



HENRY LARSEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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Principal: Christine Camus-Shepley
Vice Principal: Jeremy Nowiski



**Henry Larsen Elementary School Council Meeting
Minutes
Monday, April 14th, 2014**

Chair: Jennifer Pyne
Secretary: Signe Swainson (for tonight's meeting)
Attendance: Jeremy Nowiski Joanne Lalonde Cathryn Peloso
Christine Camus-Shepley Lisa Anna Palmer Sarah Dooley
Karina Budzinski Laura Ireland Melody Currie
Ryan Crampton Nikki Lee Teresa Janz
Una McNeill Marcia O'Connor Karen Stoddart

Regrets*

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Jennifer Pyne at 7:07pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Approved

3. Approval of February 10th, 2014 Minutes

Approved

4. Chair's Report

- Parent Involvement Talk (kids and money): There is no availability for April. They need volunteers to do these presentations and no one was available. Will check for dates in May and June.
- The Code of Conduct is complete and is the first piece of the Constitution. It can be put on the Website now and replaced later with more parts of the Constitution.

5. Principal and Vice-Principal's Action Items / Info. Update

- Andy Charbonneau has been nominated and will receive the Director's Citation Award. This award is given for an outstanding and significant contribution of an OCDSB staff member to the Board and its students over an extended period of time, showing a level of imagination, enthusiasm and professionalism that constitutes a worthy model for others. Andy has always done exemplary work for Henry Larsen, is an inspiration and model for others. This is a major accomplishment and a very well deserved award. Andy's reputation for excellence is well known throughout the Board and everyone is so impressed whenever they walk through our doors. Thank you Andy for all the hours you dedicate to our school and the pride you take in all your work.
- The Tell Them From Me (TTFM) is in progress.

- Projected enrolment for next year is 374. This is lower than the current enrolment and as a result we will lose some staffing position. We are right in the middle of the staffing allocation. Staffing is tentative and planning and organization is underway.
- Education week is the 1st week of May. On Music Monday the choir will be downtown. The Bands may also be planning something.
- EQAO takes place from May 24th to June 6th. Always encourage parents not to make any appointments during that time if possible.
- HL was randomly selected for international testing in Math and Science at the grade 4 and 8 levels.
- Public Speaking was very impressive this year. The topics were thought provoking, well prepared and the questions were answered very well. We have a junior and an intermediate student moving onto the next level.
- Rocks and Rings, a curling organization, came in and did some curling with all the students. The Ottawa Fury will come in June to do soccer with all the children.
- Twitter is up and running and currently has 40 followers.
- Staff all have swipe cards to use with the electronic readers to gain access to the school from any of the entrances. All but one door will be done in June. Pin Pads are at the front and Kindergarten door for after 4 and extended day. Parents will be provided with a pin number.
- The City of Ottawa before and after program and the Extended day program will continue at HL next year.
- We are completing our first year with full day Kindergarten in JK. We have exceptional staff and our teams of teachers and ECE's (Early Childhood Educator's) work very well together. There have been some great opportunities for professional development training for the JK and SK teachers. Looking forward to see how year two progresses next year.

6. Teaching Staff Liaison Report

- Mrs. Matthew-Cull and the Me 2 We group have been meeting and organized the collection of food. 2500 items were collected. The Me 2 We event took place at the Canadian Tire Centre and was very inspiring. There is a new initiative or focus to build schools one brick at a time and they will be selling bricks for \$20 with a goal of 500 bricks. Check out the Free the Children website for more information. They encourage both global and local goals. The group at HL will be selling glow sticks at the dance to raise funds.
- Mrs. Barker has the Arctic Fair coming up. May 15th may be the date. Doreen Riddel will come and judge.
- Miss Gross is leading the way to keep our Silver status for ECO schools. Points were gained when the kids helped water the trees. There may be a couple of things from Henry's Cool Yard that can help them get points. Teresa will talk to Miss Gross. Litterless lunches help a lot and are fairly easy to do.

7. Website Update

- The Web site is out there. There will be a heading for Fundraising. The bullets are a challenge but Cathryn is working on it. Will put up some pictures from the school ground and meeting minutes. It would be nice to launch soon. It's workable and looks good. We'll update as we go.
- It is very time consuming and if there are others who have more time, more help would be welcome.

- We talked about the desire to centralize all Council documents. Google drive has a media library on the site. Melody will check with her husband to see what he knows and/or how can he help.

8. Treasurer's Report

- Marcia provided her report. There is \$861 in the account plus the parent involvement funds. The PRO grant deadline is coming up. This is a grant to help council reach more parents. OCDSB has a link on the site to PRO grants that have been granted in the past. Teresa has a contact for Parenting Skills.

9. Fundraising

- April's Fundscrip will go to teachers today. Plan to have a booth at the Fun Fair to talk to people about the program and help to reduce the intimidation of the unknown.

10. Henry's Cool Yard

- Design plans were shared. There will be phases of the project.
- Looking at replacement of structures. Removal and resurfacing is extra and expected to run about \$20K for the JK/SK area. In addition, a mural to be painted by all the children and a dinosaur dig site. The mural will face Jeanne D'Arc. A Form 800 needs to be signed off by the Board to approve the installation. Want to get that signed as quickly as possible.
- We understand that the Board is meeting to talk about funding for play structures. There is a City grant for \$7500 and the Board will match funds.
- Fun Fair will be May 31, 2014 from 10 am to 2 pm. There is a donation box in lobby for small prizes to give away and books. Raffle prizes are needed and a sponsorship letter will be available.
- Jennifer will keep track of all the businesses that are approached. There will be a Bike Rodeo, Fire Department, Rogers TV/Tim Horton's Community Cruiser, book and plant sale, M&M meats, games, cotton candy, cake raffle and silent auction.
- Nikki and Teresa will use an online volunteer management program. Please contact Teresa if you can volunteer. It will be the Sign Up Genius.
- Will ask former students to help out and earn volunteer hours.
- Marcia will contact her paramedic friends.
- Staff is happy to bake cakes again to raffle. This is a huge deal for the kids and real favourite at the Fun Fair. Thanks to all the teachers.
- Karla will put a notice in for Mabel's Labels for the Kindergarten day.

11. Other Business

- Balanced school day was discussed. The day would be broken up into 3-2 hour blocks with 45 nutrition and play break in between. Some of the research suggests that this may be better from a nutritional standpoint as the children are more likely to eat more regularly and therefore be less hungry and less cranky. Also, with a shorter time period outside, it is more likely that the children will run and play for the whole 25 minutes they have versus perhaps getting bored or tired in a 40 minute outside play time. This may reduce behaviour issues. The little ones would only have to dress twice in the day and the breaks allow for playing first and eating second therefore to start back up in class, the children only need to put food away. 70-76% of the Board uses this system. It was pointed out that a balanced day is more challenging in a school like HL with intermediate classes. In addition, clubs, intramurals and

sports teams have a more challenging time getting enough time. Christine and Jeremy have been attending information sessions on the balanced day and the pros and cons are still being weighed.

- It was brought forward that there are some parents who are feeling disconnected. In some cases there is little communication from the teachers and there may be a disconnect in the jump from classroom level to school wide level of communication. Jeremy also explained that a new synervoice system was coming soon.
- A school wide way to reach parents has long been a challenge for council. It was suggested that a single page goes out in September with a "add to Council Mailing List" box for parents to tick when they give their email address.

12. Next Meeting

- The next council meeting was scheduled for May 12th, 2014 at 7:00pm in the school library.

13. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm