

Monday, September 23rd 6:30pm

Present: Deborah Thompson, Terri Macdonald, Adam Jeziorski, Johanna Puckrin, Chris Shaw, Nicole Pitts, Christina Helmer, Janine Chown, Laura Gillam, Emma Barken, Virginia Venditti, Rena Petrick, Emily Casey

Election process led by Deborah Thompson. Nominations read out, asked for from the floor.

Centennial School Council for 2024-2025

Chair – Laura Gillam

Vice Chair – Christina Helmer

Treasurer – Adam Jeziorski

Secretary – Emma Barken

PIC Representative – Rena Petrick

Members at Large: Nicole Pitts, Virginia Venditti, Terri Macdonald

Approval of minutes from June 2023:

1. Emma Barken
2. Adam Jeziorski

Principal's Update

A great start to the year! Didn't have to reorganize classes, which makes things much easier. This is uncommon, but really great. Lots of learning, kids are settled. Emergency procedures were last week and this week. Enrollment is 330 children, on par with projections. Will likely gain students throughout the year. Lots of new families at the school.

A couple of things to work on:

- Working on improving pick ups and drop offs. Norman Rogers has no parking on the north side. Looking to get more signage including no u-turn signs.
- LDSB focus is on literacy and numeracy. Big focus on attendance both for students and for staff. Using data to close some gaps in lack of literacy skills. Will share more as the year goes on.
- EQAO results will be shared shortly. New special education model- used to be special programs and schools, now there are Intensive Support Teachers at the school for students who need to access them.

Question: Are there plans for improving accessibility to play structures, paved areas for students with mobility issues?

Answer: It's in the works, but it's an incredibly substantial project as there are many aspects to the project. In the early stages, some drawings have been done, and it's on the radar, but could take a long time.

For parent council meetings, a proposed model of how the principal's report and teacher's report could go forward:

- inviting the parent council into some different spaces in the school with various teachers to explain specific things that are on their portfolio. For example the English Language Learners support teacher could talk about what that looks like at Centennial, the IST could explain what this new position is, learning about what the Empower program is, etc.

This will help to learn from various staff at the school. Can be 15-20 minutes. More useful than rehashing what's in the newsletter.

This model could make the meetings more enticing for more parents. If there is new information that will be shared as well. If there's something we want to know about, bring it forward so it can be shared.

Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Information and Update

Anyone can attend the PIC meetings. The next meeting is October 24th. They are always on Thursdays. Can attend online as well.

Budget Report

Current balance \$3945.13

The fun fair raised \$1755.50

Discussion Items

- Roles of Council – can be reviewed on the school board website.
- Insurance Costs

School council is encouraged to purchase insurance. Needs to be purchased by October. Insurance is about \$200.

Motion: To purchase insurance.

1. Janine Chown
2. Terri Macdonald

All in favour.

- Childcare Options

Should we always offer childcare for council meetings, or have a deadline to pre-register for childcare? Leaving it open ended means people might come last minute if they knew they could have childcare. Could have a high school student volunteer for the role to complete their high school volunteer hours.

→ Decision to continue to have child care available for the next meeting.

- Halloween Dance

One of our biggest events. Family engagement, a nice event.

Looking for a few people to form a sub committee: Christina, Nicole, Emily

→ Date of the dance: Tuesday, October 29th

Fundraising

- Oliver's labels: There is almost \$200 in this account. Needs to be more marketed if we want parents to order them. It's a soft fundraiser, not much work, and the school council gets 20% from sales.
 - Bingo: As a fundraiser has been a game changer for the school. Most of the volunteers are staff. It's not hard. It's been very helpful to fund field trips and extra supplies that teachers ask for. Shifts are a mix of times at the Bath Rd. location. If anyone is interested, they need to do training to join the list. Currently 18 of the maximum of 20 spots are filled on the list.
 - A new fundraising option is Kingston Frontenacs ticket sales. School council gets a kick back from the tickets sold through a QR code. Sometimes there is a "Chuck a puck" option – all the money made from this goes to the organization. Tickets cost \$21/ticket, so not affordable for all families. Team and mascot will come to school events or read to a class. Not a major commitment, just need to advertise it to make the money.
 - ☐ School Council needs to develop a strategic plan for 2024-2025, money allocation plan. There's a template on the school website to help with the planning.
- Deb to send a survey to staff to get some feedback about what funds could be used for. Report back next month.

Could send out a parent survey as well.

Engagement

Important to engage with families who are new to the school, from different communities.

- At the Meet and Greet- a few volunteers at the parent council table in the front to engage with families.
 - Terri, Nicole, Christina to be at the table.
 - Facebook and X/Twitter- parent council has pages, Terri has been sharing stuff on there.
 - Virginia is happy to take on this role
 - Council Newsletter-having a standing section in the Centennial Connection. If someone wants to write, it could go in. Could be a template.
 - Laura will take care of it.
 - Possible Student Reps-Could still have junior reps, they could rotate, to develop student leadership, to get their feedback. This is more of a secondary school model, but could happen if the council wants it. Principal checks in with students through a town hall annually.
 - ☐ Events planning to move to the next meeting.
 - Laura to share survey results from 2024 could be shared at that time.
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- Discussion about how best to communicate amongst each other in between meetings, for the full council group and for committees.
 - Virginia to look into WhatsApp to see if that's a good option for us.

Review by-laws

They could be reviewed.

- Terri will send them out, and two people could review them to make sure they still make sense.
- Deborah and Emily will review them for October.

Adjournment and Next Meeting

- Tuesday, October 15th, 6:30pm, (one time switch, and then go back to Mondays.)
- ☐ Decide on dates at the October meeting, how many we want to have, and their purpose.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.