

Castor Valley Elementary School Council Meeting 2023-2024



#1 Thursday Sept 21st, 6:30pm



MINUTES

Attendance: 25 (in person only)

#	Voting Members 14	Sept	Oct	Nov	Jan	Feb	Apr	May
1.	Meagan Keaney Co-Chair	✓						
2.	Kimberly Stone Co-Chair							
3.	Erin Lowe Co-Secretary	✓						
4.	Hayley Buchanan Co-Secretary	✓						
5.	Melanie Streng Co-Treasurer	✓						
6.	Cassi Nadon Co-Treasurer	✓						
7.	Brandi Zebrak	✓						
8.	Kirsten Appleyard	✓						
9.	Victoria Rintoul	✓						
10.	Anu Joseph	✓						
11.	Vero Ielo	✓						
12.	Khalid El Aggan							
13.	Heather Botsford McMillan							
14.	Adam Clarke							
15.	Jancey Harper	✓						
16.	Nat Elliott	✓						
17.	Trish Bezaire	✓						
18.	Jenni Bell	✓						
19.								
20.								
21.								
22.								
	Quorum = (50%+1) = 10							

#	Non-Voting Members 3	Sep	Oct	Nov	Jan	Feb	Apr	May
1	Deanna Ellerton	✓						
2	Amy Marques							
3	Raylene Black							
4	Alicia Caswell							
5	Kathryn King							
6	Gloria Mackie							
7	Lizzy Low							
8	Elli Kapsalis	✓						
9	Karen Percy	✓						
11								
12								

#	Non Registered Attendees 6	Sep	Oct	Nov	Jan	Feb	Apr	May
1	Marcia Graham	✓						
2	Jodi Sooley	✓						
3	Jodi Forest	✓						
4	Julia Demidenko	✓						
5	Carolina Suarez	✓						
6	Steven Winters	✓						
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								

#	Staff		Sep	Oct	Nov	Jan	Feb	Apr	May
1	Tracy Snarr	Principal	✓						
2	Angie Bickmore	Teacher	✓						
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									

1. Welcome and Attendance [Brandi Zebrak]

- Agenda and other meeting docs can be found at www.castorvalley.ca under the CVESC info tab, Council Meetings and Minutes section
- Voting - only those that have volunteered to be voting members and/or executive members may participate in voting
- Our purpose is to involve as many parents and guardians as we can to include everyone's voices to enrich the experience for the students and families.

2. Approval of September Agenda [Brandi Zebrak]

CVESC Sept 21, 2023 Agenda

- Motion to Approve: Anu Joseph, 2nd Vero Ielo

3. Approval of May Minutes [Brandi Zebrak]

CVESC May 18th, 2023 #7 Meeting Minutes

- Motion to Approve: Meagan Keaney-Morgan, 2nd Brandi Zebrak

4. Dissolution of 2022-2023 School Council [Tracy Snarr]

5. Nominations and Elections of 2023-2024 School Council [Erin Lowe]

- Voting members announced, see above attendance list
- New Quorum 10
- Executive members announced, see above list
- All positions acclaimed. Motion to approve: Brandi Zebrak, 2nd Victoria Rintoul
- Reminder that those who are voting members cannot miss more than 3 consecutive meetings. The meetings in January and February 2024 will be virtual only, the others (Oct, Nov, April, May) will be offered in person and virtually.

- reminder that the teacher and/or support staff present at the meeting also gets one vote. Principal does not.
- Thanks to Brandi Zebrak for all her hard work last year, she will be taking on the Lunch program as Kimberly Stone takes over for Co-Chair.

6. Principal's Report [Tracy Snarr]

CVES PRINCIPAL'S REPORT TO COUNCIL SEPT 21, 2023

- We acknowledge that our learning is taking place on unceded and unsundered Anishinaabe Algonquin Territory
- Next week (Sept 25-29) is National Truth and Reconciliation week.
- Friday, Sept 29th will be a day of age appropriate learning about the ongoing impacts of the residential school system; while also celebrating the rich and diverse cultures of the First Nations.
- This year - focus on the new language curriculum as well as the student's sense of belonging.
- New curriculum is very focused on teaching the students to be critical thinkers
- All of the classes have worked on/continue to work on a Treatment Agreement - between students and teacher, students with each other, guests in the classroom, school property, etc.
- Dare to Care program continuing - lessons about how to resolve conflicts; how to be kind to each other; knowing the difference between bullying and mean moments; contacting an adult they trust if uncomfortable.
- Tracy has provided a paper handout to students with everything at a glance that parents need to know.
- See Principal's report for details about new staff to Castor Valley for 2023-2024.
- Parent concerns or questions - point of contact is the teacher first. If not resolved, can be elevated to the office (however you will be asked if the teacher has been informed).
- Social media - council Facebook page is monitored, any social media posts related to Castor Valley MAY NOT include the student's full name. Students and staff should not be negatively portrayed online. If looking for contacts,
- Parents should consider signing the Media consent form, otherwise pictures that include their students cannot be used on social media accounts (ie. sports and other activities, student's work).
- Staff ad hoc requests - each grade will submit requests, council to have separate ad hoc meetings.
- New curriculum is very focused on teaching the students to be critical thinkers
- Tracy has not made a decision on student voluntary fees this year, but will announce when she decides.
- Purchases made on behalf of the council cannot be made on personal credit cards. Debit or cash only please. Provide receipt for reimbursement. If handling money for council, always have a partner for safety reasons and accountability.

7. Teaching and Support Staff Report [Angie Bickmore]

- Everyone is working on back to school routines.
- Each class is working on treatment agreements.
- New English curriculum in effect, please have patience as teachers work through the new guidelines.
- Focused on critical thinking.
- Oct 5th is the Junior Cross Country meet.
- Girls and boys (Grades 7 & 8) football is starting.
- Grade 4,5 and 6 soccer is starting.
- Ambassadors starting next week - Grades 7s & 8
- Bussing to events is limited as last year
- Keep in mind it is frustrating to teachers as well as the parents that bussing is limited.

- Tracy is going to look into skiing this year.

8. Treasurer Report [Melanie Streng]

SY23/24 Budget Proposal

- The council needs to have a plan by October about how funds will be spent this year.
- Starting the year at \$9561.54 after expenses and monies set aside for next year.
- Two options for this year:
 1. Because of budget surplus from last year, we can increase the teacher resource cheques, the ad hoc fund, the appreciation celebrations that the council usually funds.
 2. Consider a capital project, something more long term.
- It does not have to be one or the other, can combine the two options. The decision needs to be declared at the beginning of the year so that parents are aware of what the fundraising is going towards.
- The council is recommending that we increase the teacher resource cheques to \$200.00 per teacher (from \$100); we are recommending starting the ad hoc budget at \$5,000.00 (last year we doubled the initial \$2,500.00 in the middle of the year); we are recommending increasing the staff appreciation budget to \$1,200.00 (up from \$600.00); increasing the Fun Night budget.
- We are proposing a conservative budget to allow us to spend the majority of the funds raised on this year. However, if we exceed that as we have in the past year, we would like to have a plan for a larger project to put those extra funds towards.
- We are hoping to make Fun Night a much larger event this year.
- Possible larger projects: new library technician is looking to introduce STEM and Coding workshops; getting mature trees for the school yard (include Lions Club?); outdoor learning or tactile learning; taking on a sister school (one event specifically used to support a sister school, we would have to make it very clear that is what we are fundraising for).
- Planetarium experience for all students has been booked for spring 2024, coming out of 2023 funds.
- Yard painting will be coming out of 2023 funds as well, already ear-marked.
- Motion to approve the budget: Brandi Zebrak; 2nd Victoria Rintoul/Jancey Wallace. Motion passed.
- Capital project will be discussed at future meetings with cost estimates.

9. Co-Chair Report [Brandi Zebrak]

- Brandi will continue on with the council by running the lunch programs.
- Subway owner is new this year and prices have increased. The council has decided to keep prices as last year for the first semester and work on a price increase in conjunction with parents that is reasonable.
- Gabriel's Pizza will be providing pizza this year (Kemptonville location).
- Pizza day will be on Fridays this year, not conflicting with any P.A. days, unfortunately could not secure an option for Thursdays.
- Brandi will publish all the dates for parents. Please volunteer on the day of distribution if you are available!
- Anu and Vero will be running the milk program again this year.

10. Co-Chair Report/Fundraising [Meagan Keaney-Morgan]

- The first non-fundraising event is Meet the Staff night (Sept 27th), the council is providing food for the event (pizza, food truck).
- Planters and Wreaths - Steven Winters - proposed date for pick up is Nov 28th.
- Holiday Shopping day - Carolina Suarez - booked for Monday Dec 11th, set up Sunday Dec 10th.

- Movie nights - Cassi Nadon and Trish Bezaire will work together - Friday Nov 17th and Friday Feb 23rd
- Fun Night - Kimberly Stone - Wednesday June 12th - will be bigger and better this year!
- Plantables, Mabel's Labels, Fundscrip ongoing
- PIC/PRO grant activities - parent engagement opportunities - looking for a lead, possibly combine with Safe, Caring and Inclusive School Committee?

11. Safe, Caring and Inclusive School Committee [Jodi Sooley]

- The new librarian is working on getting more Indigenous and multicultural resources.
- Dare to Care program is continuing
- Third Path resource for teachers for creating a safe space in the classroom
- Orange Shirt Day Sept 29th
- Wall of Kindness project in the works.
- Anti-hate protocol reviewed.
- encourage the students that if they see something, they need to say something (can go to teachers if not comfortable standing up and saying something in the moment).
- discussed supporting students within our school who don't have enough food to eat - the committee is working on ideas to get what they need in appropriate amounts. Mrs. Bickmore suggested having a donation option on School Cash Online to support the program, then the school can purchase what they need.
- The committee is suggesting the PIC grant be used for a parent conference on social media.

12. New Business [Brandi Zebrak]

- Metcalfe Santa Claus Parade - Dec 10th, CVES possibly doing a float this year?
- Metcalfe has a new Teen Drop in - Tuesday nights at Metcalfe Community Centre - free entrance.

13. Adjournment [Brandi Zebrak]

Meeting Adjourned: 8:30pm

Next Council Meeting Oct 19th at 6:30pm