

**Donald Young School Council Meeting Minutes
October 4, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.**

Attending: Cheryl Foster, Heidi Loney (via remote), Kim Bolen (Teacher representative), Melanie Williams (Vice-Principal), Rosalie Dubuc, Serena Maharaj (Principal), Stevie-Lee Kaemigh, Trevor Martin

Regrets: Benita Retief, Hope Mosbeck

1. Welcome: Call to order at 6:09 p.m.

2. Review and approval of agenda:

Stevie-Lee moved that they be accepted. Cheryl seconded it.
Carried.

3. Review and approval of previous minutes:

Cheryl moved that they be accepted. Stevie-Lee seconded it.
Carried.

4. School Council Positions:

- Chair needed or two Chairs to Co-Chair: still open. Heidi is currently holding this position
- Secretary: Trevor Martin
- Teacher Rep: Kim Bolen
- Education Support Personnel (ESP) Rep: still open
- PIC Reps: Benita Retief, Stevie-Lee Kaemigh

5. Fundraising goals for the 2023-24 school year:

- a discussion was held around the success of the popcorn fundraiser last year - perhaps doing this again with more notice for families - closer to Easter?
- Playgrounds-r-us:
- Discussion was held around fundraising using the Canadian Safety-branded car kits - these were used as a fundraiser back during COVID; we will try again in time for a Christmas gifting possibility for families
- Silent auction/penny table at the Christmas Concert (Thurs., Dec. 14/23) - The council will reach out to the Emo Township office to obtain info about what is needed for the license
- Borderland Orchestra (Kathryn Williams) reached out to Melanie with regards to using their Winter concert over Emo Holly Daze as a fundraiser

6. PIC Report:

- October 18th is the next PIC meeting.
- Stevie-Lee would like to alternate this position with someone as we can have two representatives. Benita will share this with Stevie-Lee.

7. Outdoor Classroom Update:

- Tanner at Manitou Forest Products has confirmed that 12 brackets have been donated to prepare six benches for the outdoor classroom.
- Discussion was held around how many students could sit per bench and what the length of the benches would have to be to support five students/per bench. Perhaps more if smaller students, but about 2' per student might need to be considered to accommodate older students or those in winter weather wear.
- Stevie-Lee will ask Tanner for more information regarding this and share it when it is available.

8. Principal's Report:

- The new morning routine has been received well. Discussion around smaller Kindergarten students and what procedures will be in place in the colder weather.
- New teachers are in the building - Ms. Sibbick and Ms. Carlson. Ms. Brown is the Youth Outreach Worker.
- Dorion Chambers from KRR is our school councillor for student mental health this year.
- RRDSB Code of Conduct has been uploaded to our school's website and social media. Copies were given to each School Council Member. Discussion around how progressive discipline might work in some situations.
- The Scholastic Book Fair and the School's Open House were received well, and attendance was excellent. The Book Fair brought in over \$ 5,000, providing the school with \$700 to spend on books for our library. The school community was thankful for the many volunteers who helped at the Book Fair.
- The Terry Fox Run was a run to be remembered, raising \$ 3,713. The grade 7 class did an excellent job organizing the event, route volunteers and running school warm-ups for the students.
- Grades 4-8 attended the Soccer Tournament Mr. Dalseg organized at the Emo Sportsfield. The weather was excellent, and the tournament was a success.
- Orange Shirt Day was Friday, September 29, and Grades 3-8 students attended a presentation at the Manitou First Nations' Pow Wow Grounds. Students in JK-Grade 2 walked remembrance laps in the gymnasium after a short discussion led by the Ojibwe teacher, Ms. Guimond.
- Fall Harvest for Grade 5 students will happen this week on Thursday, October 5. Students will be bussed to the Seven Generations Educational Institute Campus area, where they will receive hands-on teachings and better understand how the Fall Harvest is done.
- The RRDSB Cross-Country Run will be held on Friday, October 6, at Crossroads School for Grades 4-8 students. DYS is sending 42 runners, three teachers and one ESP staff.
- After-School Social Skills Program - this will be offered to a limited number of students from DYS and is scheduled to begin in the next few weeks.
- NOW (Nutrition on Weekends) Program - this NWHU-funded program will begin shortly. As a staff, we have identified ten families who would benefit from this program.
- BPIP (Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan) - this has been updated for 2023-24 with a new look. It is more reader-friendly. This has been posted on the school website.
- DYS School Newsletters - these are posted on our website, PowerSchool (under Bulletins), and our social media. Newsletters are posted on the first Tuesday of each month. Cheryl will begin to write the "School Council Corner" again for the newsletter.
- Safe Food Handler Course - this is being offered in person on October 18. The deadline for applications is October 6. Cheryl is interested in taking this, and Serena will register her.
- Cyber Awareness in Bullying - October is Cyber-Awareness month, and teachers are providing age-appropriate lessons in classrooms. A discussion was held after Melanie asked the council members if they felt parent info sessions would be well-received around cyber-bullying, cell phones/social media apps and education for parents and caregivers. Mike Gleuiheisen of the OPP is an excellent resource for students, and if they think there would be interest, then Melanie would begin some planning. A discussion was also held about how the school involves families from Manitou First Nations to ensure we can share the messages with those who cannot attend quickly due to transportation issues.

9. Next Meeting Date:

The next School Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 24th, at 6:00 p.m.

10.. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.