraisers are in and done).
- We are able to pay for Mobile Tech Tubs (Juniors) and Light Boxes (Kinder Investigations)

MOTION to spend \$5000 on Mobile Tech Tubs and Light Boxes

Motion made by Kim

1st by Rachel, 2nd by Shareen

Motion **PASSED**

- Educational Funding: Michelle M. has been liaising between teachers and staff and few requests made.
 - Screenagers DVD – Request made by Sonia Willims
 - Leading edge research on the effect of 'screen' time on the brain.

- For grades 6-8 but aimed primarily at teenagers (mature grade 6's engaged)
- Rick believes this program creates link of learning and lifestyles and suggested reflections should be substantial.
- It is expensive at about \$900, access to DVD for 1 week, however it includes teaching and discussion materials (licensing costs are charged per student)
- It was agreed to include link in e-Newsletter to YouTube version for parents to preview
- Shown to students before the end of school

MOTION to spend \$900 on Screenagers Program

Motion made by Kim

1st Rachel 2nd Andrea

Motion **PASSED**

- Andrea asked if there was anything like this (program) for Fentanyl/Drugs. Rick said, that yes, information has been relayed to parents electronically on this.
- Lynn Scott spoke about the importance of community and schools working together to help provide families with information they need. In rural communities there is less access to services and supports. If parents cannot connect with appropriate services/supports there is a big reliance on schools.
- Also received a request for science lab supplies:

MOTION to spend \$170 on Owl Pellets for Science Biodiversity Labs

Motion made by Kim

1st Steve 2nd Andrea

Motion **PASSED**

Other Business

1. **June Meeting:** Paula P. kindly offered her back yard for our last meeting, as a more social meeting with spouses and kids included. All agreed on location so more details to be released later.
2. **Audit:** KOTR received a notice from the school board that we were randomly selected for an audit.
 - a. Kim, Paula and Lori put together a binder for that.
 - b. Not just financial, but the goal is to gain insight on how to do things better, especially with new PayPal account as part of the system.
 - c. Rick supported this as there will be lots of changes in the new year with PayPal, the school systems, and changes to how we are processing money.
 - d. Lynn Scott spoke about the fact that, as a member of the Board's Audit Committee, said the audit presents an opportunity for learning. Our revenues are turning out over \$100,000 on the lunch program alone. Lynn said the province has mandated more strict guidelines as to how things are done, and it is really all about the process. She

said this is a learning opportunity on both sides as they want to learn what items are difficult to deal with such as service fees, etc.

3. Reduction of KOTR Vice Principal to a 0.5 Position (Half Time): Discussion with Shawn Lehman and Lynn Scott

Many of us were alarmed to hear that the Board is planning this reduction to our administrative staff. Their (questionable) enrollment projections for September have started discussion on these cut-backs. However many of us feel that our status as a tri-streamed school (EFI, MFI, English) plus the fact we are a K-8 school (many half-time VP's are at K-6 schools of similar size) necessitates the presence of a full time VP at KOTR.

Council decided to voice our concerns to both the Superintendent for our school (Shawn Lehman) and our elected Trustee (Lynn Scott). Councils are usually invited to provide input to decisions of this nature and we want to explain how this will almost certainly impact the well-being of students and affect what our school is able to offer our children.

Shawn and Lynn addressed the following concerns:

Shawn said there is in fact an allocation formula, with factors that help to determine allocation of VP's. Some of these are: School size and population; Specialized classes (BIP, Autism, etc.); EDP programs; Special needs requirements; English/French; etc.

- Although weight is around intermediate population, there is also needs around JK/SK populations.
- Board gets get input from VP's and Principals across the board to set criteria.
- There are only 10-12 full time VP's in the entire system; the rest are ½ time.
- In some cases, an 'override' can take place after a senior staff team looks at the allocation, and may bump up or down. KOTR has had an override to bump up the VP designation for the past 2 years.
- Although our VP was full time, this designation wasn't 'generated' by the formula but was 'overridden.'
- The goal is not to fluctuate from year to year
- This coming year the formula also did not generate the full time position.
- We begin with enrolment and then look at all other factors to determine the need.
- There are also many factors not in the formula for determining the level of need.
- Lynn: part of the allocation is tied to the building. Sharing admin. staff often does not work.
- Shawn: working with the union to advocate for increase in support staff such as LRT, where there has been a loss or reduction of admin staff.
- Lynn said that she would be meeting with the Committee of the Whole for determining budgets and asked that we forward comments to her: lynn.scott@ocdsb.ca before May 16th. She would be bringing our concerns forward. In rural schools we have many needs that are not as easy to quantify, but very much present.

Coordinator Updates

a) Teacher Representatives

- There are still funds available in Educational budget and any remaining funds will be reallocated.
- Drumming workshop went very well
- Eco Talking Stick (through MASC) was not showing up in council funding. Rick said the school paid for it.
- Request for 2 French Magazine Renewals (\$190 ea.) for \$425.50. This is already approved in Literacy budget.

b) Hot Lunches/Milk Program

- Our new online lunch system has been set-up enough to give you a "sneak-peek" of how lunch orders will be processed in September. Log in info to be sent to Council members to review at their leisure.
- Kim mentioned we have to pay the subscription, and we will go ahead keeping policies the same (unless medical circumstances, orders will not be refunded or changed).
- Payments as installments are not practical, as the system does not release the order until completely paid for. We discussed logistics of creating more frequent ordering to reduce payment amounts but this would be quite labour intensive since the menu would have to be manually input each time.
- It was agreed that installment payments need to be offered and can be maintained through payment with post-dated cheques.
- Lynn suggested that this problem be discussed with financier during audit, to help them understand some of our needs.
- We cannot expect everyone to go online to order, but it was agreed not to send order forms home, but have them available in office.
- It was agreed that it might be beneficial to have an in school training for parents. Rick suggested an Access and Info night for parents.

c) Book and Bake Sale of April 21st

- Diane reported that the book sale went super well, with income up from last year.
- There were a record number of volunteers. This fundraiser is VERY labour intensive and the sorting piece especially was under-estimated.
- Diane wanted to make special mention to thank her neighbor Tony Park, who stepped up to close the gap of much needed sorting. Tony volunteered about 5 hours a day at minimum to sort all books coming in (along with many, many others).

d) OCASC

Still looking for someone to take this on for next school year. It would be valuable to us in tackling problems perhaps other schools have resolved.

e) E-Cause Toilet Paper Campaign

- The funds raised from this initiative are earmarked for indoor and outdoor gym equipment and activity balls for all grades.
- This fundraiser has not sold as many cases as hoped; Rick extended deadline and emails sent to Google Groups
- We have sold 84 cases and need to sell a minimum of 240 without penalty.

f) Staff Appreciation Lunch

- The staff appreciation lunch will take place June 9.
- This event will be catered, and have parents donate dessert, supplies and décor
- Menus are being considered and dessert sign-ups created.

g) Grade 8 Graduation

- Grade 8 Graduation planning is well under way.
- Theme is 'Luau on the Rideau'
- They have a Facebook presence and grade 8 parents have been invited to join.
- A majority of parents have agreed to pay \$20 rather than doing more fundraising.
- Freezie Fridays are still being considered
- Currently solidifying budget, menus and décor
- Next meeting will be held on May 28th.

h) Greening

Bonnie to meet with Rick after Band Trip

i) Research and Funding

Jen Wright has applied for the S'Cool Life Fund Grant to hopefully pay for Luv2Groove Workshops.

We were not able to apply for the grant that usually funds Stained Glass workshops as we can not win it 2 years in a row.

j) Website

- Nothing to report

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

The next meeting will take place on June 13th, 2017