

**Minutes of  
Stephen Leacock Public School Council Meeting  
April 17, 2018  
7:00 pm  
School Library**

In attendance: Melissa Adams, Lesley Paquette, Annabel Lee, Tricia Gheorghe, Teisha Gaylard, Ed Bowling, Yangbei Wang, Troy Tilbury, Geneviève Gauthier-King (Principal), Dianne Khawas (Vice-Principal), Dan Fournier (OCDSB Project Officer, Facilities Management Department)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

**1. Approval of Minutes from February 20, 2018 Meeting**

Moved by Lesley Paquette. Seconded by Tricia Gheorghe.

**2. Yard Improvement Discussion with Dan Fournier, OCDSB Project Officer, Architectural/Engineering, Facilities Management Department**

Council had expressed some concerns about the two yard improvement projects that had been undertaken earlier in the school year. The natural outdoor play/learning space was still experiencing major drainage issues, resulting in a giant mud puddle, and the monkey bars acquired for the junior grades seemed small. There had also been considerable delays in completing both projects. Dan had been invited to the meeting to address these matters.

Dan explained how the project planning occurs and the different ways that projects are presented to contractors for bidding. The lowest bid gets the contract. In this case, the OCDSB had had previous good experience with the company selected. Although there had been delays for various reasons and mistakes made, the company had honoured its price.

Dan & Council members discussed possible solutions to the problems. The platform for the monkey bars can be lowered and the arched ladder can be replaced by a flat one; both modifications will improve the structure to better accommodate the height of the older students. Council felt that these would be appropriate measures to take at this time. The pit could also be extended to include other structures/feature in future.

For the mud puddle, sod or grass seed could be put down, but grass may not last in that area due to the heavy foot traffic. Mulch is not a good option because it clogs the catch basins. Council decided that grass was not worth the expense because it likely would not survive with all the children playing on it. Council will explore other options for the area, such as some sort of hard surface. In the meantime, planters will be purchased and placed in the area which will serve 2 purposes: 1) they will redirect the foot traffic around the area; and 2) they will be used by classes for planting activities as part of the science curriculum. Also, additional drainage remediation will occur in the summer, which might improve the situation. Council opted to wait

and see how the planters & drainage remediation will affect the area before making any further decisions.

### **3. Chair's Report – Annabel Lee**

Annabel thanked Melissa Adams for having organized two fundraising evenings, one at Chapters which raised \$261.31, and one at Lone Star restaurant which raised \$233.86.

There was further discussion about the drainage issue and the fact that planters were a good idea because they would cover part of the muddy area and movable planters do not require the involvement of the OCDSB Facilities Department. The cost of the planters will be covered by the Council, but the meeting did not have a quorum of members in order to vote on this matter. Annabel will coordinate an electronic vote to approve funding for the planters, soil & gravel.

### **4. Principal's Report – Geneviève Gauthier-King**

Kindergarten registration for 2018-2019 has been steady. There have also been some registrations for grade 1. The school has also experienced a slight increase in the number of students starting at the school mid-year.

The staffing allocation and number of classes for 2018-2019 are mostly the same as for this year. No major changes are expected in this regard.

The OCDSB will be sending parents a School Climate Survey to fill out.

The OCDSB is planning to open another International Baccalaureate programme at Merivale High School. Currently, the IB programme is only offered at Colonel By Secondary School.

The Grade 6 Leaving Ceremony will take place on June 26. Winnie Mui and other volunteers will coordinate the refreshments for the event.

A new communication system called SchoolMessenger has been launched board-wide. Parents will receive emails from the school via this system.

Stephen Leacock PS will be a polling station for the June 7 Ontario provincial election. This means members of the public will be entering the school throughout the day. Geneviève will work with the Elections Ontario Returning Officer assigned to the site to ensure that appropriate provisions are made for parking and security.

The outdoor equipment has been purchased with the Priority Needs List (PNL) funds that the Council provided.

Planters will be purchased as discussed. Soil to fill them and gravel for underneath them is also required. Geneviève and the school's custodial staff will shop for them and coordinate delivery.

There have been problems with a piece breaking on the snowshoes that were purchased with Council funds. The class set of snowshoes has been returned to the store where they were purchased and will be exchanged for a different model. The store has been cooperative in this regard.

#### **5. Vice-Principal's Report – Dianne Khawas**

Me to We Team's recycle challenge will be wrapping up this week. The group also participated in Cleaning Up the Capital.

There was a presentation from WaterAid, which is a non-profit organization that promotes secure access to clean water around the world. Students will put together a learning gallery on this topic.

Basketball practices have started. Tournaments for the boys' and girls' teams will occur in May.

Grade 3 students have participated in Swim to Survive swimming classes.

Grade 2 students are planning a field trip to the Canadian Museum of History.

Grades 1-6 will participate in tennis skills workshops at the March Tennis Club.

Grade 4 students have been learning about fractions in math.

Grades 5 & 6 students have been doing a coding project and will do a video game arcade event.

Grade 6 students have a number of opportunities to visit Earl of March Secondary School in preparation for attending that school next year.

Silver Birch Reading Programme participants have read 300+ books, which beats previous records.

#### **6. Financial Report – Annabel Lee**

Council has \$29 973.69 in its bank account, with \$18 697.37 available to spend. The full total is not available to spend because it has already committed the money for certain things, such as remaining pizza days, refreshments for Gr. 6 Leaving Ceremony, etc.

#### **7. Planning for June BBQ**

Date set for Friday, June 1.

Grill Masters has been confirmed as the food provider.

Council explored 2 options for ice cream provider and decided to go with Merry Dairy because that company worked out well last year.

Batman from Ottawa Super Parties is available that date. Other entertainment to be confirmed.

Geneviève will ask Me to We Team if they want to run the Jars, Jars, Jars table.

Council's Volunteer Coordinator will be contacted to have her set up volunteer sign-up website.

The proposed brainstorming discussion about long-term planning was deferred to a future meeting.

Adjournment of Meeting at 8:55 pm.