

**Algonquin Ridge Elementary School
School Council Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2016**

Attendance: Fred Van Arragon, Leigh Nykoliation, Lisa Duhamel, Nancy Hyde, Meredith Lee, Kim Currie, Kerry-Lynn Torrie, Alison Currie, Treena Battaglia, Nita Jasztrub, Ann Compton

Regrets: Tanya Bingham, Sarah Collins, Jen Harris, Dave Heidman, Nita Jaztrub, Jillian Pink, Andrea Ryan

K.L. Torrie and Alison Currie to be late due to Grade 8 field trip

Opening Remarks - Leigh

-Approval of Meeting Minutes – do not have quorum to approve last month’s minutes nor November, February, April or May.

ACTION: K-L Torrie will send out all minutes needing approval via email.

Principal’s Report - Fred

-Reward day for Algonquin Ambassadors and Me to We team took place last week

-Gr 8 trip to Blue Jays game today

-Ultimate Sports fan day in May, Beach day in June.

-Character Ed focus for June is Responsibility and our spirit day at the end of the month will be Beach Day. Our assembly will be switched to June 28.

-Rapids Rewards and Medallions – continuing with daily and monthly awards but phasing out the annual award (except for gr. 8) this year.

-Jump rope for heart and hoops for heart coming up next week.

-Kindergarten open house this week

-Girls and boys softball tournaments next week.

-Staff appreciation breakfast on June 28. Please talk to Tanya Bingham if you’re willing to help.

-Graduation changed to June 27

-EQAO completed last month.

-Construction update – construction in front of the building will be completed this week. Work on Canopy area will be started next week, and then the rest will happen in July and August with work set to be completed by mid-August.

-One new portable coming in the summer to accommodate a 5th kindergarten being added in the fall. There are many different things to consider when placing students and teachers in portables.

Treasurer’s Report - Nancy

See attached 2 reports dated June 10, 2016

-\$37,000 was raised through fundraising. Some columns are in the negative but there are sufficient funds to cover where needed. We need to wait to see what bills come in and this will determine where we end up for September.

-Fort Mc Murray will receive any funds made from BBQ

-Garden tower has been paid for. There is more literacy, tech and athletics to come. Our goal had been to raise \$32,000 and we well exceeded that. Good job in keeping it in the GSN as we have the flexibility to put it where needed.

-Projector costs \$8900. Set aside \$5000 but \$2000 was needed for something else. Going back and forth with this project has saved us some money however it has been a long process.

MOTION by Alison Currie to approve projector funding of \$3000 for K-L Torrie to proceed when possible. **SECONDED** by Nancy Hyde and will be sent out by email.

-Library fund raised \$500 from book fair but there is a deficit from school funds.

-Gymnasium mats – discussion on where we stand with this decision

ACTION: K-L Torrie to talk to incoming principal and order new mats. She will stop the order to bolt them to the wall currently as they need to cut holes for electrical outlets and use them for the additional floor mats. Thicker mats will be ordered.

-Indoor greenhouse is arrived and will be set up in the fall. Perhaps Jen Harris can assist with this.

Other Items - Leigh

-Discussion about Science in the Classroom – seems like we could do it ourselves. K-L Torrie will take this to the staff to discuss the possibility of keeping it in house.

-Paved area at front of school has a large muddy and congested area. When the construction is finished we'd like to pave the excess area.

-Marker recycling – Meredith Lee spoke regarding Cookstown Elementary School – they have been doing this through a program through Crayola. Last week Mr. Hamilton took a group to School Board to see presentation about being an eco school. We will look to start this initiative up in the fall with the Green Team as a lead.

-Lost and found – Leigh spoke regarding Hewitt's – labelled bins, hanging rack.

ACTION: Fred will check with custodians about fire codes and locations.

ACTION: Alison will purchase when given ok.

-Pizza and Milk - Little Caesars was unevenly cut. It is recommended to stay with Dominoes. We want to start right ahead in September. Issues last year were work to rule and volunteers. Decided to do cash sales for month of September and start orders for October as this will not interfere with changes in class lists until September 27th. Milk will go weekly for first month and then start again for October. Pita will continue as it has.

ACTION: Volunteers are in place and ready to continue this in the fall.

-Volunteer opportunities – discussed ways of getting the word out to the school population.

Confidentiality always a concern so phone lists cannot be given out. Email system has been working well when a need arises. There was discussion of designing a leaflet/ pamphlet to let new families know where they can be used, however no commitment made.

-QSP – We received an email from them – decided yes to continue next year.

ACTION: Office to send out an email regarding starting in the fall and to renew any subscriptions with us if families can.

-Kiss and Ride – Lisa addressed a concern from another council member heard from a parent regarding young kids being dropped off. It is still policy that it is to be a drop off time only. Anyone can park.

Front area still needs to be closed as it is for buses and vans. We could consider using student ambassadors to help with families at the side. We don't have the room to do circling around the parking lot.

ACTION: Fred to suggest that staff park in front and along fence leaving the inside spots for parents. It has come a long way but needs vigilance.

-Transition of roles – Nancy wishes to move on from her role as treasurer. It is nice to have someone who has been on council for a bit before transitioning.

-Fun Fair – everything is pretty much ready to go. No one in council is assigned specifically but if you can help out and spell off staff it would be appreciated. Spirit wear, Big Box cards, lost and found, past yearbooks to be out.

-A big thank you to Kerry-Lynne Torrie for your work and dedication that you have given to your role here at ARES. We wish you all the best. Student achievement and safety have been foremost in her mind. She continues to be very business-like and amicable, always looking for the betterment of the kids.

-Quorum discussion – What is the ideal number of council members because 14 is good but practically it has not worked out this year. The bylaws state you can drop members if they have missed 2 consecutive meetings. We may want to consider dropping council member number to 10. K-L Torrie stated that typically councils have about 5-6 members usually show up. We will consider this again in the fall.

-Fred VanArragon also added thank you to K-L Torrie. She has continued to give her all even after knowing she is leaving.

MOTION by Treena Battaglia to close. **SECONDED** by Lisa Duhamel.

Thank you to all of council for your dedication and energy in contributing to making ARES all that it is. We appreciate your contributions.

Respectfully submitted by Alison Currie