

## Elmdale Parent Council Meeting Minutes – November 24, 2015

**Attendees:** Caroline Abela (Co-chair), Geri Moss-Norbury (Co-chair), Jessica Shehan, Wendy Stewart (Secretary), Peter Laughton, Erin Hetherington, Tina Bedard, Suzie Robertson, Larry Shamash, Dave Stremes, Kelly Koroluk, Susie Munro, Kelly Gray, Jennifer Allen-Halpin, Jennifer Allen, France Cyrenne (Co-treasurer), Dave, Amy, Noel Kivimaki (External Communication), Monique, Kaireen Patton, Tracy, Jennifer Cavasin, Amber Steeves, Caroline Hatton, i may have missed a few other participants....

### Agenda Items:

#### 1.0 Item for discussion

Item	What	Who	When
Proposed changes to amount of French immersion instruction in kindergarten and primary early French immersion	<p>-Survey results 60% in favour of changes – yet the slant is only based on the positive perspectives and no research to back the benefits of the proposed changes.</p> <p>-School Board plans to introduce a motion to expedite a decision in January 2016 vs. the initially proposed June 2016 date.</p> <p>-Still no evidence that this is a best practice issue vs. financially driven:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Savings on teacher and ece salaries – \$2 million savings</li> <li>● It will cost some money (\$750k) to be spent on education of staff and materials</li> <li>● Board deficit is \$8 million</li> </ul> <p>-The TO district school board – all JK, SK and grade 1 are 100% French. We do not know the outcomes of an already diluted French program (removed math in French).</p> <p>-Is there a method to intervene with already appears to be a process in motion???</p> <p>-No transparency in school board's reasons to proceed with this motion.</p> <p>- Do we have a parent outreach movement to engage parents now to advocate their opinion based on information?</p>	Suzie Robertson	Immediately

	-Send another communiqué to parents.		
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### 1.0 Committee Updates

Committee	Item	What	When	Comments
Treasurer	Fundraising Activities	<p>-The money we raise in one year, is for disperse in the following year. -For each fundraising event, council will try to thematically match it up to something on the wish list.</p> <p><b>-Some new fundraisers:</b> Danceathon, Elmdale logo gear (hats, notepads, key lights, water bottle, pens, etc);</p> <p><b>Holiday Danceathon</b> – proposed date: December 17<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon – 20 mins/class with a DJ –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● great way to raise money, needs little volunteer time –</li> <li>● Other schools have raised \$10-15k – money raised via student’s pledges.</li> <li>● Tie it to a charity (eg. Toy Mountain).</li> </ul> <p>This would be new money so the council will establish the donated percentage for each cause after the event has occurred.</p> <p><b>-Current fundraisers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● “Tiggywinkles” sale tomorrow night – portion of sales donated to council,</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Dec 17th, 2015 from 12:15-5:30pm</p>	<p>Council approves all activities to date.</p> <p>Julie Taggart, Keri Bishop and Wendy Stewart to organize</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bushtukah no tax night on Thursday night (10% return to council),</li> <li>● Spin classes (50% of profit of class for all Elmdale parents).</li> </ul> <p>-How to address fundraising fatigue? General opinion was that the fundraisers serve a real community building initiative which is a lasting value for students.</p> <p><b>Bookfest committee</b> occurred last week. Committee needs help with organizing students. There is also a need to do the author reading. Bookfest moved up this year by one week as a result of family day.</p> <p><b>Elmdale Cares – Grade 6 bake sale and donation drive:</b> A number of children have started a bake sale on behalf of an Elmdale Alumni who has developed ALS. Fundraising effort to support this man (Alan Gustafson) and his family. This strikes at the heart of this community. The philosophy of this program is to be generated by the children themselves. The request from this committee to support this was endorsed. Next Elmdale Cares committee is on Friday.</p> <p>-5% of overall fundraising activities have been allocated to this committee. What is the best way to determine how to allocate funds? Several ideas discussed. Decisions will be made that the Elmdale care committee level.</p>	<p>Feb 18, 19 and 20th, 2016</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>We support that the committee decides amount and fundraising causes</p>
Communication	Nothing to report			

s	at this time			
Education	Parent Workshops	<p>Family nutrition night went well.</p> <p>We have another 3hr workshop on: <b>what to do about worry (anxiety)</b>. Free pizza and babysitting. This evening is before a PD day...Might impact registration.</p>	<p>January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016</p> <p><b>New date is January 14, 2016 from 6 to 9 PM</b></p>	
Healthy Earth	Outdoor classroom	<p>Looking at new initiatives this year. Peter still has wood at his residence to build the planters.</p>		
School travel planning		<p>– Parents and staff are reporting some parking congestion and dangerous driving (parking) as a result, an email was sent to parents and some drivers were approached personally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There has been some correction in behaviours.</li> <li>● 8:45-9am appears to be the worst time.</li> </ul> <p>-Looking possibly down the road, can there be a drop off area that can be discussed?</p> <p>-There was some discussion of the Crossing guard at Byron and Island Park being no longer there in the morning.</p>	<p>Immediately</p>	<p>Suzie will call the safety council for an update which intersections are staffed</p>
Art Committee		<p>4 yr Ottawa rotation at the OCSD – this is the year of the dance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Garrett Barr, is coming in to teach students to</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Many thanks to the council in facilitating these wonderful activities</p>

		<p>play xylophones and percussion instruments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Nepean HS did a drama presentation at Elmdale last week.</li> <li>● Little Red Theatre in April</li> <li>● February, “Tradansa” is coming – traditional folk dancing -multiple workshops for each class.</li> <li>● Traditional music, Ottawa valley square dancing, “Triple Threat” different sessions of a kitchen party and teaching children dance lessons</li> </ul>		in our schools.
Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC)	Student achievement in math	<p>Speaker from the Board coming to discuss student achievement – drop in the math scores (grade 4 and 5 in proportional reasoning),</p> <p>Board took over insurance to give parent council coverage and that we needed to look at whether or not we need to purchase extra insurance for broader school council events.</p>	Committee to report to council in January.	

### 3.0 Principal's report

3.1 Elmdale Cares “Wish list” as presented approved by council

3.2 Parent/teacher interviews - Many families have been met with during the fall and at parent/teacher interviews.

3.3 "Individual education plans" are being prepared and sent home.

3.4 Progress reports going home on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>

3.5 Recent events - Many students went to We day, beautiful Remembrance Day ceremonies, and toiletry drive.

3.6 Extracurricular activities - writing club for jrs, choir, musical, basketball and more.

Conclusion of meeting!

**Next meeting – January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016 @ 6pm.**

- **New school council meeting date has been changed to Wednesday January 27th at 6 PM, as we have special guests from the board office to talk about the renovation file.**