



HENRY LARSEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
1750 Sunview Drive, Gloucester, ON K1C 5B3
Phone: (613) 830-4634 Fax: (613) 830-4275
Principal: Christine Camus-Shepley Vice Principal: Mireille Filion



Henry Larsen Elementary School Council Meeting

Minutes

Monday, December 14, 2015

Chair: Jennifer Pyne

Secretary: Julie Bisnath
(for tonight's meeting)

Attendance:

Jennifer Pyne	Marcia O'Connor	Una McNeill
Julie Bisnath	Natasha Theriault	Gillian Whichelo
Signe Swainson	Doreen Cummins	
Christine Camus-Shepley	Dianne Morris	
Mireille Filion	Katy Gale	
Dawn Scott	Ryan Crampton	

Regrets* Karina Budzinski
Kathleen Vibert
Teresa Janz

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Jennifer Pyne at 7:03pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Approved.

3. Approval of November 2015 Minutes

Motion to approve by Signe Swainson and seconded by Una MacNeill.

Approved.

4. Chair's Report

➤ Visit from Sandra Schwartz-Board Trustee:

Sandra reports that it has been an interesting learning experience both as a parent and as a board member. As a trustee, she represents both the community and the district as a whole. She sits on various committees and works on multi-level policies and budgets.

- Regarding the budget, there is no new money--the board will have to drain any reserves and consider possible consolidation of schools. The board is looking for efficiencies, no decisions are being made at this point. Parents can learn more on the OCDSB website and should be aware of potential impacts. There are several reports and studies available.
- Board meetings are extremely tight and procedural. There is some in-camera time for budgetary issues but most issues are discussed in a public format.
- One of the more contentious issues is the proposed changes to the EFI program.
- Several trustees wanted to delay implementation until further community consultation, the challenge is that the province will put forward an additional \$2 million for changes to the EFI program. With dwindling resources, this \$2 million opportunity cannot be overlooked.

The EFI proposed changes include:

- JK & SK instruction both be 50% French and 50% English at all schools (currently, JK is nearly 100% English and EFI SK is nearly 100% French)
- In Grade 1 an additional 60 minutes of English added per day
- Change the language of math instruction to English starting in Grade 1 (currently, math changes to English instruction in Grade 4).
- Trustees have asked: Is this a 3 part package? Can we implement only 1 of these options? Implementing only the first option results in many layoffs. The 3 part package makes sense financially and for program delivery.
- Can we do options 1 and 3? Yes, it's possible. The extra hour of English was of concern to many parents.
- The Board is still in the middle of consultations, parent survey is up on website (deadline is Jan. 11th), parent focus groups, staff focus groups up coming.
- HL Council Member question: Has there been any research as to the impact on the child's learning if this goes through? Performance measurement or tracking?
Sandra: The Board's staff would never put through an unsound proposal--one that would damage a child's learning. FDK was the impetus for this change, not the \$2 million offer from the province. A 50-50 French/English split would offer a more seamless transition for JK/SK children, this program is already working well for OCSB. Lots of information can be found on the board homepage. Board central staff are always making decisions that are in the best interest of the children.
- HL Council Member question: What is that \$2 million supposed to go towards?
Sandra: It will not likely be for French instruction specifically, but for the broader pot. Where the \$2 million would end up is to be determined. When staff are making

budgetary proposals it is usually with an eye on the whole, and to what would best serve the children.

- Another concern is that Math scores are bad in this board. The reasons are unclear: is it due to the EFI program? Is it because switching from French Math to English Math in Grade 4 is too difficult? Is it a curriculum issue?
Many parents prefer math in English because they could then help their children. Sandra reiterates that there is a strong pedagogy behind the proposal but that the Board is open to other suggestions/proposals.
- HL Council Member questions: Has cutting the number of school caretakers had an impact on the cleanliness of the schools?
Sandra: We know that we have cut as far as we can regarding the facilities and that while cleanliness may be affected, hygiene of the staff and students is not.
- There is a review of the Special Education program also underway.
This district spends more on Special Education than any other English Public Board across the province.
- For any questions or concerns, please contact Sandra at sandra.schwartz@ocdsb.ca.

➤ **Chapters Gift Cards:**

- The gift cards have all been sold, \$576 has been deposited to the general account. This included \$506 from sales and \$70 from cash donations.

➤ **Travel Safety Questions:**

- See attachment email from the office of City Councillor Jody Mitic.
- Residents in the area can forward requests to 311.ca or contact Tammy Lynch directly.
- Discussion occurred regarding a crosswalk on Jeanne d'Arc leading into the school path.

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

- Staffing: We are fortunate to have received an additional 0.5 EA position, which brings us from 2.5 to 3 EAs for the school. The new EA is Gabrielle Filby. She will be a great addition to our staff.
- Today we received the second free bench (free with the paving). It has been installed in the kindergarten yard.

- Progress reports went home last Thursday. They are reflective of same time frame (to the end of Oct.).
- Mireille will update the website regarding the proposed changes to EFI program.
- All labour group sanctions have been lifted.
- The Remembrance Day ceremony was very beautiful. The only regret is regarding the sensor lights in the front half of the gym. We are waiting on a work order to rectify this issue.
- The Holiday Concert was last week--it was amazing. Many parents were impressed. There were some concerns regarding the entry fee. It is important for families to know that Mr. Pretty spent \$5000 last June for instrument repair—this is the entire music budget. In the past, more parents would rent or even purchase their child's instrument; more parents now want their child to use the school instruments...this inevitably takes a toll on the instruments. The result is that there is no money left for music books, festivals, etc. The money collected from the Holiday Concert will go back into the music and choir programs.
- Lunches for Students in Need: on average, 2-3 per week. The office usually knows which families need support. One parent has donated a \$50 Metro gift card to help stock the supplies. Christine will monitor the situation and keep us posted.
- Our school got invited to the Speech from the Throne; 20 children were selected to go and had a wonderful time. Each student got to shake hands with Their Excellencies the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, and Mrs. Sharon Johnston, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Mrs. Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau, in the Hall of Honour.

6. Teaching Staff Liaison Report --Dianne Morris

- Council Math Night: contact has been made for a speaker, Dianne will forward the information to Jennifer when she receives the details.
- Volleyball: Intermediate Girls and Junior Girls/Boys tournaments were last week. Junior Girls won Gold. Intermediate Boys tournament is next week.
- C-Flat concert was enjoyed by many!
- Grade 8s went to visit Cairine Wilson S.S., went to classes, played games, had a tour, & enjoyed a pizza lunch
- Ottawa Youth Summit, workshops and PD opportunities
- Holiday Store was very successful and enjoyed by students and staff
- Fire Safety awareness for Kinders and Grade 1 students
- Rideauwood presentations: cyber awareness for Grade 7, and addiction issues for Grade 8.
- U of O student teachers are on site
- Dance this Thursday in the afternoon for Grades 6-8. Kids coming to the Library are asked to bring a can of food or a monetary donation for the food bank.
- Staff vs student volleyball tournament this Friday
- Thank you for a successful food drive --629 items were collected.

- Winter Activities will be starting up in February for Grades 6, 7, & 8.
- Many high school open houses will be coming up in January. See the Board Website for more information. January 21st from 7-9pm at CW for parents and students.

7. Website Update

No updates to report.

8. Treasurer's Report

Marcia provided a detailed report.

\$1877 was raised from the pizza program

\$1012 was raised from the Holiday Store

Katy has offered to do all of the deposits as part of sharing the treasurer duties.

9. Fundraising

- Bags2School--1.5 tons made \$336. We will run this fundraiser again in the spring.
- Holiday Store--very fun and successful
- Fundscript--no further send home options--only online.
- Supperworks Raffle--draw will be done on Wednesday, Dec. 16th.
- Broadway Receipt Program--10% back from any time
- Broadway Night--January 12th HL will receive 15% back
- Broadway Breakfast event is also possible.
- Boston Pizza continues to support HL, Jen received very positive feedback from Manager regarding children's good behaviour.

10. Henry's Cool Yard

- HCY: Meeting on Friday with Jeff Castor. We will know more following this meeting.
- HCY Fun Fair: in January we need to consider dates.

11. Other Business

12. Next Meeting

- The next council meeting will be Monday, January 11th 2016 at 7pm

13. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

Email from Mr. Mitic's Office

Hello all,

Sorry for delay in responding, I was awaiting information from two different departments within the City. Below is the responses that I received pertaining to issues surrounding Henry Larsen Elementary School on Sunview Drive.

We reviewed the timing of the pedestrian crossing signal at Jeanne d'Arc Boulevard and Des Épinettes Avenue and found that the current timing is in accordance with standards specified in the Ministry of Transportation's Ontario Traffic Manual for crossings frequented by school age children and seniors.

This intersection is equipped with pedestrian countdown timers which provides a numeric countdown display that indicates the number of seconds remaining for pedestrians to complete their crossing.

We must emphasize that unless the appropriate pedestrian push buttons has been pressed, the walk indication will not appear and the length of the green light displayed for vehicles alone may be shorter than that needed by a pedestrian. Therefore we strongly recommend using the pedestrian crossing signal when crossing Jeanne d'Arc Boulevard.

As requested I have implemented a five second advance walk display to provide pedestrians crossing Jeanne d'Arc Boulevard with a head start before corresponding vehicles are allowed to proceed.

Installation of 40 km/h Pavement Marking Symbols on Sunview Drive

The installation of 40 km/h pavement markings symbols is one of the traffic control measures that has been recently undertaken as part of the City's Strategic Initiative (SI) Program. We will open a new

project that will request the staff who manage this program to review the feasibility of undertaking the installation of these pavement markings on the street as part of their 2016 work program.

Deployment of the “Speed Display Boards” on Sunview Drive

We have opened a new project to request staff to deploy one of the Department’s “Speed Display Boards” on the Sunview Drive approaches to this school. Please note that the deployment of this equipment will probably be delayed (due to the expected winter conditions and a significant back log of other locations) until better weather conditions allow the program to start again in the spring of 2016.

The residents in the area should also forward any future requests for the deployment of the speed boards directly to ‘311@Ottawa.ca’, as the ‘311’ unit will subsequently assign the request to the appropriate staff in the Department.

I hope this information is helpful. If I can provide any further assistance, please don’t hesitate to contact me. Councillor Mitic thanks you for bringing this issue to his attention.

Tammy Lynch

Director Community Relations

Office of Councillor Jody Mitic

Innes Ward

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