

**Roger Neilson School Council Meeting**  
**Thursday September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023**- Hybrid In-person/Virtual  
Minutes

**Present:** Kevin Coulter (Principal)  
Jennifer Robertson (Teacher Representative)  
Laura Peers (Teacher Representative - Alternate)  
Mandy Bush  
Tina Hobart  
Brooklyn Sinclair  
Myla Bromell  
Julia Weigard  
Tori Schaap (Compass Early Learning and Care)  
Tara Lutz (School Administrative Assistant, CUPE representative) - via WebEx

**Minutes:**

Kevin Coulter opened the meeting the acknowledgment that we respectfully gather on the treaty and traditional territory of the Mississauga Anishinaabeg. Mr. Coulter welcomed all participants to the first meeting of the new school year. He also outlined briefly the role of School Council commenting that School Council is a link to the community and the voice of parents. Fundraising becomes a large part of Council, but we should also remember that we can bring up concerns and comments from the school community.

Brief introductions were made before elections for School Council roles was conducted. The following roles were elected for the 2023-2024 school year:

Co-Chairperson - Mandy Bush  
Co-Chairperson - Brooklyn Sinclair  
Secretary - Tina Hobart  
Treasurer – Julia Weigard

Mandy motioned that elected roles be accepted as such. Tina seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously passed.

Mr. Coulter mentioned that we should be posting the minutes and financial summaries from each meeting to the school website, as well as an updated constitution.

Principal's Report:

Kevin Coulter presented the principal's report. The school year has started with some great weather; kids are enjoying being back. The weekly newsletter is being read by parents and Mr. Coulter will continue sending these out on Sunday nights.

Roger Neilson gained a primary class (due to enrolment increase) in the last week. Primary classes have a target of 20 students; schools can have one classes greater than 20 (up to 23) students, with JK/SK classes as high as 32 (since there are two teachers in the room). We were able to split our grade 1/2 class into a Grade 2 class taught by Rose Sanderson and a Grade 1 class taught by Jenn Northey.

Due to Education cuts we had to reduce our support staff (educational assistants and child youth workers) this year. Lat year we had 15 support staff, this year we had requested 13, bit only

received 10. Since we have had an increase in students with needs in the last few weeks, the school board has given us one additional support staff: bringing the total to 11.

This year's playground inspection came back with no repairs needed, and the inspection fee was waived.

Mr. Coulter is booked Mathletes for October 26<sup>th</sup>. Mathletics has just revamped their program (after COVID) and will provide a fun day in the gym focusing on math skills for the junior grades (3-6). Grade 6 students will be team leaders. The cost of approximately \$1200 and any contribution from school council would be appreciated.

Luisa the dietician from Peterborough Health has contacted Mr. Coulter for their "Come Cook with Me" Challenge. Parents that sign up will be given a \$50 gift card to buy groceries for a recipe provided by PPH. They also get access to a video showing how to make the recipe. Families take pictures of themselves making the recipes, then post them. Once they share their pictures, they receive a new recipe and gift card. Up to 40 families can participate. Mr. Coulter will give more details from enrolment in his weekly newsletter.

Open House will take place on Wednesday September 27<sup>th</sup> (moved from Thursday). Teachers have a meeting with union representatives due to upcoming contract talks.

#### Teacher's Report:

Laura Peers and Jennifer Robertson presented the teacher's report. The library has undergone some great changes over the summer. It has become more of a learning commons. Some additions include: a Lego wall, building makers for a maker space, reading nooks, a display for our ukeles. The goal is for the library to be more of a place of community and belonging. Ms. Robertson plans to share a book and activity with classes as they visit the library. Many new materials like shelving and new books have been purchased from Book Fair funds.

Terry Fox run will be held September 22<sup>nd</sup>, starting with an assembly. Will once again promote "Twoonie for Terry" through school cash online. September 28<sup>th</sup> will be Orange Shirt Day to recognize National Truth and Reconciliation Day (September 30<sup>th</sup>). Soccer tryouts (with Nansi Harris and Ms. Sundup) have been ongoing with a tournament being held on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Cross Country will start soon. Ms. Jackson and Ms. Roberston are hoping to have a school musical this year.

The Peterborough Pete's Ball Hockey will be coming to Roger Nielson this year (it's the second phase of this program). The Pete's come to teach student in Grades 4-6 about floor hockey and provide all the equipment needed to the school.

Roger Neilson Spirit wear will be available for orders in the Fall (to arrive for Christmas). There will be samples to view at the Open House.

#### Treasurer's Report:

We are starting the school year with \$5637.14 in the School Council Bank account. Some teachers did not use the \$100 School council gave them last year for school trip; this money was returned to our account. Last Lunchbox program profit was added to the account in July.

We will leave \$1000 in the playground fund (which was not needed this year).

## Agenda Items:

*Open House Preparations* → September 27th from 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Meet the teacher/ classrooms from 5:30pm – 6:00pm

Pizza in the yard from 6pm-7pm – charge \$2/slice + \$1/juice box or water. We will order 20 cheese pizzas and 30 pepperoni pizza (~400 slices)

We will use tickets to sell drinks and pizza to help distribute food more efficiently.

*Fundraising Ideas and Goals* → Discussed giving more money to each classes; \$150 up from \$100 in previous years.

Tina motioned to give each classroom \$150 (a total of \$1800) this year; Mandy seconded. Motion was passed.

School Jerseys could be replaced. Kevin will get quotes to see what we would need.

Also, could get a school sun shelter. Will discuss these ideas at a future meeting.

Myla will look at possibly doing a Kernel's popcorn fundraiser later this year.

Under One Sun is still not operational and poinsettia sales were very low lats year. We will pass on these two fundraisers this year.

We will look to hold a dance for Junior grades and a Christmas Movie night for primary grades.

*Chocolate Campaign – World's Finest Chocolates* → Will be a 3-week campaign starting October 4<sup>th</sup> . Each case of has 60 chocolate bars and are sold 3 bars for \$5. A full case will cost \$100. Parents will need to sign for each case and will be limited to 1 case. Once they bring back the money, they can get another case. Mandy will create a schedule for drop off and pick up. We need someone each day from 3:30pm – 5:30pm each day.

*Future Meeting Dates* → We chose dates for future meetings:

October 12<sup>th</sup>

November 9<sup>th</sup>

January 25<sup>th</sup>

February 15<sup>th</sup>

April 18<sup>th</sup>

May 23<sup>rd</sup>

We will move meeting times to 5:30pm.

Next meeting will be held on Thursday October 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm in person and via WebEx.

Meeting adjourned.