



2015-2016 Wilkinson School Community Council

April 4, 2016

Meeting Minutes - Approved

Principal Kelly and Vice Chair Dan Dumistrescu called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Agenda

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approval of April Agenda2. Approval of March Minutes3. Principal's Update4. Chair's Update | <ol style="list-style-type: none">5. Committee Updates<ul style="list-style-type: none">- PRO Grant- Greening Committee- Communications- Treasury Update- Derby Update- Teachers Lunch- Movie Night- Fun Fair Update | <ol style="list-style-type: none">6. Dandylion Daycare7. New Business<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Lunch 3rd Party Activities8. Adjournment of Meeting |
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Attendance

Present:

Allan Kelly (Principal)
Dan Dumistrescu (Vice Chair)
Sharon Hennessey (Treasurer)
Shanna Breslin (Secretary)
Patrina Stathopoulos (Dandylion)
Angelina Diassiti
Anna MacDonald
April Moon

Julia Warrender
Lilian Ling
Michela Pasquali
Raihana Ingar
Rob Jefferson

Brenda Ohngmach
Batya Levy

Regrets:

Erin Vaillancourt (Chair)
Carmen Doyle
Kathryn Underwood
Yasmin Buhariwala (VP)

Absent:

Christina Dumitrescu
Jill Spellman
Kris Kearns
Natalie Kauffman
Paula Kahn
Sultana Yeasmin Uddin



1. Approval of April Agenda

- Michela and Shanna approved.

2. Approval of March Minutes

- Julia and Angelina approved.

3. Principal's Update – Allan Kelly

- Staffing: We are moving along in the staffing process and any surplus will be declared at the end of this week.
 - This year's model is very similar to last year's. One change is that there will be a new split Grade 3/4 class.
- TDSB News: The Board is in the process of restructuring and they have recalled all of the Board level itinerant teachers to return to their home schools.
 - Instead of having 200 such teachers, they are looking at keeping half of the positions and changing/combining others (cost-cutting and efficiency measure).
 - The end result is that these teachers should be more accessible to schools.
- Roofing: The roof repair appears to be finished!
- Schoolyard: There is a small lake that forms in the school yard when it rains.
 - Workers have come to clean out the drainage and repair the grading in the ground, but the lake persists.
 - We are working on fixing this problem.
- Syrian Refugee Sponsorship Committee: The group is moving forward with their sponsorship plan although the government is now slowing the process.
 - Some of the group's communications continue to come through the WSCC channel - *if this is an issue, please let Allan know.*
 - The group is having a fundraising bake sale at the school on April 13.
 - Reminder: Board rules are very clear that students are not to promote this project in any way.
- 100th Anniversary: The event is going forward as planned and the agenda has been set. We have collected some memorabilia and old photos as well.
 - Parents are encouraged to come out, especially those that have family who have attended the school.



- Walter Cruikshank, former principal and namesake of the gym, is going to be speaking.
- Suggestion to put out an ad or a story in a local paper to promote the event > right now all we have is a Facebook page. The page has gotten 1000's of hits so it seems as though word of mouth is travelling.
- *Does the parent council have a role (refreshments?) > we need to ask Erin.* No food is being served, just water, coffee and tea. The event is mostly about taking a walk down memory lane.
- Sports: Our junior co-ed volleyball team won their last tournament and is moving on to regionals this week. Go team!

4. Chair's Update

Please see the committee updates section.

5. Committee Reports

Committee members provided an update of upcoming and ongoing initiatives.

PRO Grant - Anna MacDonald

- *Should we continue to apply for the Grant?*
 - The Grant requires a lot of admin work for very little output.
 - We have gotten it for several years in a row > maybe we should let other schools use the funding next year.
 - This year's seminar only used about half of the Grant money (rest is taken back) > perhaps seminars can come out of the Council budget going forward?
 - The feedback from the seminar was that it was good/useful, but only about 20 parents participated > many said they didn't see the emails or remember the date.
- Ideas for future years:
 - Perhaps we can invite other schools in the area the next time we do it and they can reciprocate > build community.
 - Get creative with grant ideas: in the past, we've used the grant money for events like Wilkitchen or for handbook translation.
- Next year we'll decide if we want to do it again or take some time off.



Greening Committee

- Mme Barbier wants to purchase plants and seeds for the learning garden > about 10 classes are interested in planting the seeds in class. 4 classes will then transplant their seedlings to the garden and the other 6 classes will take their plants home.
 - In the past, this cost has not come out of the Council budget > Allan has confirmed that he will cover it again this year.
- Possible dates for the community garden cleanup day: April 30th or May 7. Since it's still snowing, May might be safer and it will be done before the 100th anniversary.
- **May 7 is to be confirmed by the Greening Committee.**

Communications – Angelina Diassiti

- Committee Changes: Rob has decided to step down as the Chair. Shanna will be filling in for him. We have a great team and everyone pitches in to share the load. Shanna and Lilian will be managing the Council email as of April 4.
- Website: We met a few weeks ago and discussed the website feedback we received > made a number of changes based on that and on our own testing.
 - Last week we launched the site via email and flyers > over 100 people came to explore the site on launch day (according to Google Analytics).
 - There was also a low rate of bounce-back, meaning that people checked out more than one page of the site when they visited.
 - We would like to purchase a more robust web calendar, which costs \$90US (\$113 CAN) per year. Features Include: recurring events, countdown to event, additional event fields, event categorization (by type or by organizer).
 - **Rob put forth motion to approve calendar purchase for this year. Julia seconded. Approved by Council > Rob or Michela will send Sharon an invoice once purchased.**
 - We need to move to another web host because our website is running slowly with the current Go Daddy set up. Kevin has researched options and has suggested that we switch to a different company that is offering a 3-year contract for \$4 US per month if paid up-front (\$150 US total). We are currently in the second year of our 3 year commitment with Go Daddy and it costs us less than \$5 per month so switching now is not a large monetary loss.
 - **Rob put for a motion to approve \$200 to move to the new host immediately. Angelina seconded. Approved by Council > Rob, Michela and Kevin will do this.**



- Calendar dates: For events that are not school-run, like the Syrian Refugee Sponsorship Committee bake sale, do we want them added to the website calendar? *Allan will ask the Board what the rules are around this.* General consensus is that we do not have an issue with this as long as it is stated that the event is not school run and we give info on who to contact for details/questions.
- Amazon Associate Proposal > joining the program requires sign-up and no specific products get advertised.
 - We provide the community with a link for the school and get a commission for everything purchased through the link.
 - One concern is that we may be advertising for Amazon > we will discuss at the next Council meeting.
 - *Lilian will send a written explanation to the Council so that we can approve at the next meeting. Allan will check with the Board to make sure that this is allowable.*

Treasury Update – Sharon Hennessey

- As of today, we have \$20,900 in our bank account > \$2300 from pizza lunch and about \$220 from Derby registration have not been deposited yet.
- Looking at our expenses and assuming we spend on budget, we are about \$3,800 over budget. Part of this is the school uniforms which were purchased previously but paid for this year.
- The pizza lunch seems to be on track to meet budgeted revenue. Movie Night is tracking slightly lower than projected, but we budgeted for this. The Bake Sale was successful and raised more than expected. We usually budget \$0 for Direct Donations and have raised just over \$1000 so far this year.
- We approved \$20,000 to be spent on technology > purchases have already been made and the tech is in the classrooms, but invoices have not been submitted yet. Technology is purchased through the Board as mandated, which also gives us a slight discount.
- We should end up slightly above budget at the end of the year.



Derby – Rob Jefferson

- The Derby is happening this Friday - registration starts at 5pm and the Derby is set to begin at 6pm.
- We need about 7 more volunteers: money collection, registration, 5-6 people to handle crowd control (last year we had almost 300 people in the gym), and clean up.
 - Registration volunteers > arrive at 4:30pm.
 - Event management volunteers > arrive at 6pm.
 - Clean up team > arrive at 8:30pm.
 - Contact Rob if you are able to help out.
- We would love some teachers to be involved - *Allan will ask staff.*
- April is going to try to find high school students to help and Dandy Lion can spread the word to recruit volunteers. *Rob will send info over.*
- Maybe we can get Grade 6's involved as a leadership thing? Not at this point - it's very quick and busy so it's best to use adults.

Teacher/Staff Lunch - Allan Kelly

- Erin and Angelina have researched a few caterers and decided on using the same one as last year > the menu will remain very much the same, but the price has gone up by about \$30 total > can we approve \$900 (for 45 staff)?
- Last year the staff really enjoyed the lunch and food.
- Comment that there has been a significant year over year increase in spending on this.
- Next year we will discuss it earlier to look into other options.
- **Rob motioned to go with the proposal and approve \$900. Shanna seconded. Approved by Council.**

Movie Night – Dan Dumistrescu

- Kung Fu Panda 3 was a hit - there were about 100 kids and 60 adults and it was a lot of fun. All of the pizza and samosas were eaten and the popcorn was non-stop.
- A successful evening!



Fun Fair – April Moon

- Planning is really getting going now and after the Derby, things will be in full force.
- Communications will begin in the coming weeks.
- April has met with all of the leads at this point and we are in great shape so far > lots of volunteers are helping.
- The sponsorship letter is approved and ready to go out to the community.
- The leads will be meeting as a group in the coming weeks.

6. Dandy Lion Daycare - Patrina Stathopoulos

- We are busy planning for the summer and for the Annual General Meeting at the beginning of June.
- We are working on expanding and introducing another program as we are at full capacity. As the building cannot expand, we are looking at using school space.
- Staff will help pass out letters for Fun Fair sponsorship and there may be some staff who can come and help out on the day of.

7. New Business

Third Party Lunch Activities - Allan Kelly

- *Are they a good fit for the school currently?*
- Although the survey responses were mostly positive, there is a group of parents that is vocally opposed to third-party paid programming being offered at the school.
- Although these programs do cost money, the intention was to bring a new opportunity to the school (programs are currently running at hundreds of schools in the city). Many families may not be aware that such programs exist and this is a way to let kids experience something new. As well, many families experience logistical issues in getting kids to after school or weekend programs.
- Although many of the older kids have a lot of extracurricular school activities already, the Kindergarteners have no such programming and the Grade 1's very little.
- At this point, there is a lot of opposition and it's felt that the programs are not a good fit for the school. We now have done a lot of research and can revisit in the future.



Hot Lunch Program

- Last year someone was researching the possibility of bringing in a hot lunch program to the school. It seemed popular > are there any updates on this?
- We looked into the proposed caterer (Real Food For Real Kids) and they do not have a Halal option so we will not be going forward.
- Comment: A lot of places also charge extra money for any allergies or substitutions and it becomes cost prohibitive.
- Although a lot of parents were interested in this idea, we do not have a team of people willing to coordinate the program so it cannot move forward at this point.

Lost And Found Items

- Now is the time of year when the Lost and Found is overflowing.
- We may be able to spread items out in a room during Fun Fair so that people can claim their stuff.
- *Julia and Shanna will send a reminder to look through the Lost and Found with the next Weekly Update email and will post something on the website.*

8. Council meeting adjourned at 8 pm

**The Next Scheduled Council Meeting Will Be Held On
Monday May 2 , 2016 At 6:30pm In Room 3.**