

## École Varennes Parent Committee Meeting

April 24, 2023

### Agenda

This land is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and homeland of the Métis Nation. We acknowledge the harms, of both the past and present, that were and are inflicted on Indigenous peoples in Canada by a colonial, exploitative worldview and we, as the Parent Committee, dedicate ourselves to move forward in collaboration with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation.

#### **Attendance:**

**In Person:** Amy Warriner, Jennifer Boudreau-Allan, Charlene Sacher, Devin Johnston, Robert Marin, Meghan Dobbs, Eileen Mueller, Meika Richmond, Kaylyn Williamson, Jessica Lambrecht, Crista Gladstone

**Virtual:** Haulat Hakim, Yetunde Omoteso

**Call to order** 6: 37 pm

**Adoption of minutes** (5 min) Meghan motion to pass March 20, 2023 minutes, Devin to second, passed.

**Business arising from minutes** (5 min)

Discussion on support and purchasing of these items (we discussed possibly around the \$800 mark) – items have been delivered. Charlene has some tennis balls that arrived after the rest of the items.

Pizza Fun lunch – Occurred on March 22 and huge success. Students shared thank you cards that were passed along to Meghan.

#### **Reports**

Chair (5 min) –

PAC appreciation and Information night April 11 – met with senior leadership at the board level.

Possible changes to our constitution – to be discussed under New Business

Treasurer (5 min)

Item	Expected Cost	Actual Cost
Truth and Reconciliation Books	\$800	\$539.08
CJS Scholarship	\$500	
Retirement Gifts	\$200	
Staff Appreciation	\$500	
Grade 8 Farewell – USB sticks	\$150	
Field Trips (2 bus/grade grouping)	\$3675	
Gardening	\$200	
Pizza lunch for kindergarten/grade 1 families	\$400	\$411.15
Outdoor space	\$300	
PAC windup	\$200	
Recess Equipment	\$500	\$509.71
Teacher Wishlist for outdoor learning	\$800	\$266.82*
Babysitting	\$325	\$175.00
Purposeful Nights/School Presentations (Babysitting)	\$300	\$207.26
Free Pizza Lunch	\$500	\$691.03

Notes:

- \*\$266.82 approved for reimbursement but not yet paid
- Profit from Dominos spring break fundraiser was \$385 with 77 orders, yet to be deposited and reflected in the report.

Current Balance

\$5,951.56

Administration (25 min)\* please note extended Administration report due to Article on Poverty as Shared

Concerts were a huge success!

Portfolio evening was a huge success! Feedback from attendees was that it would be nice not to have to sign up for time slots – potentially have a start time but not end times or do it more like an open house and let parents know that opportunities to meet with other teachers are available.

Grade 6 (and 7 this year) parent information evening: Understanding Middle School on May 4 @ 7pm

Next Family Night, May 31<sup>st</sup> – Parent Appreciation Night - could PAC share the cost of food and get volunteers? Yes – will likely be fruit, juice boxes and samosa.

Student Activism- Grade 5/6s letters to the Superintendents Dept re: Max Bell activities being organized by gender. The Superintendent's department is going to come out to the school to discuss.

SAVE THE DATE!

Band and guitar concert May 23<sup>rd</sup>

Dance in the Park May 26<sup>th</sup>. (K-3) Rain date is June 1.

Discovering our demographics and thinking about what we can do to encourage our families to participate. Read Article together. Discuss.

- discussed the student demographics at Ecole Varennes and ways to work towards having Ecole Varennes better reflect the demographics of the students/families.
- Food requirements have quadrupled in the past year.
- How do we engage families from different socio-economic backgrounds?
  - Anonymous Survey to try to determine the barriers to participation

FAST program to begin on May 4<sup>th</sup> and will run until June 15<sup>th</sup> (targeted for K/1)

MYSF for LRSD – deferred to next meeting

Lunch fees will be \$90 per student next year from \$100 this year. There is a divisional family cap on lunch fees.

### **New Business** (30 min)

T-shirts for students for 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of LRSD (Eileen and Crista) (10 minutes) Potentially look at gifting a shirt to everyone but have an option on the order form for others to gift or sponsor a shirt.

- This would be a large expense for the PAC – are there other places where the money would be better spent? Could we do something less costly that students would appreciate, potentially instead of t-shirts - Tattoos; Ecole Varennes stickers, stickers for water bottles, backpack tags with Ecole Varennes logo on them?
- Decision to leave the t-shirts for now and not pursue for next year.

Mabel's Labels – update (Eileen) Eileen provided Amy with posters to advertise and the

suggested wording to be put into the weekly email updates.

- Eileen to look into if they can do a Dolphin sticker and/or bag tag.
- Eileen to send images for social media to Amy to advertise the fundraiser.

Peak of the Market – Agreed that is the fundraiser that best fits the school's needs, it has been done before and the school already has an account - Charlene to send Eileen the log in credentials and Eileen will take care of signing us up for a fundraiser in the 2023/24 school year. Eileen can run with organizing this.

- Would need 3-4 adult volunteers to assist with unloading the veggies when delivered.
- Grades 7/8 can assist with unloading and organizing.
- Rob and Meghan volunteered to deliver orders to those who don't have access to vehicles.

Other Fundraising Ideas (10 minutes) -quick go over but need someone to be the lead to examine this further.

#### **Discussed as possible activities:**

- **Craft/paint nite** – potentially look into doing a paint night in the fall, could maybe do this at the AGM night in September.
  - Would include children and adults.
  - Would be a 2023/2024 activity.
- **Friday night drop-in fee** and a bunch of games/activities/crafts/sports in the gym, maybe a movie, etc.
  - Discussed doing this as a movie night with popcorn, candy and drinks for sale. Possibly small “rental fee” for families to use the mats.
  - Requires a lot of volunteer commitment to assist with set up and take down/clean up of gym, making popcorn etc.
  - Families can volunteer to assist with set up and take down and every member of the volunteer's family gets free popcorn and a drink. This would make it more accessible to everyone.
  - Different nights have different movie ratings so older children and younger children would have movies that are appropriate and geared towards their interests.
  - Likely a 2023/2024 activity.
- Freezie fundraiser – Please do it on a Friday.
  - Possible issues with garbage left in school yard so would need volunteers to clean up after.
    - Could charge \$1.25 and kids who bring back the empty wrappers get .25 back. Might be a solution for children who aren't able to afford/forget to bring money that day as those who collect enough wrappers would be able to afford a freezie.
    - Possibly have one of the grades responsible for school yard clean up after.
  - Could be done this year. We could do 2 in June. Need a committee to assist with setting up.

### **To discuss at a future meeting:**

- baseball ticket fundraiser. I emailed Goldeyes to see if they give discounted rates to schools. \$13/each – possible fundraiser or draw
- craft packs to sell to the students.
- student art gallery
- calendar with student artwork

### Educator Appreciation Committee (Charlene and Kate) (2 minutes):

- Staff Appreciation Week – Kate organizing for first week of May. Monday and Tuesday will be snacks. Wednesday is Taco bar. Volunteers signed up in person during spring concert as well as on Sign Up Genius.

### Possible Constitutional Changes (5 minutes):

- Possible name change – this would take effect on Article 1 of our constitution – this would need to be amended at the September AGM. Suggested names: Ecole Varennes School Community Councils (is done is SK and ON), Ecole Varennes Home and School Committee, Home-School Partnership Committee
- Increase engagement – perhaps staff/students to present and we can really target each grade band each meeting (all still invited); change of time (maybe do over supper- share cost of meals); reduce the number of meetings (AGM in September and then maybe only 4-5 minutes throughout the year, reports shared on “off-months”) – this would need to be decided before the end of the year as we would need to change the constitution Article 10.B.2 – these amendments need to be made now and then presented and voted on at AGM. Potentially have potluck meetings over dinner.

### Upcoming Events

#### Next PAC Meeting:

- June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

#### **Adjournment** (1 min) 8:35 pm

Next meeting: June 5th @ 6:30 PM in École Varennes library – includes potluck supper; everyone to email Charlene with what they are bringing.