



2017-2018 Wilkinson School Community Council November 6, 2017

Meeting Minutes - Approved

The 2017-2018 Chair, Angelina Diassiti called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm.

Agenda

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|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| 1. Approval of November Agenda | 4. Committee Updates
- Wil-Kitchen
- Event Proposal
- Communications | 5. New Business
- Funding Proposals
- 6. Adjournment of Council Meeting |
| 2. Approval of October Minutes | | |
| 3. Principal's Update | | |
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Attendance

Present:

Allan Kelly (Principal)
Angelina Diassiti (Chair)
Shanna Breslin (Secretary)
Ben Elling (Treasurer)
Joel Krentz (Staff)
Manpreet Chana (Dandylion)
Stephanie Lamb
Lilian Ling

April Moon
Brenda Ohngemach
Michela Pasquali

Guests:

Carmen Doyle
Martine de Saint-Sardos
Fernanda Perdikaris
Azadeh Sabour

Regrets:

Julia Warrender
Rob Jefferson
Jennifer Fenrich

Absent:

Jenny Georgiou (VP)
Dan Dumitrescu (Vice Chair)
Kris Kearns
Raihana Ingar
Safran Lafeer
Erin Vaillancourt
Neng Chu Wu
Chris Danells

1. Approval of November Agenda

- Lilian and Michela approved.



2. Approval of October Minutes

- Michela and Ben approved.

3. Principal's Update – Allan Kelly

- Kindergarten: We now have 5 classes of equal size and are moving forward in a positive manner.
 - Now that Room 3 is a classroom, we are reorganizing the programs and events that have been taking place in that room over the last few years.
 - There is not as much free/storage space in the school right now > *Council and Admin will do a walkthrough to determine which Council items can be moved or purged.*
- Safe and Caring Schools: The first meeting will be booked shortly and communicated to the committee.
- Parking Lot: It is not safe for people to drop-off and pick-up children in the parking lot. Drop-off and pick-up should be done in the designated lane on Donlands in front of the school. We've tried to communicate this to parents, but the situation is getting worse instead of improving. How can we stop people from parking in the lot?
 - We've tried locking the gate. There are many signs. We've started to ticket and tow cars to prevent people from dropping and picking up kids here.
 - People use it to park and shop or go to the subway, but the main issue is the safety > we do not want children to walk through it as they can easily be hit by cars moving in and out of parking spaces.
 - Have the kids been taught not to walk through? Yes, but it can be difficult for them to convince their parents not to do it.
 - *We will put another message in the newsletter and may look into some more straightforward signage.*
- New Bike Racks: We have been approved for new bike racks as part of becoming a Platinum EcoSchool. We will launch them in the spring, linking them to physical health and well being.
 - We have not yet decided on where they will be located.
- Ten new trees have been planted in the yard to replace a number that were removed last year > there are a number of different species.



- Safety Slideshow: Created by Joel and Marianna so that staff and students have a common understanding of what students should look like when behaving properly at school.
 - It mostly addresses transitional periods (e.g. entering and exiting the school, out in the yard, walking in the hallways, using the stairs) > teachers coming from different places don't necessarily know what the standards are here. The slides clearly show everyone what rules like "no running in the hallways" mean.
 - It can be shown in the classrooms and grade-specific content can be discussed with students.
 - It will be shared with lunch supervisors > slides about lunch room behaviour will be added.
 - A slide show format was chosen so that it could easily be edited as practices evolve.
 - We would like to allow parents access to it but will have to check on the TDSB privacy rules as students appear in the images.
- Lunch Rooms: Grade 1 students seem to have difficulty adjusting to eating lunch in the lunch rooms. The biggest complaint among Grade 1 students is that the lunch room is too loud.
 - Comment: We've noticed that since our daughter has been in Grade 1 that most of her food comes home at the end of the day. When we talk to her about it, she says that she's rushed, that it's so loud in the room she can't focus on eating, and that she doesn't have enough time to eat her lunch.
 - The kids get 30 minutes in the lunchroom to eat > we have tweaked this time over the years so that kids have enough time to eat but aren't left sitting in the noise for too long once they've finished eating.
 - With the lunch program, the TDSB feels that if there are parents at home during the day, their kids should be going home for lunch. Because of this policy, the ratio of supervisors to kids is not adequate to provide enough supervision for all kids to stay at school. It would improve the situation if more children went home for lunch, but we know this isn't realistic for a lot of families. We have about 200 kids staying for lunch, divided between the two lunch rooms.
 - If kids are repeatedly slow eaters, they can sometimes eat outside the office to finish up while the rest of the kids go outside.
 - Do the kids get any instruction about focusing on eating and keeping their voices down? Yes, we go over the rules many times.



- The board must have ideas for how to deal with acoustics - they must do sound proofing in music rooms, for example. Do we have the ceiling panels that absorb noise in those rooms? *Admin will look into this.*
- On Pizza Lunch days, many of the students are in the gym eating. Is there any way to get some extra supervision there? *We will look into combining lunch rooms on pizza lunch days so that more supervision can be in the gym.*

4. Committee Reports

Committee members provided an update of upcoming and ongoing initiatives.

Wil-Kitchen Funding Request: April Moon

- About 8-10 years ago we used PRO Grant money to start Wil-Kitchen, a community building event where parents can come to the school and get to know each other through cooking.
- Participants cook together, taste the recipes and take home leftovers.
- We've often run the event around the holidays and again before Fun Fair (to make Fun Fair food).
- A group of people has been asking for the event this year and we'd like to hold it in early December and make samosas, the chickpea salad from Fun Fair and holiday cookies (kids can decorate the cookies).
- There is an existing budget of \$300 for the event. To that we have to add a permit and babysitting so are asking for another \$250 to run the event again this year.
- Most of the cost goes towards ingredients and supplies > any unused funds would come back to Council.
- April would be the Council lead and would work with a team of current and former Wilkie parents.
- We are also looking for interested parents who may want to continue it in the future.
- It's a great way to bring people together.
- Proposed Date: Tuesday, December 5th. The event team would set up from 3:30pm to 6pm and the event would run from about 6:30pm to 9pm (including clean up).
- Will need to work on advertising early. Maybe include pictures of past events.
- Motion to approve \$250 more. *Motion carried.*



Pure + Simple Spa Fundraiser: Carmen Doyle, April Moon

- The Pure + Simple location in the Beach is owned by Carmen and she would like to host a fundraiser on a Monday offering discounted facials, products and raffled prizes.
- All proceeds from the services would go to the school and all costs will be covered by Pure + Simple.
- Estheticians would be working in shifts between 10am-9pm, organized depending on how the booking fall, to see a total of 15 clients.
- If the appointments fill up, people can come in and purchase products to raise funds.
- Council is needed for advertising and a Council member would be on-site the day of to help with set up and light refreshments.
- Are aiming for end of November or beginning of December.
- It can be used to raise some of the funds we lost in cancelling Fall Fest > it fits in with the school's mental health and well being focus.
- Motion to approve. *Motion carried.*

Communications - Shanna Breslin

- We have numerous shopping fundraisers set up to earn money for the school. They don't cost anything extra; shoppers simply have to remember to go through our dedicated links when shopping at participating retailers. FlipGive does require a login. Details about the fundraisers can be found on our [website](#).
- How much have these fundraisers earned for the school?:
 - Mabel's Labels:
 - Sept 2015-June 2017: \$115.71
 - July and August 2017: \$90.27 > this is great for a 2-month period!
 - Amazon.ca:
 - Since we joined in May 2016: \$412
 - We approved using this money to finance the EcoTeam's addition of a butterfly garden within the Learning Garden, but after additional research they concluded that the Learning Garden is already a butterfly garden and did not take the funds.
 - However, it's great that we've earned enough to fully finance a funding request!
 - FlipGive: brings together over 100 retailers and when shopping through their platform, a percentage of your purchase goes to the school.
 - We have 4 members who have earned \$52 since November, 2016.
 - CafePress: 1 sale earned \$0.70 since we launched in June, 2017.



- Right now we have a small group of people using the shopping links, but if we can get more people using them, we can earn some real money for the school. The links can be shared with family and friends as well.
- We're working on creating little cut-outs that people can keep by their devices to help them remember to use the links before shopping and will launch this before the holiday season.
- After last month's meeting, a link to access our Legacy Planning documents on the Google drive was distributed to Council members.
 - The purpose of the documents is to ensure that Council operations run smoothly from year to year and when there are transitions between Council members.
 - We have documents for our events, committees and processes.
 - Please read the document titled "1. Overview_Legacy Planning.pdf" (in the shared folder) for more information.
 - Reminder: Council members have access to the documents, but please don't share the link with anyone else (we want the documents to be edited only by the people who are directly involved to ensure that the information on them is correct.)
- Class Contact Lists: 236 students were registered.
 - Registration through the Parent Council ended on Oct. 27 (the link was active for a month and a half).
 - Sign-up was communicated in mid-September via a hard copy form that was sent in the Parent Council info packs distributed in backpacks. The web sign-up link was posted at the same time. Reminders were sent via email and social media.
 - The lists will be distributed this week.
 - Once distributed, the administration and management of the lists moves from the Council to the parents in each classroom.
 - People who would still like to sign-up should contact the other parents in the classroom to figure out the best way to do so.
- Teacher Profiles: To encourage communication and community spirit, we're considering doing a teacher profiles section on the website which would feature one staff member each month. Staff participation will be optional.
 - We feel its a great way to get to know the staff as people > Joel is our guinea pig.
Thanks Joel!



5. New Business

Groove Dance Funding Request - Angelina Diassiti, Joel Krentz on behalf of Sophie Barbier

- Request asks for funding to bring in Groove Experience Interactive Student Sessions by Moving EDGEducation (formerly Groove Edgeucation).
- Workshops promote physical activity, develop physical literacy and movement competencies, and practice the 3 living skills (personal skills, interpersonal skills, critical and creative thinking skills) by engaging the Body, Brain and Being.
- The activities are set to fun music and use a wide variety of movement and gross motor skills alongside creative problem solving, decision making, personal expression and healthy peer interactions.
- 5 sessions would run during one day, each session including 4 classes, so the entire school would be able to participate. Session length is: 30 mins for Kindies, 45 mins Gr1-6
- This also includes a complimentary mini teacher workshop and resource package (includes movement based/integrated numeracy and literacy activities)
- We have hosted them in the past and teachers and students really enjoyed the experience.
- The Council funded this 2 years ago > this would be the third time funded.
- It is well received by everyone and fills a dance/movement piece of the arts curriculum.
- Tentative date is Nov 27: cost is \$900 + HST (\$825 + HST if booked in November).
- Motion to approve. *Motion carried.*

Lice Checks - Shanna Breslin and Martine de Saint-Sardos

- Last year our daughters were in the same class and both got lice. It circulated around the class from about November until April.
- After the experience of dealing with lice, we wanted to figure out what more could be done by the school and by the community to prevent outbreaks.
- Lice is common in schools and daycares and while lice don't cause disease or illness, they can be uncomfortable, time consuming and difficult to deal with and treatment can be expensive.
- We are bringing Lice Squad into the school on November 23 to do an information session for parents. It will teach people how to identify, treat and prevent lice and will hopefully start a discussion so that people feel more comfortable talking about it.
- In addition, we would like to have lice checks done regularly at the school by professionals (Lice Squad).



- This would be an ongoing annual funding request added to our yearly budget.
- The benefits of having professionals do lice checks are:
 - More cases are found and recommended for treatment at the same time, thereby curbing the spread.
 - Professionals can catch lice at an earlier stage than an untrained eye, which means more cases will be found at the egg stage (the eggs don't move from head to head, but once hatched, the bugs do).
 - We ensure that all (or most) students are being checked > even the most well-intentioned parents don't stay on top of it all year round and many parents don't do checks at all.
- Allan has spoken to Public Health and to other schools to find out what our options are and what others are doing:
 - Public Health will not be able to come into the school more than once per year.
 - After speaking with other schools, it seems that the preferred model is to have a lice company do checks in the school monthly and to fund it via the Council.
- Because we have 505 students, monthly checks are too expensive to be funded by the Council.
- Using Lice Squad, the cost is \$2.26 (tax included) per child, per check (505 students = \$1,141.30).
- The preference would be to do a school-wide check 3 times per year (\$3,424), in September, January and after March break as lice outbreaks are most common at those times (after vacation periods).
- If this is too expensive, how can we reduce the cost?:
 - We could ask families for assistance by requesting \$5 per child or per family per year in order to free up more money for Council activities > Council would fund the remainder of the cost. At this point we don't feel comfortable doing this.
 - Could we suggest a voluntary donation? Many people have stated that they would be willing to contribute \$20-\$60 per year to help fund the program > this is a possibility.
- Comment: My daughter got it three times last year. There really is a stigma attached to it - a lot of people see it as a cultural thing or that it's associated with being dirty. At first we thought that we could treat it on our own but it was too difficult so we ended up taking her to Lice Squad. Not only were they great when they were treating her, but they educated us at the same time and taught us how to do proper checks by ourselves.
- Many people have had similar experiences with their services > education is really important and doing a check or a treatment properly is very difficult without training.



- The stigma is really unfortunate > not only does it create hostility, but it often prevents people from getting proper treatment and keeps people from reporting cases to the school. If cases aren't reported, the other parents in the class can't be notified to start doing checks at home (the best way to catch it early and treat it before it can spread).
- Anyone can get lice! They prefer clean hair. They spread easily. We should all work together to do what we can to keep lice in check.
- Suggestion: before we commit to three checks per year, how about we book one around the second week in January and see how it goes? What's involved in it?
 - All the kids are checked. Lice Squad will notify the families of any kids that are diagnosed and provide information about treatment options. They will also come back a week or so later to re-check those students to make sure that no additional eggs and lice are found (sometimes more than one treatment is needed).
- Motion to approve \$1200 for a check in January. We'll then decide if we should go forward with checks three times per year. *Motion carried.*

Movie Night: Ben Elling and Brenda Ohngemach

- We've totalled our Movie Night earnings so far this year. After expenses, September's show earned \$540 and November's earned \$710.
- Because we cancelled Fall Fest, we wanted to invite some of the community vendors to the December movie night.
- We'd like to set them up at the gym entrance (by the stage area outside the gym).
- We don't think there are any issues from the Board's perspective, but is there enough room in that area?
- We had 4 vendors, but are not sure if they will all come. Let's have them at the back of the gym so that parents can visit them without leaving the kids.

6. Council meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.

**The next meeting of the 2017-2018 Council will be held on
Monday, January 8th, 2018 at 6:30pm in the Library.**