



2016-2017 Wilkinson School Community Council May 1, 2017

Meeting Minutes - Approved

The 2016-2017 Chair, Angelina Diassiti called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Agenda

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Approval of May Agenda | 4. Committee Updates
- Fun Fair
- Greening | 5. New Business
- Internet Safety
- Lice |
| 2. Approval of April Minutes | | 6. Adjournment of Council Meeting |
| 3. Principal's Update | | |
-

Attendance

Present:

Allan Kelly (Principal)
Angelina Diassiti (Chair)
Shanna Breslin (Secretary)
Safran Lafeer (Treasurer)
Joel Krentz (Staff)

Kris Kearns
Lilian Ling
April Moon
Brenda Ohngemach
Michela Pasquali
Julia Warrender

Regrets:

Erin Vaillancourt
Raihana Ingar
Sharon Hennessey
Rob Jefferson
Carmen Doyle
Paula Kahn

Absent:

Dan Dumistrescu (Vice Chair)
Manpreet Chana (Dandy Lion)
Yasmin Buhariwala (VP)

1. Approval of May Agenda

- Kris and April approved.

2. Approval of April Minutes

- Julia and Kris approved.



3. Principal's Update – Allan Kelly

- Safe Schools Committee: we did our walkabout and found quite a few areas of concern, mostly in the Kindergarten play area.
 - Repair tickets have been submitted to have these things looked at and fixed.
- Staffing: we are hiring a half phys ed. teacher (in addition to Mr. Kasaval) and a full time Kindergarten teacher.
- Track and Field: Allan has gotten some emails asking about Track and Field day (an explanation of why it's not happening this year is in the April meeting minutes).
 - More track activities will be incorporated into Play Day.
- Question: is there a Kindergarten graduation day?
 - Yes, but it's not the same day as Grade 6 graduation > *Angelina to get date from Yasmin.*
 - Do we need to keep this event as it requires parents to come in during school hours and the program is full day now? It may be phased out in the future but often people are attached to events like this.
 - At some point we need to reorganize activities and events because new things are constantly added but we usually don't take out any old events.
- Question: other schools have been complaining that its hard to get supply teachers > do we have that issue here?
 - Not really, people seem to want to come here, but generally there are not enough supply teachers to go around within the Board.
 - We have an emergency person that we can call if we don't have someone to fill in.
- Question: parents are complaining that the lunch supervisors are not very nice to the kids > the kids are getting in trouble for speaking and in some cases are being told to sit quietly without talking or eating.
 - We have a large number of kids in our two lunch rooms and supervision is a challenge > it's difficult to keep everyone under control.
 - There is no way to get additional lunch time supervisors.
 - Ideally, we need more kids to go home for lunch if they have parents at home.
 - Could we stagger two lunch times? Scheduling prevents this from being an option.
 - *Allan will speak to the supervisors about their disciplinary tactics and will make sure that kids are not being told they are not allowed to eat.*



- Question: some schools are trying out an outdoor dance party during recess > music is played over the loud speakers and kids can dance and express themselves outdoors.
 - We realize that more organized activities may be needed to get kids active and using their time well.
 - *Allan will speak to the staff about possible ideas, but a dance party will likely not be possible as it poses a number of concerns.*

4. Committee Reports

Committee members provided an update of upcoming and ongoing initiatives.

Fun Fair - April Moon

- We had a great final leads meeting and everyone has been very engaged and helpful this year. Things are ahead of schedule even though the event is 3 weeks earlier this year!
- The weather is not looking great for the weekend. We usually have to make a weather call on the Wednesday before the event as many activities will need to be cancelled or adjusted > no activities can happen outside.
- What do we do about the BBQing? The food tent is still placed outside and runners bring food into the gym area.
- We don't have a lot of staff on our volunteer list - can we send out an email about this?
Joel will look into putting a sign-up list in the office as has been done previously.

Greening Committee - Michela Pasquali

- The committee recently completed three projects.
- Learning Garden Clean-up: it was very successful - we had a turnout of about 25 people who did an excellent job with the garden.
 - Branches were trimmed and thorny bushes were removed.
 - Eric Malcomson (a parent who owns a landscaping company) sponsored the event and brought tools and coffee, which was great.
- We got some milkweed seeds from the David Suzuki Foundation which were given to the EcoTeam to plant in the garden > this will help their butterfly garden.
- Seedlings in the Classroom: 10 classes are participating this year and they have been busy planting.
 - We provided veggie and flower seeds as well as biodegradable pots and soil.
- Summer Garden Maintenance: some parents take shifts watering in the summer.
 - The Dandyion kids will come and pick any food that grows and use it in the classroom for activities. They will also weed and maintain the garden.



5. New Business

Internet Safety Seminar - Angelina Diassiti

- As discussed at previous meetings, we'd like to have someone come in and speak with both kids and parents about internet safety.
- Two possibilities: Steve Chapelle and Paul Davis (both come highly recommended).
- Steve is \$695 + HST <http://www.stevechapelle.ca/>
- Paul is \$800 + HST <http://socialnetworkingsafety.net/>
- Paul has December 6th and 13th free, Steve has flexibility in September and October.
- September is too early because we won't have all of the new families added to our email list yet, so we'd be looking at October/November. December 13th might be too close to winter break.
- The feeling is to do it closer to the beginning of the year when people are fresh and energized > December is dark and cold and people would rather stay home!
- *Angelina will see what dates are available at the end of October or beginning of November.*
- **Motion to approve \$1000 to book the seminar, based on availability. Motion Carried.**

Lice Discussion - Shanna Breslin

- After having recently dealt with lice for the first time, I think we can do better as a school at controlling it.
- Although it does not cause illness, lice is a big deal. It can be very uncomfortable (both for the people who have it and for everyone around them who think they have it) and it requires a lot of time, energy and money to treat and prevent.
- My daughter's class has seen about 6 lice notices since February and there may have been more cases that were not reported. How can we better stop the spread and break the cycle?
- Idea 1: educating parents about how to recognize, treat and prevent lice.
 - Lice Squad does a 1.5 hour seminar which outlines what to look for (with examples), how to do checks and prevention methods. They also bring lice combs and shampoos etc for anyone who wants to purchase them.
 - If the owner (of the Pape location) is available to come, she'll do it for free. If she's not available and sends an employee, the cost is \$90+HST.



- Doing this kind of talk will help to get rid of the stigma associated with lice, which will hopefully result in more people reporting cases > reports let parents know to do thorough checks to find lice before it's been on a head for weeks.
- Doing a proper lice check involves a lot more than simply looking at a person's head, especially for people who are not experts > it is not an easy thing to do properly without an actual lesson (reading online is not enough).
- It's important to educate parents so that more of them are doing regular checks and know what to do if they find something. There is also a lot of misinformation about lice > a seminar will help to properly educate people on the facts.
- **Motion to approve \$100 to book an education seminar in September or October.**
Motion carried.
- *Shanna to work with Angelina on this.*
- As of now, we have one school-wide lice check per year which is done by a Public Health nurse.
- Idea 2: we need to have more regularly scheduled lice checks done at the school.
 - At the very least, around the most common outbreak times: September, after winter break and after March Break.
- Benefits:
 - Professionals can find lice earlier when it's easier to treat and less contagious.
 - It can be found on more kids at the same time, which means they will all get treated at the same time and this will help to control outbreaks.
 - Having professionals do checks means that it will be found - even the most well intentioned parents may not be checking properly or may miss it if it's early on.
 - Lice checks from Lice Squad are \$2 + HST per student per check. Other schools have the Parent Council fund regular checks or ask parents put in \$10-\$20 per child per year.
- There is some doubt that these measures will help with lice outbreaks as there are still a number of families that aren't concerned, don't do checks and send kids to school while lice is still present > there are some schools that have significantly reduced their number of lice cases by doing regular school-wide checks.
- Dandy Lion does checks on a regular basis. They also have a strict no bugs and no nits policy - children must be lice-free before they can return to daycare. Once lice is found, the classroom is cleaned, toys and costumes are bagged and everything that can be vacuumed is vacuumed.
- Due to TDSB and union policy, we cannot institute these measures at the school.



- Maybe we can have Public Health come in more than once per year, at least for the younger children since this is a free service? (Although it was difficult to book them the one time this year).
- When a teacher finds lice on a child, how are the parents notified? The teacher calls them and lets them know.
- *Allan will find out how often the Public Health nurse can come in and do checks. He will contact other schools to see what their process is around lice.*

Arts Programming - April Moon

- We have a budget of \$3500 to spend on bringing in arts programming to the school.
- We are finished with this year's performance line up.
- We do visual arts every other year, so next year we will need to look into it > *April will be sending Allan information about a possible program.*
- Because the Arts Committee meets and plans over the summer, we will be discussing this in more detail at the next meeting.
- A big thank you to Mr. Krentz for helping to get performance reviews from students which have been sent out to the community.
- Mme. Mahovlich had recommended a French concert which Angelina went to earlier in the year. *April will reach out to the French teachers to find out if there is interest in this program.*

6. Council meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

**The last meeting of the 2016-2017 Council will be held on
Monday, June 5th, 2017 at 6:30pm in Room 3.**