



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 11, 2017**

Chair: Melissa Britton

Secretary: Jennifer Pyne (for this meeting)

Attendance: Marcia O'Connor Melissa Britton Tara Previl
 Kate Smith Mireille Filion Jennifer Pyne
 Dawn Scott Tracey Smith Fatima Humayun

Regrets* Ryan Crampton
 Dianne Morris
 Teresa Janz
 Julie Bisnath

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Agenda

- The agenda was approved with one addition—Cookie Program.

3. Approval of November 2017 Minutes – Marcia/Kate - approved

4. Chair's Report

- A babysitter was brought in to care for 3 children during the meeting. This was a successful endeavor so will continue for other meetings in hopes that others will attend our meetings and take advantage of this service.

- Melissa reported that she put Council posters on all class room doors prior to parent teacher interviews in an attempt to get more parents out and/or onto our mailing list. There has been no uptake to date.

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

Christine

- Thanks to Council for organizing the holiday store once again. The kids have a lot of fun and learn about giving. Staff appreciated the funds donated by parents at the school which allowed students to participate who may not otherwise be able to afford to participate.
- This is an extremely busy time of the year. Many activities are coming up including:
 - Spirit days, this week and next week (note was sent home about the different days)
 - Student/staff volleyball game on December 21
 - Dance for grades 6-8 on December 21
 - Holiday Concert will take place on December 14 in the evening and will be repeated again for students on December 15 in the morning. At the evening concert, fundraising will take place for the music program and the band trip--- cake auction, coffee and treats for sale, 50/50 draw
 - Christmas wreaths will be delivered to the school on December 13 and distributed on December 14.
 - Volleyball tournaments for all the different groups are ongoing.
 - Me to We club is holding a food drive this week. A note will be sent home with the most needed items
- The school has 2 teachers visiting from Spain for the week. They toured the school and will spend time in different classrooms. One of the things they are interested in is how we teach second language classes.
- Christine reported that there had been some concerns brought to her attention about the number of fundraisers that are ongoing this year. Council has run a number of fundraisers as have the teachers and the music program. This has led to families being inundated with requests. While all the funds raised are appreciated, it can be tiresome to get so many requests....a good discussion was had by all and Council agreed that they will relook at what fundraisers are upcoming and consider limiting future ones.

Mireille

- C-Flats will be performing at the school on Monday December 18.
- On Wednesday, December 20, the Humane Society will come and do a presentation to students in grades 1-5.
- Also on Wednesday, December 20, the intermediate students will be having a presentation by MADD. A note will be going home describing the presentation because

it contains a fairly intense video. The presentation aims to have kids make good decisions.

- Mireille reported that EIP support is ongoing. They have 35 students who self-identified for this program and anyone that signed up is included in one of three groups that have been formed. They meet once a week. Currently they are talking about communication.
- Mireille also spoke about two options that are available when students need a “break”. There is a “Body Break” room where a student may go. It may be a scheduled part of the day or the room may be used upon request. There are many different activities/tools in the room to help the child relax. This room must be used under the supervision of a staff member. They have also recently opened the “Chill” room. This room allows the student to remove themselves from a stressful situation. Teachers allow the students to visit that room as needed. The student is allowed to use this room and the tools within it unsupervised although staff do check in there regularly. So far, they use of both rooms has been popular and successful.
- Reported that we currently have five Algonquin College students working in the classrooms. These students are part of the Child and Youth Care program

6. Teaching Staff Liaison Report

- Dianne Morris was not able to attend.

7. Website Update

- Ryan was not able to attend.

8. Treasurer’s Report

- Tara presented her financial report.
- Income came in for Chapters, the QSP sales, Bags2School, Boston pizza and the Holiday Store.
- There have been no further requests for funds from staff

9. Fundraising

- Samko & Miko – Receipts have been submitted (only a few), Online shopping will be added at the other end. Anticipate receiving a cheque early in the new year.
- Purdy’s and St-Albert Cheese orders will be delivered this week or next.
- Fundscrip is ongoing

Future fundraisers will be decided on need at the time. Additionally, changes may be made to this depending on the success of the various fundraisers and on the needs of the school.

10. Henry’s Cool Yard

- Christine will follow-up with Dan Fournier about the Form 700 for the outdoor classroom
- Christine will also ask Dan Fournier if he has any experience with the costs for a long jump/triple jump pit.

- Also outstanding is the replacement of the small play structure. This will be the eventual focus moving forward.

11. Other Business

- **Cookie Days**—Every Wednesday morning before school, Mr Pretty is offering juice and a cookie (oatmeal chocolate chip or vegan breakfast cookie) to students for a small charge with all proceeds going to the music program. Council proposed supporting some students who could not afford to purchase the cookie. It was decided that Council would put aside money and the office would keep track of any cookies/juice given to students in need. Proposal that \$60 be put aside for this was made by Jennifer and seconded by Tracey. All were in favour. Christine will let us know if any funds are required.
- **Paint Nite**—Amanda, a local artist will run our paint night in early February. A note of interest will be sent out the first day back after the holidays for sign up. (1 week turnaround will be used). Council discussed the logistics of the evening. All agreed that it should be one painting per family as opposed to one per individual. This would allow us to accommodate more families and it would be an opportunity for the family to create something together.
- **Fun Fair**-It was proposed that the music program run the silent auction portion of the fun fair with proceeds from that portion only going to the music program. This led to a broader discussion of the fun fair as a whole. While it is a great event for families, it is a huge amount of work and it continues to be a challenge to get the volunteers needed to make it a successful event. Some suggestions included making a return to what was previously done (an indoor event earlier in the year—smaller, less profit, but still a fun event), adding new things to the existing format to make it more interesting (same things tend to be done each year) or cancelling it all together. Council members were tasked with brainstorming ideas to be discussed at the next meeting where a final decision will be made regarding the plan for the fun fair moving forward.

12. Next Meeting

- The next council meeting will be Monday, January 15 @ 7pm.

13. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.