

IRC Family Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Members present: Tyron Breytenbach, Danielle Cameron (Co-Chair), Tara Doolan (Secretary), Christine Gresham (Co-Chair), Emma Michielsen (Treasurer), Jenna Niven, Courtney Starr, Fatma Toufexief, Laura Wilson, Sonya Kim

Members absent: TBD

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

2. Treasury Report (Emma) (7:35 – 7:40)

- Bank balance as of Oct. 28th was \$23,050.80, excluding the following:
 - o Dance A Thon 2022/23 - \$3797.00,
 - o Dance a Thon 2023/24 (funds not yet confirmed), and
 - o Square Reader Sales from Curriculum Night of \$255.38.
- Total revenue = approx. \$27,103.18
- Pizza revenue – \$15,365 (not including some outstanding cash owed). This is gross revenue, not including expenses.
- Council has not yet approved expenditures for this year, such as Pizza Day expenses. The costs of the first October Pizza Day were approximately \$554.42, which gives us an approximate estimate of the cost of future pizza days, depending on orders.

3. Fundraisers for 2023/24 School Year (7:40-8:15)

- Council discussed the Fundraising Event chart presented by the co-chairs, which included Pizza Days, Curriculum Night (complete), Dance a Thon (complete), Hot Chocolate and Cookies Fundraiser, Movie Nights and Snacks, Cookie Fundraiser, a Parent Social, Fun Fair, and IRC swag.
- Council discussed the idea of having some IRC swag that we could try to sell at all fundraisers in future. It was noted that IRC must first confirm/finalize the school logo. The school colour is red. There is no mascot or team name at present, but that is up to the school to determine (Board is not involved). One of the Council members offered to have a friend help with updating the logo. Ms. Kim indicated that a couple of IRC parents had also expressed interest as well, she will pass on names. **ACTION ITEM** – Ms. Kim to pass on names of the interested parents.
- Council also discussed switching the cookie fundraiser supplier to Terra Cotta, who some parents say offers a superior product. Council members asked about the profits available to us from the new supplier. **ACTION ITEM** – Danielle to follow up on profit sharing between school council and supplier.
- Council was supportive of the fundraiser ideas presented, there was enthusiasm for the Parent Social and Movie Nights.

- Council discussed the process of applying for a lottery license. **ACTION ITEM** – Tara to begin process of looking into lottery license application process.

4. School Needs / Wish List (Ms. Kim) (8:15-8:40)

- Ms. Kim discussed the results of her consultation with staff about school needs. Needs requested include the following:
 - o Staff indicated that having a calming space would benefit all classrooms. Bean bags, sensory items would be helpful for classrooms. Bean bags are \$350. It was noted that some sensory Items are not cheap.
 - o Items in the kindergarten yard would be helpful, such as additional picnic tables and additional seating. A picnic table is \$600. Hardwood hollow blocks would also benefit kindergarten program, those are \$600 each.
 - o Noise cancelling headphones were also requested for some classrooms.
 - o There is a need for proper storage space for outdoor equipment, i.e. tricycles, etc. A durable shed to store outdoor equipment would be helpful.
 - o Some Projectors need replacing.
 - o STEAM Yard – requires some consumables.
- Council discussed the school needs / wish list. Questions and discussion included:
 - o Council agreed that it needs to determine the amount that Council wants to keep on hand as a float, and how much it is comfortable allocating.
 - o Council was generally supportive and enthusiastic of the items requested by the school. Items to create a calming space, picnic tables, etc. are all items that Council agree would bring value.
 - o Council asked about noise cancelling headphones and raised some issues re: safety in terms of being able to get children's attention.
 - o Ms. Kim confirmed that there are 12 unique classrooms from K-6, including collaborative classroom.
 - o Council also asked playground enhancement needs. Ms. Kim confirmed that playground repairs need to be done. At present, the school has to regularly check for splinters in the wood as it is aging, and during the winter the wooden play structure often has to be closed due to ice build up. Ms. Kim has learned from the Board that our play structure is on a list for replacement, and Ms. Kim has asked for that to be reviewed asap. Ms Kim is in communications with Board Facilities on this. Council inquired about who pays for ongoing repairs to the playground? Ms. Kim confirmed that TDSB pays for this. The school puts in a work order and then it is taken care of. Council asked if we could ask the Board more about the playground costs and find out exactly how much the Board will spend. Finally, the idea of putting in another spinner was also discussed. Council asked for more information on how long it would take to put in a spinner. **ACTION ITEM** – Ms. Kim to follow up with the Board on questions regarding playground replacement, new spinner, etc.

- o Council also discussed the request for the shed. It was noted that it would need to be something very sturdy to hold up to the outdoor elements. Possibly a shipping container.
- o Projectors – 2 need replacing.
- o Books / magazine subscription would also be good. A council member asked if Council had ever considered allowing parents to “sponsor” a specific program – like a magazine subscription. Some parents may be very interested in this type of designated giving to a specific need, for example as part of their holiday giving.

5. Principal’s Update (Ms. Kim) (8:40-8:50)

- Thanks to council for the Halloween Dance a Thon.
- Gr 3 EQAO results– reading was 87% performing at grade level, writing 94%, and math 81%.
- Gr 6 EQAO results - reading and writing both at 100% performing at grade level, for math 69%
- Math and literacy remain areas of focus
- Ms. Kim reported that the school has sourced out great math program called my Math Path.
- Progress reports – report cards will go home Nov. 14th, parent interviews are Nov. 16th and 17th.
- On Nov. 10th, there is a Remembrance Day Assembly at the school at 10:35 a.m.
- Ms. Kim gave an update on the planned Butterfly Garden for Charlotte:
 - o the landscaper has shared a design, and given proximity to winter, installation is recommended for spring. Landscaper had initially indicated that plant materials were going to be donated; however, now they say not all materials can be donated. Ms. Flaman is following up on this and seeing whether we can get this donated from elsewhere. Ms. Kim would like to know if Council can help with this.
 - o the Board Sustainability Program has also weighed in and their recommendation is that we have raised containers as it keeps things easier for weeding, etc. and also in terms of the requirements that would be involved in excavation in front of the school.
 - o Raised containers would need to keep distance from window so that they don’t block view. It was suggested to have a rotating schedule for maintenance (parents to take turns), etc. The landscape designer is in support of helping us get there, will provide drawings.
 - o Pollinate TO is a grant application that came out earlier this year and Ms. Baloch and Ms. Kavoc submitted an application. Raised containers were unfortunately not included in our grant application. However, if we do get grant, we may be able to spend some on raised containers. The grant could provide as much as \$5000. IRC asked for \$3800 in its application.
- Council noted that it would like the student community to be a part of the Butterfly Garden initiative. Perhaps they can paint rocks or something to be part of the garden. Ms. Kim noted that one of the added benefits of raised container is that it can be painted and our students can be part of it.

- **ACTION ITEM** - Ms. Kim will circulate the proposed drawings from the landscaper to the Council.

6. Other business (8:50-9:00)

- Parent Class Reps – Council all in agreement that they are a good idea and a good way for Council to communicate with teachers / other parents. **ACTION ITEM** - Laura will organize the parent reps.
- Family Council website and social channel management – a parent has expressed a willingness to manage our Instagram account, however, Council could benefit from someone to manage the website and social media. A communications person would be helpful. **ACTION ITEM** – Christine to discuss with Jenna about which channels to use.
- Council also considered the minutes from the meeting of October 4th, 2023. **MOTION** to approve the minutes (moved by Christine, seconded by Talia). **MOTION PASSED.**
- Dec. 6th is next scheduled monthly Council meeting
- Council to set a date for an interim meeting to vote on proposed expenditures after reviewing the School Needs / Wish List more and following up on questions.