



## 2017-2018 Wilkinson School Community Council

### May 7, 2018

#### Meeting Minutes - Approved

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The 2017-2018 Chair, Angelina Diassiti called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm.

#### Agenda

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Approval of April Agenda</li><li>2. Approval of February Minutes</li><li>3. Principal's Update</li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>4. Committee Updates<br/>- Fun Fair</li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>5. New Business<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Lice Check Results</li><li>- Air Conditioners</li><li>- Teacher's Event</li><li>- Funding Request</li><li>- June Proposals</li></ul></li><li>6. Adjournment of Council Meeting</li></ol> |
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#### Attendance

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##### Present:

Jenny Georgiou (VP)  
Angelina Diassiti (Chair)  
Ben Elling (Treasurer)  
Shanna Breslin (Secretary)  
Jennifer Fenrich  
Kris Kearns  
Safran Lafeer  
Stephanie Lamb

Lilian Ling  
Brenda Ohngemach  
Fernanda Perdikaris  
Julia Warrender

##### Guests:

Jill Spellman  
Chantal Benoit  
Farah Spicer

##### Regrets:

Allan Kelly (Principal)  
Joel Krentz (Staff)  
April Moon  
Michela Pasquali  
Rob Jefferson

##### Absent:

Dan Dumitrescu (Vice Chair)  
Anthea Moreau (Dandy Lion)  
Neng Chu Wu  
Chris Danells  
Erin Vaillancourt  
Raihana Ingar

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### 1. Approval of April Agenda

- Kris and Julia approved.

### 2. Approval of February Minutes

- Stephanie and Fernanda approved.

### 3. Principal's Update: Jenny Georgiou

- It's a very busy time of year - lots of great things are happening.
- May 15th is the Welcome to Kindergarten evening, which is a really nice and informative event with a lot of tips about how to set kids up for success.
- May 16th is the Track and Field meet at Birchmount Collegiate for students in grades 4 to 6 who made the team.
  - The top finishers move on to the Conference Finals on June 7th, followed by the City Finals on June 21st.
- May 24 - June 4 is EQOA: these dates chosen carefully. We want to avoid doing it right after the long weekend and generally make sure that our students are at their best.
  - As in the past it will be done in the mornings.
  - It is a snapshot of a single day. A much more telling sign of student progress is the report card. EQAO does not count towards the report card.
- We have two Island School trips for grades 5 and 6: June 4-6 and June 11-13. We already had our info night.
- June 20 in the morning is the Kindy and grade 1 spring music concert in the gym.
- June 21 is the last spirit assembly.
- June 26 is the grade 6 graduation.
- June 22 is Play Day. June 27 is the rain date.
- We have our volunteer tea on June 13.
  - Last year we discussed doing something different. It is appreciated, but it tends to not be well attended as it's during school hours and is a lot of work for admin.
  - Council suggested perhaps putting out some food at the June 4 meeting and inviting the community. It's after work hours so more people can attend and it gives others a chance to attend the AGM. > *Admin will discuss.*
- June 22: Staff appreciation event. Last year we did coffee and pastries. > *Angelina will take the lead and discuss details with Admin.*



## 4. Committee Reports

Committee members provided an update of upcoming and ongoing initiatives.

### Fun Fair: Angelina Diassiti on Behalf of April Moon

- What do we need from the school?
  - Permit on the Friday is for 6pm but we would like to be in around 4pm > Jenny will stay until 4:30 to let people in (call the office to contact Jenny).
  - We need someone here around 9am on the day of to help with setting up tents.
  - We will need the Master key so we can pack and unpack from the storage room.
- Fun Fair leads: please fill in the shared spreadsheet indicating how many volunteers you will need for your area and if you have special requirements.
- Fun Fair is the school's biggest event and it funds the majority of our programs.
- As people have been graduating out of the school, certain roles (area leads) have become vacant > it's been difficult to find new people to fill these roles.
- We really need to get new people (both from within and outside of Council) in place next year while we still have people with lots of experience here to pass on information.
- Our current Fun Fair organizer is only at the school for another two years.

## 5. New Business

### Lice Check Results: Shanna Breslin

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- On January 29 and 30 we ran Council-funded lice checks through Lice Squad.
- In total 450 students were checked over the 1.5 day period (the rest of the students were absent) > we got through as many classes as possible on Day 1, finished the remaining classes on Day 2 as well as any kids who were absent on Day 1.

When doing lice checks:

- 5-10 cases is average
- 10-20 cases is a lot
- 40-50 cases is HUGE and indicates a big infestation
- Cases are usually confined to two or three classrooms.
- Schools that do regular lice checks have fewer cases as they're found before they spread.



- While these numbers seem low, we have to remember that lice spreads quickly and easily so two untreated cases in a classroom quickly multiply.
- We look for active cases, which include lice and/or eggs, and inactive cases which include empty egg casings.
  - Empty egg casings are important as they indicate that the child had lice, it's possible that one or two viable eggs still remain in the hair, and most importantly, they can attract lice.
  - Cases of lice are not considered fully treated until everything has been removed from the hair.

When cases are found:

- Individual letters explaining the findings and suggesting treatment options are sent home with all students who have both active and inactive cases.
- In classrooms with active cases, letters are also sent home to the rest of the students in the room alerting them that lice was found and that children's heads should be checked carefully over the next few weeks so that any new cases can be found and treated before they spread.
- Any students who were treated after Day 1 and are back at school the next day can be rechecked on Day 2.

Follow-Up:

- Included in the cost of the original checks are rechecks which happen about 10 days later (ours were done on Feb. 13).
- Students with active and inactive cases during the first checks are rechecked (if they are at school that day).
  - Any students who do not get treated after the initial checks will be prompted again to take action.
  - It takes 7-10 days both for lice eggs to hatch and for babies to mature. If kids were treated after the first checks, anything that was accidentally missed during treatments will be easier to find when it moves on to the next life cycle stage. By rechecking we're making sure that treatments were done and were effective.

## **OUR RESULTS**

19 cases in total were found over the course of the original 2 days:

- 10 active cases > lice and/or eggs
- 9 presumed inactive cases > empty egg casings



- A success story: some students who received letters on Day 1 were treated that night and came back to school the next day. They were rechecked by Lice Squad and found all clear.

#### Recheck Results:

- 18 of the original 19 students were checked (one was absent).
- An additional student was also checked - after receiving the general letter in a classroom with an active case, parents did checks at home and found/treated another case a few days later. The teacher brought the student to be rechecked.
- Of those 19 students, only 2 active cases were found. One case was very mild (a few eggs had been missed during treatment).
- These are great results! (Lice Squad was impressed!)

#### **COST AND GOING FORWARD**

- We want to move forward with checks three times per year.
  - Doing checks on a regular basis will ensure that cases are caught in the early stages, before they have a chance to spread.
  - Doing regular checks gets parents into the habit of checking at home, which further increases our chances of catching cases early.
  - Doing regular checks will decrease the incidence of lice within the school and school-wide checks are cheaper than doing individual ones.
- The cost is \$2 + HST (\$2.26) per child. This check for 450 students totalled \$1017.
- Lice checks 3 times per year would have a maximum estimated cost of \$3400 (if 500 students are checked all 3 times, which is unlikely).
- This is too much for Council to fund yearly, but if we asked families for a contribution of \$5 per student, that would offset the cost significantly.
- We realize that not all families will pay the \$5, but many families feel that this is an important initiative and have said that they would be willing to contribute \$20 or more per year in order to make the program possible.
- Getting a lice check done at a clinic usually costs between \$25 and \$35. Treatments usually cost \$75/hour/person. Some clinics will charge around \$120 for a house visit which involves checking family members and treating what's found.
- Many other schools ask families to pay the full cost for each check done at the school.



- Because we've discussed doing checks for certain grades in the past to save money, we've now seen that lice is present in all grades and the whole school should be checked each time: (# Cases) Kindergarten (4), Gr. 1 (1), Gr. 2 (3), Gr. 3/4 (3), Gr. 5 (3), Gr. 6 (5)
- Our plan is to send home a letter explaining the importance of the program and that it cannot be funded by Council alone. We will ask families for a suggested contribution of \$5 per student per year while encouraging those that would like to contribute more to do so.
- We plan to fund between 1 and 3 checks per year, depending on what we can afford with the amount raised.
- Comment: it would be helpful to outline the cost of getting checks done individually (outside of school) in the letter as a comparison since this program is so much cheaper.
- After Fun fair we will need to figure out how much Council can afford to spend so that we can work out how many checks we can do next year based on the amount raised.
- We should book the three checks in advance since dates get booked quickly by other schools - there is no deposit so dates can be cancelled if we do not raise enough for all three lice checks.
- Motion to approve booking three school-wide lice checks and putting the program in place for next year. *Motion carried*
- If anyone is able to do a half day shift of administrating the program (not checking heads), please let us know.

#### **Air Conditioners: Lilian Ling**

- The school gets very hot in the warm weather, particularly the third floor.
- Could Council help fund air conditioners for the school?
- Two new ones were put into the library recently and the daycare rooms as well as rooms 2 and 4 have air conditioning.
- To have a/c, the windows need to be sealed shut> trade-off between fresh air and a/c.
  - It's really nice to get fresh air on days that aren't sweltering, but on super hot days it can be unbearable.
  - Staff can move classes to the lunchrooms or to the library if needed to get out of hot classrooms.



- Admin is not sure what the process would be or if Parent Council is allowed to fund that. It would be a facility services question.
- Every class should have at least one fan provided by the school. Perhaps providing more fans per room is a more feasible option?
- We likely can't do it for this year so maybe we need to look at fans vs a more permanent solution > that may take too long - our leaking roof took years to fix.
- It would be helpful if we could collect data > a log of the temperatures per day in the classroom to see what the situation actually is (could be a class project?).
- *Admin will email the staff to get a feel for the number of fans we'd need to purchase > Lilian will be the contact on this.*

#### **Funding Request - Grade 6 Graduation Festivities: Jill Spellman, Chantal Benoit, Farah Spicer**

- In addition to the school graduation ceremony and trip, parents of the graduating class have gotten together over the last number of years to throw their own party outside of school hours (but usually on school grounds).
- The party is typically held the day after graduation as there are often graduation ceremonies happening on the same day at multiple schools and often families like to celebrate by themselves on the actual graduation day.
- The celebration usually involves a potluck and sometimes the parents get together to give the students a special gift as well > this year's Grad Party Planning Committee would like to do something similar.

#### Details of the Funding Request:

- We would like to secure the 3-hour rental of an open style photo booth for our 2018 grad party (photoboothto.com)
- Package includes:
  - Unlimited photo strips (2x6 inches with 3-4 shots with the Wilkinson logo and "2018 Grads" on it)
  - Delivery and take away
  - On-site attendant should any problems arise
  - Availability for picture taking from 5-8pm
- This would be a one-time request and would not replace anything that was previously used.
- We would like the Parent Council to provide as much of the cost as possible. The Grad Party Planning Committee is also thinking of asking for a suggested donation of \$5 per



graduate to cover the costs. Any surplus would be donated back to Council.

- The funds are required by June 27, 2018.
- Cost: \$452 including HST or \$400 cash with no invoice (normal cost is \$699 + HST and we are getting a reduced rate).
- The company comes with staff so this activity is controlled. It is also unlimited so the kids can have as many as they want.
- If the Grad Party Planning Committee cannot get this money from Council, they will find a way to make it work.
  
- In order to have access to the school (e.g. for washrooms) the Committee will also require a permit (estimated cost \$125) and insurance > make sure to apply for this early as it often takes 6 weeks to secure.
- Council gives \$1000 towards graduation festivities each year as well as money towards grade 6 yearbooks.
- This party is a private event and is not for the entire school > only a select group of students and families will benefit from it.
- Perhaps if parents would like to do something in addition to the graduation ceremony and trip, it should be up to the parents to do that on their own as has been done previously.
- What do our Bylaws say about fundraising? We may not be able to fund things that are for a select group of students.
- Admin has mentioned in the past that these private parties are not sanctioned by the school.
- It's a very nice thing. Maybe we could give a small amount to this or to the celebration and not specifically towards the Photo booth?
- There is also some concern that funding the graduation party this year will set a precedent and this will end up being a recurring request that we may not be able to fund each year.
- It's difficult to justify putting money towards a photo booth or a private graduation party when there are other programs that require funding and benefit all students, especially since we already give funds to the graduation festivities.
- We'd like to find out how our graduation festivities amount is used each year (e.g. for the trip or for ceremony refreshments and decorations) and whether there is any left over> *Admin to find out.*



- Since we've already committed that amount, if there is any left, maybe that could be used for the graduation party?
- Refreshments and decorations for a graduating class could easily go above that amount.
- Perhaps it would make more sense to increase the \$1000 that we've allotted in order to add more value to the school celebration?
- We will review the information (Bylaws, Fun Fair revenue and current graduation spending) in time for the June meeting.

#### **Proposals To Be Discussed in June: Angelina Diassiti**

- What funding proposals do we have to discuss once we have our Fun Fair numbers? Sewing Program (\$7500).
- One Council member attended the Parents As Partners conference and a number of ideas came out of that > all are already TDSB vetted.
- Could we put a portion of the arts (visual arts) budget towards the sewing program?
- It would be a one-time program so we should decide if we can afford to fund it and leave the arts budget separate.
- We definitely want to bring it in for the whole school and not just for the older kids.
- If we can't afford the entire school next year, we could split this up by grade and have the program extend over two or three years.

#### **Other Items**

- Question about the Kindergarten and grade 1 snack program: some parents with children in grade 1 currently feel that the program was great for their children in Kindergarten but has not been as successful for them in grade 1.
- Would this feedback be helpful or is the program TDSB mandated and beyond the control of the school?
- The program is run through the Toronto Foundation for Student Success and is not run through TDSB.
- Parents are asked to contribute an amount for the year (this year the amount was \$60 per child) and a grant is used to fund the remaining cost of the program.
- The program used to be only for Kindergarten students but expanded to include grade 1 students this year and the cost has increased (from \$20 to \$60) as well as what's included on the menu.



- Admin may be able to change the application for next year if it has not already been sent in.
- In Kindergarten the students are given time in class to sit and eat snack properly. In grade 1 that time does not exist and snacks must eaten outside at recess or be fit into some other part of the day.
- Parent story from one classroom: the kids are usually told to grab their snack and take it outside with them for recess, but the snacks provided (e.g. toast with jam and apple slices) aren't necessarily conducive to this. Parents were told at the beginning of the year that in grades 1 to 6 kids should bring snacks with them that could be eaten outside at recess so we've been sending snacks appropriate for this.
- Parent story from the other classroom: My daughter has come home with a largely untouched lunch a number of times this year and when I've asked her why, she's told me that they were given snack while waiting in line to go down for lunch. She was very hungry by that point so she ate it and then wasn't hungry for her actual lunch. So I've been paying into the snack program and as a result have had a lot of wasted food coming home. My daughter tells me if they don't get snack while in line for lunch, they get it while doing the activity right before that and are given what's left in the afternoon often just before leaving for the day.
- It seems the grade 1 students may not be able to fit this kind of snack program into the day in a way that truly benefits them and takes full advantage of the program.
- How do the grade 1 teachers feel about the success of the program?
- The program appears to have been designed to service kids who would not otherwise have access to snacks > does this situation apply to a large proportion of our students?
- Last year we had excess funds in the snack program and they were used towards the milk program > funds from the program must be used towards food and nutrition.
- Perhaps we could use any excess funds towards a milk program for the grade 1's instead of the snack program?
- Question about the milk program: can we pre-pay for the entire year? There is so much admin involved in the regular payments and often parents forget and have to grab a bunch of change and small bills last minute. We're trying to move towards electronic payment.
- Note from the Treasurer: please let him know if you have any outstanding payments that have not yet been reimbursed as the school year is coming to a close.



**6. Council meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.**

**The last meeting of the 2017-2018 school year will be held on  
Monday, June 4th, 2018 at 6:30pm in the Library.**