

Topic: Jack Chambers School Council Monthly Meeting

Location: Jack Chambers Public School

Attendees:

- Jonathan Somerville
- Andre LeFort
- Burak Birli
- Kristine Peter
- Eri Yamamoto
- Priyanka Saxena
- Diana Kriznic
- Jody Fisher
- Chris Munday
- Travis Maloney
- Shams Patel (wife and husband)
- Amrit Patel
- Ravi Sankar
- Vincar Patel

Topic Discussed

- **Hot Lunch Program Success:** Weekly hot lunches doubled revenue, with strong participation from parents and students.
- **Financials Strong:** Main account has \$9,298; food truck events event profited, enhancing fundraising.
- **Grant Applications:** Applying for \$3,000 Pro Grant and \$500 Parent Involvement Fund for family engagement activities.
- **50/50 Draw Planned:** Holiday concert will feature 50/50 draw again, with cash sales prioritized for fundraising.
- **Spirit Wear Updates:** Exploring continuous online ordering for spirit wear to increase sales and school identity.
- **Community Feedback:** Parents want better connectivity tools for informal social interactions among families.

Notes

School Operations and Program Updates

The school has seen strong engagement with weekly pizza lunches maintaining the same order volume as biweekly, effectively doubling revenue and profit, signaling a successful operational shift (15:42).

- This was a strategic change to increase revenue without losing participation, reflecting positive parent and student reception.
- Activities such as cross country, basketball, choir, band, and student leadership programs have started smoothly, contributing to student engagement and school spirit.
- The involvement of grade 8 students in the school council is a new development designed to strengthen communication and leadership among students, supporting school-wide initiatives.
- The administration, represented by JC Public School Council Member Jonathan Somerville, emphasized that outdoor play equipment is the primary identified need, with plans to prioritize enhancements this year to improve the junior yard's usability and student experience.

Financial Status and Fundraising Decisions

The school council's bank accounts currently hold **\$9,298** in the main account and approximately **\$2,400** in the lottery trust account, providing a solid financial base for upcoming initiatives (22:28).

- Food truck events netted a profit of about **\$858.72** after expenses, showing strong fundraising outcomes and community participation.
- A vote is pending on reallocating funds originally raised for a playground project toward purchasing smaller, portable soccer nets for the junior yard, a decision urged by Frank to support immediate outdoor play improvements (24:34).
- The council acknowledged the need for an official vote either during the meeting or promptly via email to proceed with fund reallocation, ensuring transparency and record-keeping.
- Fundraising events like food trucks have been refined operationally, including the addition of popcorn and cotton candy sales, enhancing revenue and volunteer engagement.

Community Engagement Grants and Program Ideas

The council is preparing to apply for a **Pro Grant** of up to **\$3,000** and a **Parent Involvement Fund** grant worth **\$500**, with applications due between December and January, to support family engagement activities (31:18).

- Past successful uses include STEM nights, literacy events, and mental health workshops, highlighting the grant's flexible impact on educational enrichment.
- JC Public School proposed a financial literacy night using games from a local company called **Future Fortunes**, designed to teach children and parents about money management, savings, and banking basics.

- Andre and others supported this focus, noting the importance of educating newcomer families about Canadian financial tools like TFSAs and RESPs, potentially involving RBC for resources and speakers.
- Alternative ideas include a science fair resource boost and an online safety workshop, with a survey planned to collect council members' priorities and finalize grant proposals promptly.

Event Planning and Fundraising Opportunities

The council plans to run the popular **50/50 draw** again during the upcoming holiday concert, leveraging the event's high attendance to raise funds with minimal costs ([52:38](#)).

- Last year's draw was successful with many winners donating their prizes back to the school, enhancing net proceeds.
- There is unanimous interest in repeating this fundraiser, with efforts underway to secure the necessary lottery license and manage logistics smoothly.
- Discussion included the possibility of selling coffee during the concert to increase funds, with considerations around payment methods and compliance with solicitation rules.
- Electronic payment options like e-transfers were explored but identified as potentially slow and administratively intensive, so cash sales remain primary for now.

Spirit Wear and Parent Connectivity

Spirit wear sales have historically been limited to one or two sales periods per year, but parents expressed interest in a more continuous online ordering system, similar to other schools like Centennial ([59:27](#)).

- Kristine shared that other schools use dedicated websites allowing parents to buy merchandise anytime, suggesting Jack Chambers could improve visibility and accessibility for spirit wear.
- JC Public School committed to following up with Frank to integrate spirit wear promotion into weekly communications and explore continuous ordering options.
- Enhancing spirit wear sales could strengthen school identity and provide ongoing fundraising opportunities without additional events.
- Parent feedback also highlighted the need for better social connection tools among families, such as informal platforms to meet and communicate, which is outside school control but beneficial for community building.

Action items

Jonathan Somerville

- Follow up with Frank and administration on outdoor play equipment purchasing priorities and further fundraising strategies ([19:01](#))

- Coordinate volunteer schedule and logistics for Fresh from the Farm produce distribution next week after school; Chris Munday volunteered and will coordinate support (29:29)
- Reach out to school board administration for ideas on Parent Involvement Fund usage and incorporate council input on possible grant-funded events (38:08)
- Create and send brainstorming survey for council members to submit and vote on Pro Grant funding ideas, with deadline and follow-up plan (47:10)
- Prepare 50/50 lottery licensing application and organize volunteer recruitment for holiday concert fundraising events (52:38)
- Liaise with Frank and school office to promote spirit wear website more actively in weekly newsletters and school communications (59:46)
- Investigate feasibility and regulatory compliance of accepting e-transfers/digital payments for 50/50 draws and concessions during events (01:05:10)

Shams Patel

- Provide detailed financial subtraction on meet-the-teacher food truck fundraiser for accurate profit reporting (22:28)