IRC Family Council Meeting Minutes - December 6, 2023

Members Present: Danielle Cameron (Co-Chair), Tara Doolan (Secretary), Christine Gresham (Co-Chair), Emma Michielsen (Treasurer), Jenna Niven, Courtney Starr, Fatma Toufexief, Laura Wilson, Sooky Crljen, Deborah Munro (Guest 7:30-8:05)

Members Absent: Tyron Breytenbach

1. **Welcome and Land Acknowledgement (7:30 – 7:35)**

- Ms. Crljen provided the land acknowledgement.

2. **Approval of Minutes (7:35-7:40)**

- MOTION to approved minutes from November meeting. (Moved by Danielle; seconded by Fatma). MOTION PASSED.

3. **Treasury Report (Emma) (7:40)**

- Cheques for pizza day revenue recently received.
- Total revenue is currently at $41,715.80.
- Proposed expenditures requested by school staff (the "Wish List") and discussed to date by Council total $14,907.00, which if approved, will bring us to a total of $26,808.80.
- Unapproved expenditures still to be considered by Council include:
    - Upfront pizza day costs = $5,000
    - Classroom allocations = $3,000
    - Grade 6 graduation = $750
    - Library = $640
    - Miscellaneous = $1000

4. **School needs/wish list (Ms. Crljen) (8:00 p.m.)**

- Council considered the revised School Needs/Wish List
- Council discussed classroom allocations and whether it still made sense to allocate a certain amount to each classroom this year given Council is proposing to approve all requests for supplies that were included on the Wishlist.
- Concerns raised about equity given that teachers made different requests on the Wishlist, and so not all classrooms will receive the same dollar amount.
- Suggested that Council could leave classroom allocations unapproved for now, and teachers can always come forward and request items for Council to consider on an as needed basis.
- Council will also reserve some money to do programs like Scientist in the School and Art in Action program which benefit the whole school.

- Council also needs to hold on to some funds for playground improvements, shed, up front costs for Fun Fair.
- In terms of playground replacement and whether IRC will need to contribute any funds, Ms. Crljen will follow up with facilities on this. **ACTION ITEM** – Ms. Crljen to follow up with Facilities.
- Ms. Crljen informed Council that at the Nov. 29th staff meeting, they did an inventory of technology at IRC. Pressing priorities are actually 3 projectors (not 2 as originally included on the Wishlist), and Chromebooks. One Chromebook charging card that can hold 20 currently holds 13, so 7 more needed.
    - Projectors cost $400, there was an error in estimate on the WishList (therefore, 3 x $400 = $1200 for projectors).
    - $279 x 7 Chromebooks = $1960.
- Council discussed that some parents have concerns about funding Chromebooks as they believe the Board should be paying for these. Council would like to have a better sense of where the Chromebooks that we bought in the last two years went. **ACTION ITEM** – need to get more information on Chromebooks already given to IRC by Council.
- Council concluded that while further discussion may be required in terms of how to spend additional available funds, for the purposes of this meeting, Council would like to focus on whether to approve the Wish List submitted by Ms. Kim based on staff requests.
- MOTION to approve the Wish List of expenditures presented by Christine, plus one more additional projector as requested by staff (at an additional cost of $200 from the original projected amount). (Moved by Tara, seconded by Fatma). No objections. MOTION PASSED.
- Council discussed canvassing teachers for information on Art in Action, Scientist in School, school trip ideas. **ACTION ITEM** – Council to ask teachers re: Art in Action, Scientist in School, school trip ideas.
- Council also agreed to reach out to gr. 1 and 6 teachers that requested less materials on the Wish List, and invite them to submit any additional requests. **ACTION ITEM** – reach out to gr. 1 and gr. 6 teachers.

5. Fundraisers for 23/24 school year (8:15 p.m.)

- Symbolic Holiday Giving (Jenna)
    - Council was recalled that there had been a discussion of organizing a holiday giving campaign at the last meeting. Fatma had brought up that it may be tricky for people to do direct giving because of TDSB policies. Jenna was going to put together a catalogue of items (i.e. $x buys a whiteboard for example).
    - Council discussed possible options for the holiday giving campaign. Council considered creating a list of certain specific classroom items to be funded. However, given that Council has just recently asked teachers what they needed, and approved all items on the school Wish List, it wouldn't make sense to fundraise for items that are now funded.

    - Council discussed other school-wide initiatives / needs that could benefit from additional funding. It was proposed to create 3 categories for holiday giving:
        - Chromebooks
        - Art in Action
        - Scientist in the School
    - **ACTION ITEM** - Emma will reach out to Grace to set up School Cash Online for holiday giving.

- Cookies (Emma) – early February. **ACTION ITEM** - Emma will talk to Terra Cotta. Emma will summarize what they have to offer us, and what the school will make from it.

- A parent has also approached Council about doing an initiative to support the charity she works with – i.e. collecting wipes, diapers, etc. for mothers in need. **ACTION ITEM** - Emma will check if parent is ok with putting a collection bin in the hallway and asking gift cards to be dropped in the office.

- Movies (Christine). **ACTION ITEM** – Christine to look into possibility of Movie nights.

- Parent Social (Laura). **ACTION ITEM** - defer this topic to a future meeting.

- Fun Fair - set meeting date (Danielle).
    - Propose doing Fun Fair earlier this year. Need to canvas other schools – i.e. St. Cecilia, Perth, Annette Public Street to see what date they are doing so we don't have a conflict.
    - Weekend/weekday? People generally like weekend.
    - May long weekend / first weekend of June discussed as proposed dates. Council aligned to do Saturday June 1st.
    - Suggest communicating to the other schools about our date before we announce. **ACTION ITEM** – need to check with other schools re: Fun Fair Date.
    - Laura's family is thinking about donating Jays tickets for June 2nd

- Lottery license application process (Tara). Started to look into lottery license process. **ACTION ITEM** – Tara to provide an update to Council once more research has been done on this.

6. Principal's update (Ms Crljen) (8:30 p.m.)

- Ms. Crljen is in her third and final week at IRC.
- During her time, Ms. Crljen has helped with some facility improvements: the caretaker has adjusted the parking lot lights to Daylight Savings Time to avoid darkness in morning, and repairs have been made to the boys washrooms downstairs.

- Reminder to Council that School Statement of Needs (SSON) needs to be completed in consultation with Council members and updated annually. Review what the parents' "wish list" is for a school administrator. The Board does consider what is in the SSON when replacing administrators.
    - Council asked for examples of the types of attributes that schools typically put on the SSON? Ms. Crljen explained that it is often personal attributes – i.e. ability to communicate, active listening skills, etc. Or it could be related to an administrator's interests/goals, i.e. making the school more of a paperless school, instilling equitable practices, promoting environmental sustainability, etc.
- SSON should be sent to next acting principal (Deborah Munro), and that will be sent to superintendent.
- **ACTION ITEM –** need to work on preparing SSON.
- Reminder to families with pet dogs that dogs are not permitted on school grounds during school day, either before or after school as there is a strict TDSB policy on this.
- We now have a full complement of lunchroom supervisors, but we are always looking for more. Suggested that Council put it out to school community to apply for positions if they are looking for extra work. There is an interview process and vulnerable sector screening. Lunchroom supervisors get an TDSB employee number and they get access to other TDSB postings.
- Winter concert will be held during the school day on Wed. Dec. 20th. Start time is 2:15.
    - Council asked about the logic of choosing a daytime as opposed to an evening time for the concert. Ms. Crjlen explained that there were concerns about staff availability after hours this year, and so it was agreed to do a daytime concert.
- Eco Club – Ms. Smith, Ms. Baloch and Ms. Kovic are leading the team of students. They organized a clothing drive, and they are doing the holiday re-gift market.
- Upcoming dates: this Friday, Dec. 8th is a PA day. Dec. 11th - Kindness and Caring candy-grams will be distributed, thanks to Danielle for organizing.
- Dec. 22 – final day of fall term is PJ Day, a cozy and comfortable spirit day. Students may bring stuffies.
- Jan. 19 is a PA day for report card writing.

7. **School Name Change Process** – deferred to January meeting.

8. **Other business (8:45 p.m.)**

- Parent Class Reps – Laura got 4 volunteers for classroom reps. Got good coverage for most classes. For classes where there isn't coverage, we will try to send those teachers communications reminders.
- Tara volunteered to be a class rep for Ms. Sotirakos.
- **ACTION ITEM** - Tara will ask Heather Neal to be classroom rep. for Ms. Hagen.
- Grade 6 class rep. – deferred to January meeting.
- New IRC logo – deferred to January meeting.
- Danielle won't be here for Jan. meeting –Jan. 10th.

9. **Adjournment (9:00 p.m.)**