

École Varennes Parent Committee Meeting

February 27, 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: Charlene Sacher, Amy Warriner, Devin Johnston, Robert Marin, Meghan Dobbs, Jennifer Boudreau-Allan, Jessica Lambrecht, Evelyn Sortari

Virtual: Eileen Mueller, Bruna Straccini, Crista Gladstone, Jennifer Egborobi

Call to order (1 min) 6:39 pm

Adoption of minutes (5 min) Devin motion to pass January 2023 meeting minutes, Robert to second, passed.

Business arising from minutes (5 min)

Feedback from staff survey on requested outdoor equipment for students/teaching:

I'm new so I don't know much of what we have already but I'd be very happy to have tarps, clip boards, a wagons. Thanks!

football, ball pump, baseball, tennis ball, basketball

Wagon to transport outdoor ed learning supplies and some resources to go in the wagon. Or a shed outside where we could store our things.

Outdoor white board/ Pin Board for Phys Ed. A hill in the new school-yard (bigger then the one we have. Outdoor storage area for our outdoor Phys Ed equipment. Set up for an outdoor removable skating rink

Crazy Carpets, Shovels, Balls, Buckets for carrying snow and building things

Metis 'Connecting to the Land' Kids Book Bundle, Take it Anywhere Microscopes (multiple), Wifi Weather Station with Wind and Rain, Weather related kits for outdoors, Bug & Plant tester kits, Chalk,

Eileen has a wagon to donate. There are some items on the list that require more detail (EX: outdoor whiteboard) before purchasing.

Charlene to share list with admin (Amy) to see what is already at school. PAC purchase items and the school will order recess equipment to get better pricing from PAC budget.

Discussion about different ways to try to track the equipment so it isn't always getting lost. The school does endeavor to have children be accountable for the equipment. Crista made a suggestion about asking for volunteers from the older grades to do a

sweep of the school yard at the end of the day and then earn a reward (like a pizza party) for their efforts.

Discussion on support and purchasing of these items - \$800

Reports

Chair (5 min) –

Attended and asked questions at the new building information night January 30, 2023 and help support with food and babysitters. Thanks to those who were able to attend and help out.

Attended and spoke at the kindergarten information evening February 16, 2023.

Attended Board Meetings where the plan to share the new building plan was shared. Encouraged our school community to engage in the ThoughtExchange through an email sent out by Amy and plans to attend the board meeting on the budget tomorrow.

March 23 to attend the Board PAC Appreciation Night. Charlene has let them know that it is parent teacher conferences for most elementary schools that night. More information to follow.

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	
Babysitting	\$325	\$150 (to date)
Purposeful Nights/School Presentations (Babysitting)	\$300	

Notes:

- A payment of \$134.04 made to Charlene for items purchased from Costco for staff appreciation is not yet reflected on the school's financial report.

- A cheque for \$361.00 from Healthy Hunger for the Subway hot lunch is not yet reflected on the report.
- The school's report indicates that a payment of \$411.15 was made for the K/1 pizza lunch although the receipt submitted by Charlene was for \$426.08. Will inquire about the difference. The above table reflects the figure in the school's report.
- Recess equipment figure revised from last report based on school's report.

Hot Lunches

Month	Income	Expenses	Net Fundraising
December – Dominos	\$464.75	\$121.56	\$343.19
January – Subway	\$393.50	\$128.41	\$256.09

Note: previous report was off by \$1.

Current Balance

- Current balance: \$6,926.71
- \$6,699.74 shown on school's report
- + \$361.00 cheque from Healthy Hunger
- - \$134.03 payment for staff appreciation

Administration (15 min)

Bon Festival!

Festival Activity week was a blast. The kids had fun doing crafts, dancing, singing, growing beards and doing outdoor activities. We had Tipi teachings about the fur trade and the Red River Métis economy and their contributions to trade in the region. Community Consultation January 30th, turnout was good.

- We have had a site visit with staff from the province.

Mobile Vision Clinic provided eye testing to 155 students and glasses to 35 students. We met with the City Signals Dept. regarding the crosswalk at St. Mary's Rd.

- they will be doing a study to assess the safety situation at the crosswalk and install half signals to further support our concerns for student safety.

Review School Plan and feedback.

New Business (30 min)

Hot Lunch:

Meghan has spoken with the McDonald's down the street to see if they are able to accommodate the school's inclusivity plan.

Meghan and Crista had spoken back and forth about potentially having a free hot pizza lunch for the school and Meghan indicated that there is some money from the hot lunch fundraising that would accommodate this. We could potentially do this for March. Meghan to write up a note to let parents know what we will be doing & make up an order form.

Fundraisers

- Dominos – Charlene to connect with Tannis Irwin at Dominos t.irwin@dpz.ca – family fundraiser set for week of March 20-26

School Support resources:

Purposeful Nights:

School will be doing a presentation to teach families strategies (Multiage strategies) that the families can use. The presentation will explain what Multiage is and how it helps support children in their learning – PAC to support by providing babysitting (\$20/sitter), other activities for children, snacks – first night on March 9, 2023 from 6:30-7:30; MAME to create a poster to share. Charlene to have a RSVP note Granola bars, fruit (approximately \$150 in food)

Charlene motion to increase the budget for this event to \$400, Meghan to second, passed.

Educator Appreciation Committee:

Chili lunch – Kate - willing to organize for March or April – update. Charlene will double check to see if servers need to have their food handling certificate.

In attempt to increase engagement – possibly trying some hybrid meetings. Next meeting is March 20th, Charlene will not be here. The vice chair (Robert) usually leads the meeting in the chair's absence. Amy will set up

March 23rd – the school is having an evening where parents can come and learn how to use the parent portal etc. Amy suggested possibly having the PAC be there to have a table to give information about the PAC to try to boost engagement.

Varenes wear – discussed possibly looking at providing an Ecole Varenes t shirt for all the students in the future.

Crista will look into pricing of shirts. Charlene will look into pricing of cricut – will connect with Megan McDonald as she uses this regularly.

Upcoming Events

- March 20th, 2023

- April 24th, 2023
- May – no meeting
- June 5th, 2023

Adjournment (*1 min*) 8:15 pm

Next meeting: March 20, 2023 @ 6:30 PM in École Varennes library