



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, November 14, 2016**

Chair: Jennifer Pyne

Secretary: Kate Smith

Attendance:

Jennifer Pyne	Teresa Janz	Laura Ireland
Melissa Britton	Christine Millette	Karen Stoddart
Kate Smith	Mireille Filion	Dianne Morris
Signe Swainson	Christine Camus-Shepley	Nikki Lee
Julie Bisnath	Marcia O'Connor	Dawn Scott

Regrets*

Una McNeil
Ryan Crampton

Doreen Cummins

Karina Budzinski

1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Jennifer Pyne at 7:05pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

- Approved

3. Approval of October 24, 2016 Minutes

- Changes to be made to minutes. Caitlin Hussey's name was misspelled in the Principal's Report. The motion to approve the minutes was deferred until the next meeting, as there were not enough people there who were present at the previous meeting as well.

4. Chair's Report

- Jennifer spoke about OCASC meetings. The meeting is a congregation of other parent councils from other schools. She will share any information that comes from the meetings.
- Parent Reaching Out Grant: The theme this year is “Safe and Inclusive Schools”. Jennifer is looking into more options before we vote. Julie Bisnath suggested, and will talk with, Betsy Mann who is an anxiety coach. She is part of the Reaching In/Reaching Out program.
- Monster Mash – lots of fun. The escape room was great. Haunted house was really good. Next year the suggestion is to increase the budget to \$450 as some of the volunteers put their own money towards the events.
- Jennifer brought in the Greely Information booklet. She suggested to have a similar one for Henry Larsen and perhaps put it on the website. Christine and Mireille to have a look at what’s included. Some parents expressed it may be helpful especially for new families.
- Pets in the classroom – Jennifer asked about the rules around pets in the classroom. Christine explained at this time, pets are not in any classrooms at Henry Larsen. Each case is looked at individually while taking into account many variables. There is no set policy from the board. There are security, health and safety, sanitary, as well as monetary (vet bills/food etc) factors to be considered. Christine described incidences of pets going missing, injured, and/or dying in classrooms or in homes over the weekend or summertime in the past, which have a negative effect on the children. All contact at home with parents and siblings, in addition to multiple classes in contact are additional variables.

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

Christine:

- Progress reports went home last week. Kindergarten students will receive a regular report card in February. Parent/Teacher interviews are Nov 17 and 18.
- Remembrance Day Ceremony – Christine emphasized how proud she was of staff and students at the very moving ceremony. Mrs. Matthews-Cull class did great tableaus and once again the band and choir were excellent. Many different classes participated. Robert Kearney (Henry Larsen parent) did a great presentation.
- Elementary School Framework Consultation – Instead of having Kindergarten to grade 5, they are looking at transitioning to K-6 or K-8, making high schools 7-12 or 9-12, dependent upon facilities accommodations. This will effectively eliminate middle schools. The programs are alternative, Early French Immersion, Middle French Immersion and Regular English. All are under consultation until December 13.
- School Learning Plan – a lot of work done in October. Will look at different computation strategies to find where the children are experiencing difficulties. Grade 3s did better than Grade 6s on standardized testing across the province as well as at Henry Larsen. What are different strategies for solving problems, not just in math but also science,

history, reading novels. Practicing computational strategies in all subjects helps with Math computational skills.

Will also look at student well-being – A lot of kids deal with stress and have high anxiety. Focus on resiliency, self-regulation, and managing stress. There is a CHEO program (accessible on-line) to help focus on mindfulness, called “Mind Masters.” The video guides you through it. Examples are focusing on breathing and closing eyes as a form of mindfulness practice. Christine also spoke about our school psychologist perhaps training staff and going into a few classes to model and practice with staff and students. Some factors that have been identified with stress in children are: more scheduled time than in the past; overly structured lives that are overwhelming; technology (a lot of screen time); and additives/chemicals added to food. Mindfulness practice is one suggested method of developing resiliency and for coping with stress.

Mireille:

- Bully Prevention for Grade 4-8. Discussion regarding cyber bullying, gaming on-line, speaking up for others and themselves. If incidents happen on the bus, talk to the bus driver there to support them. Seating arrangements may need to be done. Yard bullying is sometimes a problem and we encourage the kids to speak up. There is an everyday quote during announcements. Today’s announcement was in regards to bullying on the bus.
- Fire Hall visits are happening every Tuesday and focus on fire prevention.
- Photo retakes are tomorrow.
- Bus evacuation drills will be happening Nov 28 & 29. It is a 20 minute presentation. All kids will do it, whether they take the bus regularly or not, as all kids eventually take the bus for field trips.
- Fire drills will be happening shortly.
- Scholastic Book Fair will be next week
- IB program (Colonel By) – presentations to students on Wednesday. Other presentations will be done by Cairine Wilson and Canterbury.
- Immunizations clinics went well. Another one is happening in February/March. This is the first year that both boys and girls are being offered HPV vaccine.

6. Teaching Staff Liaison Report --Dianne Morris

- Successful Monster Mash. Kids, teachers and volunteers all had fun.
- Dance – Backstage Pass from Cairine Wilson SS was doing the DJ. Dance was fun. Thank you for the food and monetary donations for the Food Bank.
- WE day - Nov 9 for Grade 7 & 8. There were 36 students who attended at the Canadian Tire Centre. Justin Trudeau, Gord Downey and his brother were there. Go to WE website for sound bites.
- Rafiki (glass bead) bracelet sale by the Me to We Club: bracelets cost \$10, of which \$5 goes towards fundraising for needs in a developing country. Each colour

represents a different pillar, and the Club will choose the country to support. Orange forms went home, and orders are due on November 21.

- Math Contest – Beaver Computing Challenge is grade 7/8, and Caribou Math Contest is grades 3-8.
- Volleyball – teams are all set. We are hosting one of the events this year, which is the same day as the winter concert on Dec 15.
- Mr. St. Onge took Grade 6/7/8 to University of Ottawa on November 2 to meet the Olympians and Para-Olympians. It was very successful but logistically there were a lot of forms to fill out prior to attending. The Olympic committee had their own forms and parents had to sign multiple forms. We could only bring 36 kids. Great events (ex – playing wheelchair basketball).

7. Website Update

- Ryan was absent. No updates.

8. Treasurer's Report

- \$1326 is current council balance.
- Christine to check on playground balance
- Lockbox is now installed. The key is with Paula and Rose. Money should be picked up every day. The cost for the lock box was \$40.

9. Fundraising

- Purdy chocolates catalogue comes next week – money to go towards cool yard.
- Bags 2 school – this week – money to go towards Cool Yard
- Chapters – Wed night – money goes towards Council
- Samko and Miko – this week – money to go towards Cool Yard
- Boston Pizza – money towards Council
- Broadway – money towards Council
- Teresa to look into cost of benches.

Nikki from Supperworks to donate a turkey dinner which serves 6-8 people (~\$190 value) for a raffle. Tickets are \$0.99. Draw is Dec 15. The money will go towards cool yard.

Nikki gave \$80 she found from last year with tickets from last year's draw that weren't entered and will be put into the draw this year.

Getting a quote to print for 2 books/kid. Each book contains 10 tickets.

11. Other Business

Holiday Store – December 5-9. It will be done in the multipurpose room. Donations from parents. The kids get to buy stuff and have it wrapped. Lots of volunteers needed. 1 class/period. Mon-Thursday all day and Friday will be a drop in fire sale. The \$80 given from Nikki will be donated to kids who can't afford it for the Holiday Store. Funds raised will go towards Council.

12. Next Meeting

- The next council meeting will be Monday, December 12, 2016 at 7pm

13. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.