

Jean Little Public School
School Council Minutes - Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Present: Lisa Doering, Kyle Bromley, Greg Cawsey, Leanne Howard, Lisa Doering, Ainslie Thomson, Randal Wagner, Kirsteen Birkett, Ilka Boeker, Claudia Burke, Valerie Smith, Fiona Armbruster, Heather Harris, Dana Stanek, Debbie Parlove. With regret, two members attended whose names were not visible during the meeting - their names will be added to the "Approval of Minutes" at the next meeting.

Regrets: Nancy Wellhauser, Jayne Godfrey, Gail Francis

1. Call to order

Greg called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

"Walking School Bus" item is changed to "Active and Safe Routes To school".
Fiona/Leanne.

Minutes from the October 2011 meeting will be posted on the website along with the minutes of tonight's meeting.

3. Project Green Jean

Heather van der Schaaf, a former Jean Little parent and School Council member, was introduced to Council. She was involved with our Project Green Jean, and came tonight to provide some history and implementation plans. She circulated notes on this history (posted along with these minutes).

The goal of this initiative was to have an area outside that was safe, secure and accessible. For example, we wanted to be sure there were no avoidable hazards outside (equipment that could result in injury, nut trees, etc.), we wanted to create spaces for students with different interests and abilities, and we wanted the area to be secure and safe where teachers had good visibility to ensure that all areas were secure.

Our school yard had been a rather barren place, which served as a "blank slate". The Green Jean Committee went to a workshop organized by a group called "Evergreen", focused on ecologically responsible playground enhancement. One Grade 5 class engaged in a significant research project to look at what is available and what students really want out there. Their report can be found by clicking [here](#). Teachers were also surveyed for information on safety and security.

Heather presented the original blue print for the plan, as well as the phases that were laid out in the plan for prudent implementation.

Discussion points:

- a) lighting that was to be installed at the ice rink - there had been some concern from neighbours about the lighting, and the cost became prohibitive at the time.
- b) creative playground structure - that had been investigated thoroughly, and it was decided that it was an expensive structure to be unavailable to students only from November 1 to mid-April. Also, there are strict regulations on installation and the type of groundcover that has to be there.
- c) we now have funding to enhance the kindergarten play area.
- d) many of the planned trees have been planted, and they are supported with proper nutrition and watering throughout the year for the first few years for each tree (important given the poor soil quality).
- e) Jayne Godfrey continues to work with Randal on the Green Jean initiative, and they are applying for a \$20,000 grant that would, among other things, pay for tips to provide shade and seating.
- f) Stacey Clark reported that another grant has been received to start a student-run gardening club.
- g) Randal reported that our school is in the running for solar panels to be installed on the roof.

Many thanks to Heather for joining us this evening to provide this background.

5. Student Council

Our Student Council was created as part of the School Improvement Plan. The members of Student Council came to this meeting to present on their initiatives. They reported on their Halloween and Christmas food drive collections, the Eco-School plans, our Spirit Club, school dances (such as the dance this coming week - Winter Wonderland theme - for grades 7 and 8 students and organized by students - proceeds will go toward Free the Children school construction project), the Little Hummingbird Project (focused on citizenship and the importance of doing the best you can), the Speak-up Grant (\$1000, which will purchase a Dragon mascot and provide equipment and incentives to help motivate students to do their best). The character-based art that is now lining the hallways has been created by the Student Council. Greg thanked the students for their wonderful presentation. Their initiatives, as well as their confidence and commitment, were very much appreciated.

6. PAC Report

Approximately 100 people came to movie night. This was a very popular event, and there have been many requests for more nights such as this.

Dance-a-thon will be held on Feb. 17. The process will be the same as last year, where students will collect pledges (via a family pledge form, so no competition between siblings), purchase refreshments, and each class will come down to the

gym for a dance session. There is a PAC meeting on Friday, January 20, and there will be some discussion about D.J. choices.

Hanlon Community Group - The following announcements were made on behalf of this neighbourhood group:

Winterfest - This event takes place on Feb. 5 at 14 sites around the city, including Jean Little P.S., where we will have a rink (weather permitting), face-painting, inside activities such as crafts, snow races, etc. Lots of fun activities!

St. Patrick's Day party - family party garage-to-garage, in the Hanlon Creek neighbourhood (on Briarlea Rd.) in conjunction with a community group at the University of Guelph. The purpose of this event is to engage students who live in rental properties in the area, encouraging them to get to know their neighbours in the hope of minimizing issues and maximizing community cooperation.

Garden Fresh Box - this Public Health program offers boxes of fresh vegetables and fruit that are delivered monthly. A "swap table" is available at St. Matthias Church where people can swap from their boxes (eg., swap beets for beans). The same group at St. Matthias also runs a community cooking group.

7. Treasurer's Report

These are the proceeds from recent fundraising initiatives (for more detailed reports, [click here](#)):

Hot lunch program - \$3700

Magazine Drive - \$2388

Gift cards - \$788 sold (profits not yet known, but generally about 3%)

Net fundraising - \$6090 in revenues, plus another \$6000 donation from the Fred A. Hamilton School Council. This resulted in approximately \$11000 by the end of November.

We had set aside \$14050 for expenses:

\$1500 for the Quebec trip subsidies

\$1500 to music (we have \$1000 left to spend)

\$1600 Forest of Reading program

\$500 sports equipment (for recess)

As of November 2011, we had approximately \$29000 in the bank, with a GST rebate of \$800 to come. Against that, we have \$10477 in liabilities, leaving a fund balance of \$19566.

The treasurer's report will be approved at the next meeting, when it is available in full. At that time, we will also discuss the next phase of Green Jean, as well as other possible initiatives for next year (e.g., Artist in the School).

At the next meeting, we will also discuss playground enhancement planning, including the next phase of Green Jean, as well as other possible initiatives (e.g., Artist in the School).

8. Active and Safe Routes to School

Fiona attended a workshop in the fall, focused on the creation of “active and safe routes to school” for the Board, supported by the Heart and Stroke Foundation. There are pilot schools that will be implementing focused initiatives to get students walking to school more. Jean Little is not one of the pilot schools, but we will be receiving the information from this stage of the initiative. In the meantime, Fiona is suggesting some activities to generate some excitement about walking to school - perhaps we could organize a “whole school walk” on February 29 (since it’s a leap year, we could call it “Leap to School Day”). Earth Day or Education Week would also be good times to hold such an event. For the February date, we will poll classes to see how many are likely to be able to walk (so we know how much hot chocolate to make).

9. Principal’s Report

- a) *School Improvement Plan* - only changes were the addition of School Council, we will change the name of the Walking School Bus to “Active and Safe Routes to School”
- b) *Newsletter* - this has now been handed over to secretary Suzanne Fraser, but she does not have email addresses. This is why some people have not received newsletters by email. This will hopefully be rectified soon. In the meantime, parents are encouraged to look at the website for copies.
- c) *Video presentation* - “Get Service” - Randal pointed out that the theme of this video implies that we are all here to do our best to create the best school environment for our kids. With two schools coming together there will be issues but we will work together to get through them because we all have the same purpose.

10. New Business

There was some discussion about the skipping team, an important extra-curricular team at Fred A. Hamilton. Karen reported that we will be holding a club for this year, starting very soon, and that this group may form the basis of a demonstration team next year. It was pointed out that there is considerable concern among some former F. A. Hamilton parents that this team be available as soon as possible. The discussion focused on the fact that it is because of the significance of the team at F. A. Hamilton that we have held off until we are more prepared and ready to offer a proper skipping program, and that it is being called a club and not a team this year to avoid confusion (since we will not be doing demonstration performances). We have two student volunteers from Centennial CVI (one of whom is a former F.A. Hamilton skipping team member) who will serve as assistant coaches, lots of support from the Heart and Stroke Foundation and a school in Mt. Forest that currently has a busy skipping team and they are prepared to work with us as we see fit.

Adjourned at 8:45

Next meeting: Monday, February 27, 2012, 7:00 pm.