



2017-2018 Wilkinson School Community Council September 17, 2018

Meeting Minutes - Approved

The 2017-2018 Chair, Angelina Diassiti called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Agenda

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| 1. Approval of September Agenda | 4. Committee Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dandylion Workshop- Treasurer's Update- Communications- Arts- Babysitting & Permits | 5. New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Constitution Update |
| 2. Approval of June Minutes | | 6. Adjournment of Council Meeting |
| 3. Principal's Update | | |
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Attendance

Present:

Jenny Georgiou (VP)
Angelina Diassiti (Chair)
Dan Dumitrescu (Vice Chair)
Ben Elling (Treasurer)
Shanna Breslin (Secretary)
Joel Krentz (Staff)
Sophie Barbier (Staff)
Anthea Moreau (Dandylion)
Rob Jefferson
Safran Lafeer
Stephanie Lamb
Lilian Ling
April Moon

Brenda Ohngemach
Michela Pasquali
Fernanda Perdikaris
Julia Warrender

Guests:

Jennifer Stiff
Lisa Zivontsis
Charlotte Mason
Joanna Sadoff
Julie Way
Farah Ganpaul
Marianne Bartkiw

Regrets:

Allan Kelly (Principal)
David Milgram (Acting Principal)

Absent:

Erin Vaillancourt
Raihana Ingar

1. Approval of September Agenda

- Fernanda and Julia approved.



2. Approval of June Minutes

- Brenda and Michela approved.

3. Principal's Update: Jenny Georgiou

- Curriculum Night is this Thursday: Everyone will meet in the gym and meet the staff - there are a number of new people this year.
 - Next, everyone heads to the classrooms to meet the teachers and talk about the curriculum. Parents and guardians can go the classrooms for each of their children.
 - It's not a time to ask for status updates on kids > progress reports will come out in November and interviews can be scheduled after.
- Orange Shirt Day: Friday, Sept 28.
 - Staff and students are encouraged to wear any piece of orange clothing.
 - Orange Shirt Day grew out of a young girl named Phyllis's story of having her new orange shirt taken from her on her first day at a residential school. The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year. Orange shirts are worn to commemorate the residential school experience, to witness and honour the healing journey of the survivors and their families, and to commit to the ongoing process of reconciliation. <http://www.angeshirtday.org/>
- Grade 3 CCAT Screening: Universal screening process across the TDSB which is meant to inform the teachers about learning strengths and needs of each student and consider which students may benefit from further testing for exceptionalities such as giftedness.
 - A letter will be sent home ahead of time to inform parents of this screening.
 - More information can be found on the [TDSB website](#).
 - Families have the opportunity to opt-out > it is done in 30 min blocks Oct 1-3.
 - The results of this screening are not recorded on report cards and the school gets the results at the same time as the families.
 - If students meet certain criteria, parents are asked if they want to continue to the next testing stage.
- Terry Fox Run: Oct 4. This is the same day as the first cross country meet for those students who are participating.
- Photo day is Oct 23.
- There is a Halloween assembly on October 31.



- EQAO: We did really well again this year. Information and results can be found on the [EQAO website](#)
 - We did a great deal of professional development with staff last year, especially in math, to ensure that our numbers stay high.
 - The EQAO is written in English at our school (not in French).
- Sewing Program: We have discussed bringing in *Denise Wild's Sewing Studio* a number of times, most recently at the June meeting.
 - I have contacted our Educational Partnership Office and asked if the vendor is TDSB approved and unfortunately, they are not.
 - This was the answer received:
 - "The original assessment from various Teaching & Learning departments indicated that the programming did not meet curriculum criteria and that the programming requires a more lengthy time commitment than is suitable for instructional time. They did find the programming valuable and a unique learning opportunity that is quite suitable as an after-school, lunch, March Break, or summer program – i.e. outside of instructional time."
 - Question: If only TDSB approved vendors can be used during school hours, how did the other schools use them? We don't know, but in our case we can't book vendors that are not approved.
 - They are looking to get accredited - if they do, we may be able to use them. Otherwise we might look into other vendors.
- In June we asked about adding disposal receptacles for sanitary products in the girls bathroom in the basement. ***Update: these will be installed ASAP.***

4. Committee Reports

Committee members provided an update of upcoming and ongoing initiatives.

Keeping Kids Safe Workshop: Charlotte Mason

- The Dandy Lion Daycare board is hosting a workshop, *Keeping Kids Safe in the Online and Offline World*, on Monday September, 24th from 7-9pm in the Wilkinson gym.
- It's for anyone interested in learning about helping to keep children and youth safe from harm, both offline and online > What to look for, how to talk to children and practical safety tips. All are welcome.
- The session is being run by Pearl Rimer of [Boost Child and Youth Advocacy Centre](#)
- Comment: Last year staff mentioned looking at bringing in a discussion session through TDSB for Grade 6 students about coping with anxiety.



- Something related, but slightly different is a peer leadership program where older students can be trained to help the younger kids. We find that the younger kids seem to have the most anxiety around school. *Joel will send us info.*
- Internet and health safety is also covered in Health and a bit in the Library.
- Recess Success: Grade 6 ambassadors lead activities to get kids involved and help them to feel connected.

Treasurer's Update - Budget Approval: Ben Elling

- Last September a conservative budget was set and things have now been finalized.
- In June, committee leads were contacted to update their budget numbers and spending expectations for this year.
- If all things go as planned (based on conservative estimates), we are looking at \$4000 net income for the year. It doesn't leave us with a ton of wiggle room.
- Getting our financials organized was a big job last year so we want to encourage all leads to use the profit and loss template for events so that we can accurately track our expenses and make things easier for everyone.
 - *Ben is going to create a template to send to all leads.*
- Does this mean that at the end of the year there will be \$4000 for the start of next year? Yes, if all things go as planned and we raise what we did last year from events
- Performing Arts: Can we increase our budget to \$4000.
 - We haven't raised the budget in years and we're finding that the cost of programming continues to go up.
 - It's getting difficult to keep under the budget and provide dynamic programming.
 - Motion to increase. *Motion carried.*
- Scientists in the School: Each class gets one visit currently and staff have asked if we could afford two.
- We need to figure out how much this would cost - if it's double the price or less.
- Has the cost of this increased due to inflation? Could we agree to bump the budget for inflation and if that amount is not needed or could not be spent evenly (i.e. either all classes get two visits or none do), then it will not be used.
 - Motion to increase to \$4000. *Motion carried.*
- In June we discussed the possibility of increasing the budget for the school graduation ceremony. Gail, a staff member who has now left the school, had been doing the decorations by herself and they will now need to be done some other way.
 - Do we want to increase our spending on the graduation, considering we also pay for yearbooks?



- We would like to see an estimate of how the money is spent before we make a decision.
- Comment: The school talked a few years ago about using the TDSB yearbook service instead of Bright Pics. It may save money which could then be shifted to graduation. The books may not be as nice and things need to get submitted earlier, but it could save quite a bit. *Joel will look into this and we will revisit in January.*
- Lice checks: The current figure budgets for a single school-wide check because last year we agreed that we would pay for one and, based on the results, decide whether or not to go forward with a yearly program.
 - We have decided to go forward and have launched that program this year.
 - Because funding 3 checks per year (\$3500) is too much for the Council to commit to funding yearly, we have set up a lice fund and asked families to consider making contributions to the program.
 - We would like to ask that Council be prepared to fund 2 checks per year, regardless of the amount of money raised from the lice fund as we've all agreed that the program is important and we'd like to go forward with it.
 - The cost of this would be a maximum spend of \$2300 (this cost includes 509 students, but it is unlikely all of our students would be at school for a given lice check unless our school population increases significantly).
 - In January, 2017 we ended up checking 450 students for a cost of \$1017.
 - Money raised from the lice fund each year will go towards either funding a third check per year or partially funding the two checks, depending on how much is raised. Any left over will be carried forward from year to year to ensure that the program can continue.
 - Motion to increase the budget to \$2300 to cover the cost of 2 lice checks annually. *Motion carried.*
- Moving EDGEUcation: Staff are asking for funding to bring in Groove Experience Interactive Student Sessions by Moving EDGEUcation (formerly Groove Edgeucation).
 - These workshops promote physical activity, develop physical literacy, movement competencies and practice the 3 living skills (personal skills, interpersonal skills, critical and creative thinking skills) by engaging the Body, Brain and Being.
 - Set to fun and contemporary music, activities use a wide variety of fundamental movement skills, and gross motor skills all while using creative problem solving, decision making, personal expression and healthy peer interactions.
 - This year, they will be doing a numeracy focus.



- The one-day program includes 5 sessions, each including 4 classes. Session length is 30-45 mins.
- Cost is \$888.46, which includes tax and an early booking discount.
- We did it last year and the staff and students really enjoyed it. It's good value for money and involves the whole school. There are online resources for the staff so that the skills can be brought back to classrooms. Would like this to be an annual funding request. It's both HPE and literacy/numeracy > the staff are all in favour.
- Motion to include it as a line in the annual budget. *Motion carried.*
- Motion to approve the budget numbers as amended. *Motion carried.*
- E-Transfers: The Communications Committee has been discussing the possibility of bringing this in and we're happy to announce that it has been successfully set up.
 - Please keep this in mind for your events and registrations!
 - We have to work out the logistics in terms of tracking information because the notes field is very short. We will send out details once we have this worked out.
 - This can only be used to receive money - not to send it. That still needs to be done with a 2-signature cheque. The process for expenses has not changed.
 - E-transfers will be for Council items - not for school items.
- It was mentioned some time ago that the school might go cashless. Is there an update on this? *Update: the Board hopes to have this in place by June*
- What is the cheque signing process in Allan's absence? We should have a school staff member on the account. Jenny will be added. We should also have a second person - perhaps in the office, in case Jenny is not here. *Ben will look at the rules around who can sign.*

Communications - Greening Initiative: Julia Warrender

- We noticed last year that a lot of our hard copy handouts were not making it home > sometimes students are told to take them if they need them or they're used as scrap paper or they get lost in bags.
- We spent about \$1530 on printing = 8.7% of our expenses and 8000 sheets of paper.
- Because we are a Platinum EcoSchool, and to cut back on waste and put more money into programming we're asking that everyone cut down on printing where possible.
- We have now reached the tipping point where most people seem to be signed up for our email list.
- What about people who don't have internet access?
- For people who don't sign-up for our emails and can't access our website, we will put up



posters at the school and at Dandylion for our events and have a few hard copies of information available in the office. We can also add to the morning announcements.

- We've created a flyer letting people know how to access information and will be asking the teachers this week to pass it on electronically and request hard copies for families that have not provided email addresses so that we aren't printing 500 flyers when most of them aren't needed.
- Comment from Dandylion: We should put any posters we'd like hung up at the daycare in the Dandylion mailbox.
- This initiative will compliment our e-transfers > parents who cannot get to the school don't have to come by to physically sign-up for things.
- Comment: Something mentioned at the Eco-audit last spring was that councils have stopped using juice boxes at pizza lunches for environmental reasons.
 - Pizza Lunch Committee: Rather than making the decision we would like to give students the facts and poll them to find out if they are interested in getting rid of the boxes. *Perhaps the EcoTeam will take this on.*
 - The PL team likes the idea of the Google form but really enjoys connecting with the community when people drop off the forms during in-person registration.
 - We would like to start with both options and see how it goes. Perhaps we could do one Pizza Lunch sign-up (instead of two) to reduce paper and create a form that is half-size.
 - Comment: one advantage of the Google form is that it creates a spreadsheet automatically to track data.
 - We will work out the logistics and introduce the program gradually.

Arts Programming: Stephanie Lamb and April Moon

- Red Sky Productions - [Mistatim](#) (Grades 1-6) Jan 16 @ 1pm (theatre).
 - Curriculum Connections: Explores Native language, culture, heritage, identity and Canadian history.
- Ballet Creole - [Toukande](#) (Grades 1-6) Feb 25 @ 12:45 (dance).
 - A special presentation for Black History Month that explores the vibrant cultural heritage of Guinea's Malinke people!
- Roseneath Theatre - [Head à Tête](#) (Grades 4-6) March 18 @ 12:45 (French theatre).
 - The story of two strangers who overcome the barriers of language and mistrust to find friendship (*50/50 French English*).



- Nathalie Vachon - [*Imagination on the Loose*](#) (JK/SK) April 5 @ 12:45 (storytelling/music)
 - An interactive ride through folktales from around the world, adventures told in rhyme, and modern fairy tales with a twist!
- Canadian Stage Program (April): At Shakespeare in High Park, we ran a program where kids aged 14-21 created stories and turned them into productions.
 - We could bring a program into the school for Gr. 6 students utilizing these performers.
 - Our Education and Audience Development Manager, Autumn Smith, would come in first to speak with the teachers about storytelling.
 - Next she would bring in the performers (mentioned above) to perform their stories for the kids. Each performer would then work with a small group of students to create a story which could be shared.
 - The program focuses on sharing stories and legacies and keeping community storytelling alive.
- The normal cost is \$1000, but we could get it for a discount at \$500.
- Because we voted to increase the arts budget earlier, we now have the money and will bring in the program.

Babysitting and Permit Coordinators

- Is anyone able to take over these responsibilities?
- Babysitting Coordinator: involves booking babysitters for Council meetings and other events when needed.
 - Please refer to the Legacy Planning document for more information > in the Processes folder "Process_Template_Babysitting.docx"
- Permit Coordinator: involves booking permits for Council events.
 - Please refer to the Legacy Planning document for more information > in the Processes folder "Process_Template_Permits.docx"
- We will discuss this again at our October meeting and figure out which other areas/committees need help.

5. New Business

Constitution Update: Shanna Breslin

- In April we approved an advertising policy for our email newsletter and would like to add it to the Council Constitution, which outlines our purpose and the way that we do things (it is available on the Council page of our website).



- In order to make changes to the Constitution, we need to vote on the changes at a meeting so we thought it might be a good time for us to decide if there are any other edits that we'd like to make and update the document once.
- The current Constitution (last updated in September, 2015) was sent out to Council members in June and comments and suggestions were collected over the summer.
- All suggested edits were compiled and sent out during the first week in September for review prior to this meeting.
- Many of the changes were suggested to increase readability and bring processes and policies in line with the way that we currently operate (e.g. posting things online and using Funding Request Forms).
- The constitution will be sent out again with the minutes from tonight's meeting.
- *Can everyone please read it and be ready to comment or approve on October 1st!*

New Event: Rob Jefferson

- Do all of our programs and events need to have a fundraising component?
- No, some of our events and all of our seminars are for community building.
- I'd like to create TED Talks-type event with parents from the school. People would present what they're passionate about and we'd have about 4-5 speakers per evening.
- Would kids come too? It's aimed at parents as a way to bring people together and get people involved with Council.
- Comment: One reservation is that we've paid for experts to come in and give talks numerous times and have had a turnout of about 7 people. Is this likely to draw more of a crowd?
- It may be more appealing if they're short talks and are parents from the school.
- Could it be linked with Wilkitchen since they have a similar purpose?
- We'd like to send out a poll to see if there's interest and if people are willing to present.
- *Rob will do some research and present a proposal at a future meeting.*
- We have a number of guests at the meeting tonight. Did any of you have a specific reason for coming or anything you wanted to voice or mention? (No comments)

6. Council meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.

The first meeting of the new 2018-2019 Council will be held on Monday, October 1st, 2018 at 6:30pm in the Library.