

Algonquin Ridge Elementary School
School Council Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2015
6:30 to 8:30

In Attendance: Lisa Duhamel, Leah Nykoliation, Nancy Hyde, Kim Currie, Meredith Lee, Kevin McLean, Dave Heidman, Treena Battaglia, Jenny Harris, Alison Currie, Jillian Pink, Tanya Bingham, Nita Jasztrub, Vanessa Campbell, Fred Van Arragon, Kerry-Lynne Torrie
Absent: Andrea Ryan, Ann Compton

1. **Welcome**
2. **ARES School By-laws** – Kerry-Lynne Torrie
 - a. Copies handed out and read by all present.
3. **Election** (nominations for voting members and Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Fundraising)
 - a. Chair – Leah Nykoliation
 - b. Vice-Chair – Lisa Duhamel
 - c. Treasurer – Nancy Hyde (assistant Sarah Collins)
 - d. Secretary – Alison Currie
 - e. Fundraising – individual committees
 - f. Additional Voting members – Treena Battaglia, Jenny Harris, Jillian Pink, Tanya Bingham, Nita Jasztrub, Andrea Ryan
 - g. Non-voting Members – Dave Heidman Teaching Rep, Ann Compton Non-Teaching Rep
4. **Principal/Vice-Principal update** – Kerry-Lynne Torrie and Fred Van Arragon
 - a. **Labour Disruption with CUPE and ETFO** – not affecting the school too much other than no assemblies, staff meetings etc. Updates are on the school and Board websites.
 - b. **Reorganization of classes** – projected numbers of students were higher than actual number of 580. ARES lost 1.2 teachers and almost all classes needed to be adjusted. All class sizes are at provincial standards with 25 for intermediate classes, 20 for most primary classes with a few at 23. One portable is being removed.
 - c. **New website** – has some issues but school is working on improving the look with pictures and videos as it was previously; subscription process did not carry over so families need to re-subscribe. Board wanted all schools to be uniform in look and style.
 - d. **Morality lighting** by the play structure in Cedar Park has been approved and will be in place within 2-3 weeks. Information provided by Kim Greenwood.
 - e. **Drug activity** in school parking lot over the summer. The police are aware and the area has been cleared and cleaned up. The initial report was made by the custodians.
 - f. **Front Gardens** - Thanks to Jillian Pink and her team of volunteers for cleaning up the front gardens before school started.

- g. **Barrie Colts Fundraiser** – October 15 – there has been a great response so far. 30 kids will be singing O’ Canada at the game. The school receives \$6 per ticket purchased through the school.
- h. **Rapids awards** – new approach with individual and class incentives – A process with medallions and tickets that will be introduced throughout the school. Thanks to Ken Down for his initiative and donation to start the program up.
- i. **Volunteer Coordinator** – Kristin McLean has stepped down from this role. Thank you for her assistance over the past year. She is willing to mentor a new person when someone comes forward. Discussion that this could perhaps be a council role in the future.
- j. **Breakfast Club** – looking for volunteers to assist with this program which will run from 8:45 to 9:15am. It requires 10 minutes to set up, allow eating and then close down. Jillian Pink has offered to do shopping in the future if needed. Tanya mentioned that the Friends and Food program may be able to provide ready to use food for the program that abides by the required standards.
 - i. **ACTION ITEM** - Tanya Bingham to look into breakfast program possibilities.
- k. **Music Program** – Mr. Turner and Mr. Cunning are implementing a music program for grades 4-8 as well as the 2/3 and 3 classes. They use the music room and there is a large variety of musical instruments available. The school goal is to balance arts with sports.
- l. **Yearbook** – Alison Currie has offered to help with this again this year. She hopes to work with staff and get a few intermediate students to assist as well. Photo taking is already underway. Mr. Heidman will assist as well.
- m. **DPA (Daily Physical Activity)** - all classes transitioning from 20 minutes once a day on days with no scheduled gym, to 10 minute movement breaks in at least 2 blocks and are encouraging it in the third block as well if not for a few minutes - educational, cognitive, psychological, medical, and behavioral research supports movement breaks throughout the day resulting in better-behaved, more engaged students who can more easily focus on and retain what they are supposed to be learning. Google “movement breaks in education” for more information.
- n. **What’s going on at Algonquin Ridge?**
 - Cross Country – Jennifer Murphy and Kristine Iocco October 15
 - Flag Football - Jennifer Murphy October 16
 - Junior Girls Volleyball – Kim Wilson and Wendy McIver October 27
 - Junior Boys Volleyball – Steve Sclater October 27
 - Intermediate Boys Volleyball – Jill Smith and Dave Heidman November 24
 - Intermediate Girls Basketball – Randy Collett November 23
 - Safety Patrollers - David Heidman and Fred Van Arragon
 - We Day – Fred Van Arragon
 - Computer Soft Techs - Dave Heidman
 - Library Monitors - Dave Heidman
 - Lunch helpers in all FDK/Primary classes – Jennifer Johnson, Michelle McQuay

Student leaders – morning announcements, office helpers – Leadership Team
Spirit Days – list coming but starting with Blue Jay Day on Thursday
Food Drive – October 16 – Kristine Iocco
OELC – Nadine Macey and Laura Meraska

5. Budget Update – Nancy Hyde

- a. Nancy explained spreadsheet (p 1) from last years finances.
 - i. Noted what money we spent last year and how we may want to format the upcoming year. Last year we had more funds than are typical because of the carry over from previous years and the Board wanted us to spend that money. The focus was on lasting initiatives such as audio and visual equipment, 50% arts and 50% sports was the guiding principle from last year.
 - ii. “Balance available” is where we are starting this year.
 - iii. \$9,000 is typical for athletics and we aim to keep this at the standard we’ve had.
 - iv. Classroom Needs - \$75/teacher similar to previous year
 - v. General school needs – some bills to still come out
 - vi. Sound System – Kerry-Lynne Torrie was not happy with the quality of the new sound system as evidenced at graduation so more money was spent to have the speakers mounted on the walls. (Side note: the acoustic panels in the gym were painted over when the school was built which renders them useless). We had to stay with the original supplier however the quality is now better. Projectors are being tested.
 - vii. Summarized that the funds were well spent. All students will be able to enjoy the purchases in some way.
- b. Page 2 of finance report - showed where the fundraising initiatives were allocated from last year. \$34,000 was raised!
- c. Question from Lisa Duhamel – Does council have its own bank account? Council does not have it’s own bank account. Money received from field trips and fund raising are deposited into the school/board account. An HST rebate is given to schools. This money is placed in a budget line to offset the online payments.
- d. See attached Fundraising Spreadsheet

6. Parent Involvement Funding – Kerry-Lynne Torrie

- a. Kerry-Lynne read policy and suggested uses for this funding. \$500 needs to be specifically allocated. It was suggested that we use it for year end bbq,
 - i. **Action Item** - to be discussed and decision made at the next meeting.

7. Parents Reaching Out Grant – Tanya Bingham

- a. \$980.00 received last year. \$1000 received this year. We asked for some funding to be for babysitting which increased the allotment for this year. \$500 for social media, character education, refreshments. Tanya read the list of what the grant can be used for. We are one of 73 schools to receive funding. Thank you to Tanya for the proposal.
 - i. **Action Item** – to be discussed and decision made a the next meeting.

8. Fundraising – Kerry-Lynne Torrie

- a. Discussed what fundraising might look like this year. How much and how frequently? Suggested that perhaps focus on 1 or 2 larger events and not so many smaller ones. Some fundraisers serve more than one purpose. Colts fundraiser is also community involvement. Blue Jays in the spring is not a fundraiser but support community involvement. It lost money this year because the ticket price was based on 100 tickets being sold. Eighty were sold so tickets were more expensive than what we charged. It is important to focus on what the money fundraised will be used for. Fun lunches generally raise \$25,000. We also need to consider what national or provincial fundraisers are being promoted as well. We need to consider grade and school fundraisers as well as field trips when planning fundraisers. Council asked if there are any wish lists for the year as last year literacy was the focus.
 - i. **ACTION ITEM:** Kerry-Lynn Torrie will provide a list of some ideas for school wide initiatives for council to consider before next meeting. Fun Fair, track & field are community building. Food will be provided for zones when taking place at the school.
- b. Comment from Dave Heidman that back in 2008-2009 a large amount of money was spent on smart boards and other technology. Some of these items are now needing upgrades and replacements.
- c. Lisa Duhamal asked whether revenue vs expenditure reports are done on our fundraisers. Not at this point.
- d. We have not surveyed parents at this point.
- e. Leah Nykoliation commented that while we had a pot of money it took a while for the resources to be put into use.
- f. Scientists in the classroom and arts in the schools have been paid for by Council in the past. Last year, Council paid for the students to attend the International Plowing Match instead.
- g. Tanya Bingham asked if there was a way to find out what the popular technology items are to spend money on. Kerry-Lynne responded that news usually comes from the board level. The school also receives roll out funds that update purchases and technology made previously. It was noted that technology is not always the best way for learning. Professional Development and other workshops are always being considered.

9. Meeting dates for the year

- a. It was decided to continue meeting on the second Tuesday of the month. Tuesday was the favoured day by those in attendance and the second week is easier for the treasurer to have all of the necessary information for the meetings.
 - i. **ACTION ITEM:** Kerry-Lynne Torrie will amend the by-laws indicating this.

10. Other

- a. Pizza lunches – all set to go Thursday
- b. Pita lunch – all set to go on Tuesdays
- c. Milk program – in the process of getting set up Nita Jasztrub

- d. Volunteer base – Lisa Duhamel asked if we provide a time for new people to get connected?
 - i. **ACTION ITEM:** Kerry-Lynne Torrie will approach staff about a possible point person. Fred Van Arragon will organize the Volunteer Orientation session.
- e. Question to consider appointing a council position for role of volunteer coordinator in the future.
- f. Agenda protocol – agenda items need to be prepared 7 days in advance. This keeps the meetings at an approved length of time.
- g. Upcoming BINGO night – Wednesday November 18. We are still looking for sponsors for gift cards. There will be free popcorn and water. There will be no cost to families. We are looking for ideas for activities to engage the older students.
- h. Next meeting to take place Tuesday November 10th at 6:30. Kerry-Lynne is offering a tour of the school at 6:20 if anyone is interested.

MOTION: Nancy Hyde called to adjourn the meeting at 8:35, seconded by Tanya Bingham

School Council Meetings for 2015- 2016 will held from 6:30 to 8:30 in the Learning Commons.

November 10, 2015
January 12, 2016
February 9, 2016
April 12, 2016
May 10, 2016
June 8, 2016