



Empire School
83 Empire Street,
Waterloo, Ontario
N2L 2M1
(519) 742-8375

S tewardship O ptimistic A cceptance R esilience

Empire School Council Agenda

February 11, 2025 at 6:30 PM

meet.google.com/guu-gwde-zxk

Welcome and Round table Introductions (Khaled + attendees - 10 min)

Approval of previous month meeting minutes

Principal / Vice-principal Report (Lynda/Lindsay - 10 min)

- EQAO dates: May 7th - Jun 11th. We will be meeting with teachers to select 2 days during that window.
- We are getting more coat hooks. Things will be moved around a bit to accommodate 30 - 40 more hooks for the junior kids.
- Kindie registration is now open, if you know anyone who is planning to register please encourage them to register soon as it helps with planning. The board reviews numbers, then mid-May we are assigned the number of teachers.
- The cap for kindies is 29 students - if a lot of students join in Sept reorganizing is necessary. Grades 1 - 3 is capped at 20. 4 - 6, there is no cap. 3 / 4 split is capped at 23. This is the board average - you can go over 10% over cap.
- Report cards went home on Mon Feb 10th. There is a new box for Acadience screening - this is for language. The assessment is done by a teacher. It takes 1 - 3 mins. The screening is done 3 times a year. This is recorded on this term's report card. It will say "meets benchmark" and has a box to check yes or no. Because the initial testing is done so early, their current ability is often not reflected on their report card, however, if the benchmark is not met, the child's teacher will have already begun working with them to receive extra support to bring them up to benchmark. If benchmark is met mid-year they will not be retested at the end of the year. The first kindie screening assesses sounds. Grade 3 and 6, ORF testing is used. It is in the experimental phase. We are not yet sure how this will be reflected in the report cards.
- We have started a Food Drive - it is going well. Each day something different is being collected. We have a thermometer near the front to measure how much we have collected.

Update on the PRO Grant / Negotiations with other vendors (Khaled - 10 min)

- Our application has been approved for a STEM night - we have been granted \$1500. This is a decent amount to be able to host a good event.
- UofW has a different schedule - they are hoping to host schools who have not yet had a chance. In terms of the grant we can always change the vendor as long as the event is in line with the original plan.
- We will next investigate Mad Science, Conestoga College, and local high school students in the robotics club who are Empire alumni. Now that funds are approved we can reach out to vendors, look at availability, budget etc.
- Code Ninjas is another potential vendor. Kids learn simple coding, programming. From last year's negotiations, the challenge was the logistics - they have games on their server, they bring a rep to teach the kids and instruct, but we needed to first make sure our school computers would work well. This year the owners can come to the school, test the connections etc. before we commit.
- Young Engineers of Waterloo hosted a free program over the Winter Break, held at the library. We can look into that as another option.
- The post-event report will need to be submitted by June 18th.

PitaPit Fundraising update (Lynda/Lindsay - 10 min)

- Pita Pit starts this week on Fri - 175 students have ordered a pita, smoothie, or both. 5 families have opted to donate - we are currently subsidizing 3 families. For families who encountered difficulties, they called the store and they were very helpful to sort it out! From a fundraising perspective, Empire 5% back for the school so we're off to a great start.

Empire Soccer Goals Project (Khaled - 10 min)

- The vendor has given us a link to the equipment with warranty etc. They will not be doing installation.
- We will connect with School Facilities to keep the process moving.

Adjournment

Next Meeting:

Our next meeting would fall during March Break so we are cancelling that meeting.

We will meet next on Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 6:30 PM at the Library or online.