

Cedarview Middle School Council
Minutes of the Meeting Held October 11, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Paul Churchill, who introduced himself as Chair of the council.

1. Approval of the agenda: Moved – Karen Acton, Seconded – Pamela Manson.

2. Approval of September minutes:

Item 5G – the tests are CAT III and EQAO

Item 5H – Peer Helper program is lead by Sarah McKnight

Item 8 – Jane Craske

Item 11 – Remove

Minutes approved as amended. Moved – Pamela Manson; seconded – Karen Acton.

3. Peer Helper Program – Presentation by Sarah McKnight and Trina Piche
Mrs. Buchanan introduced Sarah McKnight and Trina Piche, as well as teacher Kathryn Wickham who was sitting in on the council meeting.

The program has an enrolment of 25 students this year. Peer Helpers help other students with things such as organization and tutoring. These 25 have all been matched up to students requiring assistance. Mme. Piche's classroom is being used as their meeting room over the lunch hours. There is also an ambassador program geared toward new students coming part-way through the school year. Another feature this year is offering help to the adults in the school – cutting out things, laminating, filing, etc.

Last year's council put \$600 toward the Peer Helper program. Ms. McKnight and Mme. Piche put forward the following budget request: consumables - \$100, meetings - \$100, year-end celebration - \$375, transportation - \$150, two supply teachers – \$160. They have \$592 and are requesting \$243. Discussion took place regarding past funding for Peer Helpers. It was pointed out that school council had not previously approved any expenditures covering supply teacher charges. It was agreed that council would not cover the supply teacher request in this instance.

It was moved by Margaret Zafiriou, seconded by Pamela Manson that the Peer Helper program be supported and that \$150 be transferred to the school fund for use by the program.

4. Treasurer's Report – Karen Acton

Up to this point in the year there has been very little activity. The balance in the account is \$6163.38, with some adjustments for \$29.60 in incorrectly applied service charges by the bank. These are being waived due to our status.

5. Principal's Report – Melanie Buchanan

A) In response to council's request at the September meeting, former Cedarview teacher, Beata Myhill will do a Math workshop on Thursday, November 10 for parents of students in Grades 6, 7, and 8. Ms. Myhill has been very active in writing and implementing portions of the new Ontario Math curriculum. A notice will go in the next newsletter, and a flyer will be sent home with students. An outline was also presented to show the format Ms. Myhill suggests for the workshop. Council enthusiastically approved.

B) Mrs. Buchanan presented the school's budget which she had just received from the board. The school is run on a total budget of \$105,380; an overhead was provided to show a more detailed breakdown of categories and amounts. A school's budget is based on enrolment in the school; a formula is used by the board for allocation; the budget must be spent by June on the current year's children.

- C) The teachers are being kept busy this term with being trained in the new Social Studies and Math curricula. Also, the school has 129 students with IEPs which now require that the homeroom teacher be active in completing page 3 of the forms which have to be filled out.
- D) Nancy Reid was successful in obtaining the curriculum consultant position at the board. In her place, Michelle McDowell has just been hired.
- E) EQAO scores – October 19 is the public release of EQAO scores. Overall, scores are up in the public schools. There could be a number of reasons for this – the test time was cut in half, accommodations were made for students who required more time to finish, or a quiet place to write. It was also reported that the test questions were not as rigorous as past tests. One observation was that this is the first group of students to write the EQAO who have been schooled under the new curriculum and perhaps this has helped to boost scores. It was pointed out that EQAO is still not a standardized test, as it is different each year and varies in marking methods, etc. Mrs. Buchanan emphasized that in addition to EQAO, Cedarview also administers the CAT III to Grade 6 students, and it is a standardized test. The school continues to seek ways to improve the learning experience and performance of the students.
- F) Tom, from QSP will be providing a co-ordinator for the Cedarview magazine campaign. The kick-off will be held on Friday, October 21 and the campaign will run for two weeks. The student council has offered to do the daily announcements related to this. While it will be a smaller fund-raiser than in the past, it should still generate significant funds. Jeff Wilson will co-ordinate the wish list requests from teachers, and pass them on to council at the appropriate time.
- G) Mrs. Buchanan emphasized the need for teachers to attend professional development workshops in order to keep up on all the changes in curriculum.
- H) The ramble had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. Mr. Gervais is trying to at least reschedule the 2K run for the students who raised money for Kids Helping Kids. There was some discussion with regard to how money for Kids Helping Kids was understood to be raised. Mrs. Buchanan has left it up to teachers to take the initiative in proposing fund raising activities they want to do with their classes, or school-wide with regard to Kids Helping Kids. The decision of where the money will go has been left more open-ended so that the children participating have a say in where the money goes. Mr. Gervais and another teacher decided to do the one tied in with the ramble so that the money raised would go to assist kids in local schools.
- I) There are the usual sports activities taking place over the lunch hours.

6. New Business/Updates

- QSP fund raiser – as was already mentioned, Oct. 21 is the kick-off and a co-ordinator is being provided by QSP.
- Clothing sale – Patty Stevenson reported that sales are up this year and the total currently stands at \$5166. Order forms have been submitted to the company and the order should be delivered within a couple of weeks. Clothing will then be distributed by classes.
- Mr. Mozzarella – Margaret Zafiriou will be co-ordinating for this year. The dates will be: October 14/15, November 25/26, January 20/21, February 24/25, May 5/6. Jeff Wilson will co-ordinate requests and submissions from teachers. For October, the fund raising activity will be discussed and determined by council through email.
- OCASC – to date we have no representative. We will pay the dues for this year in the event that someone will be attending from Cedarview in the future. A call for a rep will go into the next newsletter. By way of information, Paul Churchill noted that there will be a notice of motion going forward to have one single school board in Ontario. As well, OCASC has put forward a motion to have the OCDSB name changed to Ottawa School Board.
- Rocks – there had been discussion at the end of last year regarding the procedures to go through to get more rocks for the back yard of the school. Pauline McKenna will forward a web site link to council members which shows picnic table models, etc. complete with prices which are already board approved. The hope is that if we begin early enough this year, perhaps by June we will actually be able to have something in place for the students for next year.

- People for Education is a advocacy group for public education. Paul Churchill asked if council and Mrs. Buchanan would be willing to fill out a survey provided by this group. It was agreed to do this, without filling in the fund raising portion.
- 2005-2006 School Council Members:
Chair – Paul Churchill
Vice-Chair – Pamela Manson
Treasurer – Karen Acton
Secretary – Carole Craswell
Communications – Michele Nielson
CMS Clothing – Patty Stevenson
Mr. Mozzarella – Margaret Zafiriou
Members at Large: Ralph Frank, Tina Norgaard, Shairoz Rupani
Staff Members: Melanie Buchanan, Principal; Pauline McKenna, Vice-Principal; Jeff Wilson, Teacher Representative; Judy Edwards, Administrative Representative
- Mrs. Buchanan mentioned that in the past council has taken out insurance to cover the various activities it has during the year. It was agreed that this would be done again this year.
- Mrs. Buchanan also handed around a poster from the University of Ottawa which is hosting a conference aimed at getting girls interested in entering the Engineering field. Fliers went home with all girls.
- The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 8.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45; moved – Pamela Manson; seconded – Margaret Zafiriou

Attendance

Council Members - 10

Karen Acton
Melanie Buchanan
Paul Churchill
Carole Craswell
Judy Edwards
Pamela Manson
Pauline McKenna
Patty Stevenson
Jeff Wilson
Margaret Zafiriou

Visiting Teachers - 3

Sarah McKnight
Trina Piche
Kathryn Wickham