

Kate S. Durdan Public School
School Council Minutes
September 27, 2011

Attending: Dana, Catherine (Community Representative), Lori, Annie, Genny, Maryann, Brenda, Donna, Jennifer, Crystal, Angie

Regrets(a call has been made to the school informing absence for meeting): Marni

Absent (a call has not been made to the school to inform the school of an absence):

Minutes:

1. Welcome and introductions. Dana has volunteered to be the Chair and Crystal has volunteered to be the Secretary.
2. Each year the Ministry of Education's *School Council Guide (2002)* is made available to all members and members are welcome to take a binder and return it at our May 2012 (last meeting of the school year).
3. A review of the Kate S. Durdan School EQAO results for May 2011 were presented and discussion arose from the performance results. Since our math in Junior and Intermediate have been sliding, **School Council would like to support a Family Math Night for Junior and Intermediate parents and their Junior/Intermediate children.** Jennifer has offered to assist teachers in planning. Much discussion about our strengths and gender differences in performance. A member brought up the possibility of Math Peer Mentoring and involvement into World Math or Caribou Math. Genny will share this with staff.

Genny had sent the Individual Student Results for students who wrote the assessment in May/June as well as the School Results on September 27th (the day of first School Council meeting). Genny also indicated the School Improvement Plan will support teacher learning and focus for math for Junior and Intermediate students. Genny introduced the WALT (We Are Learning To) model which has been adopted by all classrooms and *WALT be a Mathematician*. The October 2011 Newsletter will also highlight WALT to the parents in the Kate S. Durdan School Community.

4. An update of the Community Savings Cards was presented and it looked like it was a success since parents were requesting additional cards. Our bill for this Fundraising Initiative was \$2,074.00. Since the profits for the cards were to remain with each classroom, the total has yet to be determined. The event ended September 30, 2011. Pizzas were purchased for 3 classes from each division who sold the most, as an incentive. Chocolate Bar fundraiser will begin October 6 and end on October 28. Thank you Dana for offering help in getting the chocolate bars to the classrooms and managing the returns and money and paperwork! Thank you Lori for looking into purchasing an e reader as the grand prize for the student who sells the most chocolate bars.

Our final fundraiser of the school year will be on February 14, as a school wide Dance-a-Thon. School Council Volunteers would be needed.

5. Concern was raised about the photos and use of the same background and two members had indicate that they had not purchased any photographs. Brenda will look into various photographers.

6. Genny briefly introduced the AMBASSADORS program (NEW) at our school and will highlight it at the next meeting in November. It is an overwhelming success. Thank you School Council members for presenting concerns about welcoming students who are new to our school.

7. Genny discussed that our playground has been reviewed by a company for safety and faults in accordance with CSA standards. A work has been placed for MBM to provide an estimate for repairs. School Council has already earmarked \$1,000.00 for such repairs last year and once the bill arrives, we share the cost with Loretto Catholic School (but not with the YMCA). MBM was concerned that the infraction mentioned on the report did not coincide with what he has seen or interpreted to be the case. He will pursue this further. Hopefully everything will be done before the cold weather. Otherwise, policy at both Loretto Catholic and Kate S. Durdan School is to close the playground once the ground freezes (due to safety issues) and if this becomes the case, repairs will be done in Spring. Pea stone gravel has fallen through the low gate of the play structure and is probably worth \$700.00 just sitting on the ground outside the gate enclosure. The company suggested that once the play structure is rototilled, to get someone with a front end loader to place all the pea stone gravel (which is outside the play structure) and place it inside. This will save us money. The cost would be shared with Loretto Catholic or possibly someone would do this for free who has a front end loader. Details will follow once the company's report arrives.

8. Meet the Staff evening was a success. Teachers really appreciate the time to meet parents and showcase their classroom. Concern was raised that a BBQ was planned however was changed at the last minute. Genny indicated that teachers were told by her on September 1st (PD Day and first official day back for staff), and historically BBQs that were done in the past (4 years ago) were not successful and teachers stated that they never had the opportunity to meet all parents since parents and children were at the back eating, which left little time for the parents to welcome them to the classroom. Even though School Council stated that they would be doing the BBQ, that was not the issue that was of concern for staff.

9. Concern was also shared that parents did not have time during the Meet the Staff to meet new parents that their child plays with. Genny suggested a Pasta Night whereby families in our community could come together for such an opportunity. The Meet the Staff was specifically for meeting the staff. A number of Council Members will look into different venues. November 1-15 was the deciding time. Details will follow.

Around the table: A Member asked if we will be sponsoring an ICE DOGS NIGHT this year. Genny will check with Mr. Andrews to see if this is a possibility. It was a success last year.

Request was made to inform all of the dates for the School Council Meetings:

September 27, 2011

November 22, 2011

January 24, 2012

March 27, 2012

May 22, 2012

as five meeting per school year/ in accordance with our Constitution.

Brenda has shared information about 'clickers' for our SMARTBOARD technology. Annie indicated that teachers can access a class set from the Media Centre. Brenda has offered to have a representative from Centio Turnabout Technology come to one of our meetings to demonstrate its use.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: *in the Counsellor's Room*
at 6:30 p.m. on
November 22, 2011