

Summerside School Council – Meeting Minutes

November 22, 2023

14 members present

1. Approval of agenda and last minute's meeting – approved by all.
2. Student's report
 - a. Two representatives from Summerside Student Council joined the meeting to share an update on student and club activities.
 - b. Athletics:
 - i. multiple sports teams are in full swing, including boys and girls volleyball. There is a tournament coming up on December 6 that they're busy practicing for, as well as a girls only tournament on November 30.
 - ii. Boys and girls tripleball tryouts have started.
 - iii. A 'Taek Won Do' program for grade 7s and 8s, in collaboration with the Korean Culture Centre, is ongoing. Weekly classes continue until December 18.
 - c. Arts:
 - i. Choir practice takes place every Friday. They are busy rehearsing for the concert in December. After that, there is a potential for the Summerside School Choir to perform at an Ottawa 67s game in March.
 - ii. Grade 7s and 8s are learning their new instruments and are preparing for the upcoming Music Night. Violin club has also started.
 - d. Student leadership
 - i. Students continue to be involved in lunchtime monitoring and distributing milk orders over the nutrition break
 - ii. Student Council is working on organizing another dance in December and school community involvement (INT).
 - iii. Beyond differences club just decorated for Diwali and are always looking for ways to celebrate our community and culture going forward.
 - e. Other
 - i. Primaries are currently fundraising by selling Smencils, which is going very well. This will help offset the cost of fieldtrips and workshops.
 - ii. Specialized AUT classes are holding a hot dog day to fundraise for swimming and other experiences.
 - iii. Upcoming field trips: Grade 7s are headed to MacSkimming on December 4 & 5. Grade 3 students are doing Swim to Survive – Mr. Cotter's class will start with 3 sessions in December

- iv. A variety of clubs are up and running, namely: D&D/tabletop games, Islamic excellence club and Black excellence club.

3. Teacher's report

- a. School-wide activities
 - i. Remembrance day ceremony was beautiful and well-attended by all. Thank you to Ms. Esselar to organizing it.
 - ii. Upcoming spirit days during the last week of December (in order of Monday to Friday): jersey day, silly hair and hat day, twin/swarm gear day, tacky sweater day and pj day.
- b. Professional development
 - i. Early November PA day focused on mathematical best practices and the idea that math concepts build over time through the curriculum. Literacy and phonetic awareness was also raised and French teachers also had the ability to learn about new resources for their curriculum.
- c. Student development
 - i. Grade 7s and 8s participated this week in an Online Dangers Roadshow Experience
 - ii. Grade 8s
 - 1. Colonel By and Canterbury HS presented to the grade 8s last week on their IB program and arts program, respectively
 - 2. Select students will be touring the OTSS on November 22 for orientation
 - 3. Grade 8s will be going on a tour of Sir Wil on December 12
- d. Special Education
 - i. Parent lending library is always available to parents anytime they want to access the resources. Contact Eric Clamens for more information.
 - ii. Empower (decoding) and Empower (comprehension) groups are working with Mrs. Clamen and Mrs. Haymes for targeted support with Literacy

4. Principal's report

- a. Thank you to Nik for providing such a thorough update.
- b. Early December will have more presentations for students, including one by Ava Olsen who is a Holocaust survivor.
- c. EQAO data has been received and an improvement plan is currently being put together. The data and plan will be shared at the next meeting in February.

5. School council activities

- a. Pizza program has been running very smoothly. The kids are saying they really like the pizza and Pizza Hut has been great to work with. We will use them again

for term 2, which we will have to start taking orders for in early January. We will have made approx. \$10,000 in profit for term 1.

- b. Halloween dance was well-attended and staff and volunteers received excellent feedback from kids. The council will aim to hold another one next year.
- c. Just over \$2,200 was raised for the Council. The glow sticks, mini chocolate bars and pumpkins were all donated by local grocery stores which helped substantially to raise money.
- d. MacMillan's fundraising program brought in just over \$500 for the Council. The frozen items will be delivered and sorted on December 11. The orders will then be placed outside for parents to pick up that day between 3 and 6pm (to account for EDP parents). Parents who ordered from MacMillan's will get an email advising them of pick up date and time.
- e. Navneet looking to hold a bake sale as school fundraiser, possibly for Valentine's day. Stuart advised we only have 10 school days a year where we can serve food outside of the nutrition guidelines and we've already used 8. There may be an opportunity to collaborate on bake sale day with another staff who may already be organizing. Stuart will inquire and get back to Navneet.

6. Short and medium term spending

- a. Council recently disbursed a \$7,500 cheque to Summerside Public School to fund various wish lists and staff projects
 - i. Update from Stuart and staff – funds were used to purchase new lights and speakers for the gym, as well as wireless mics. The funds were also used to purchase a 'tech cart' for 20 chromebooks. The cart can be checked out and wheeled around to whichever classroom needs it.
 - ii. Co-chair advised there are extra funds available this year since the outdoor classroom was put in last year. Staff were advised to come back to Council anytime they need extra funds.
 - iii. Front garden/landscaping: a roundtable discussion was had surrounding possible options to replace current unruly garden situation on the front and side of the school (beside learning commons). Funds required could be potentially be sourced from OCDSB if worked into the curriculum and possibly Council budget. All agreed to revisit this discussion in February when it's closer to spring.

7. Roundtable for all Council members

- a. On-street parking situation on Stormwind is problematic, especially with the arrival of snow. Parent (Chris) inquired if by-law could be called to encourage parents to move their cars along, so as to not block or impede traffic. Stuart said he would reach out to by-law. Navneet also commented that by-law comes by frequently and that parents do get ticketed.

- b. Parent (Ali) inquired about marking the celebration of Nowruz in late March. Nowruz is celebrated by Iran and many other countries. It marks the first day of spring and is celebrated on the day of astronomical vernal equinox, usually on or around March 21. Council agreed this was a great idea. Stuart asked Ali if he would be willing to speak to students about Nowruz and set up a table. Ali was advised to research whether or not funds would be required from Council and advise. All agreed to put the Nowruz celebration on the next agenda in February so plans could be solidified.
 - c. Erica inquired about whether Summerfest would be taking place. Jenna Aucoin had previously mentioned she would like to lead efforts on organizing a scaled-down event, resembling a summer bbq. However, she was absent from tonight's meeting. Erica was advised that the summer bbq item would be included for discussion on the agenda for February's meeting.
 - d. Reminder that there will be no meetings in December or January. Next meetings will be February 21, April 24 and June 19.
8. Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.