



2020-2021 Wilkinson School Community Council September 13, 2021

Meeting Minutes - Approved

The 2020-2021 Co-Chair, Lisa Zivontsis called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

Agenda

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1. Approval of September Agenda | 4. Committee Updates
- ARE Committee | 5. New Business
- AGM
- Priorities
- Reminders for October
- Meeting Dates |
| 2. Approval of June Minutes | | 6. Adjournment of Council Meeting |
| 3. Principal's Update | | |
-

Attendance

Present:

Kim Jensen (Principal)
Nicki Keenlside (VP)
Lisa Zivontsis (Co-Chair)
Angeli Mehta (Co-Chair)
Vince Chan (Treasurer)
Shanna Breslin (Secretary)
Amy Cole
Rob Jefferson
Stephanie Lamb
Brenda Ohngemach
Fernanda Perdikaris
Lindsay Reimers
Shirin Shahrokni
Norah Shaughnessy
Deborah Shub
Chantal Sweeting

Guests:

Sarah Weaver
Arif Pathan
Emily
Leanne Barr
Beth Martin
Parsa Khandaker
Sarah Miles
Emily Davidson
Farah Ganpaul
Amy Mullin
Emmeline Hobbs
Martine de Saint-Sardos
Michelle Seemann
Valerie

Regrets:

Dayna Tekatch
Erin Vaillancourt

Absent:

Anthea Moreau (Dandyllion)
Jennifer Stiff
Rose Ullah
Ryan Wozniak



1. Approval of September Agenda

- Rob and Stephanie approved.

2. Approval of June Minutes

- Chantal and Rob approved.

3. Principal's Update: Kim Jensen

- Welcome everyone! I look forward to meeting you all in person.
- Now that we're in year two of COVID protocols, things have been moving much smoother than last year at this time – thank you, parents!
 - We are using the paper version of the health pass now as we don't have wifi out in the yard to enable the staff to use the app. Most students have been remembering to bring it, so that's great.
 - We are repainting the room lines so they can be seen better.
- We recently did a big reorganization of classrooms. This could happen again over the next few weeks.
 - We are assigned staff based on enrollment and system averages. The primary classes (Gr. 1-3) have a cap of 20 students. The junior rooms do not have caps. We are assigned a $\frac{3}{4}$ split and are told how many Grades 3 and 4 students to put in that class. We were also given 2 junior English teachers and 4 junior French teachers. We then work within those parameters to assign teachers and staff to classrooms.
 - We currently have 9 primary classes: 1 is at 20 students and the rest are under.
 - Our two junior English rooms are at 30 students each.
 - Our virtual classes include students from several schools and only about 3-4 Wilkinson families.
 - Our Kindergarten classes are fairly low right now and some of our junior classes are high, which means they could be impacted by a reorganization over the coming weeks if we lose or gain any staff.
 - If there is a reorganization in Kindergarten it will likely be a closure of the smallest room and then moving students to the other rooms.
 - Concern about the size of the junior rooms with 30 kids > does not seem safe. The class sizes are driven by enrollment. We were only given 2 English junior teachers and had to split the children between the two rooms. We are certainly advocating for smaller class sizes and will find out if we get allocated more staff within the next few weeks.



- Comment: Noticed we have about 50 virtual kids. Has the school planned anything to keep these students connected to the school? The two teachers are part of our staff and are included in all meetings > doing our best to stay cohesive and connected. Those rooms have about 2-3 Wilkinson families and the rest are not typically part of our catchment. Principal Jensen will be going in and greeting the classes the way that she does with all of our rooms, but there are no other concrete plans at this point.
- The schoolyard is split into 8 chunks. Each class has their own. The primaries will stay in the same chunk for a week, and the juniors may rotate every day. We are asking students for input on the chunk mapping to make the yard usage more equitable.
- Visitors: Please contact the school for an appointment before coming to the main door. Screening will be done, and you'll then sign in and provide contact tracing info.
- Ventilation: What are the current standards and is there CO₂ monitoring happening. What consideration is in place for areas with overlapping student traffic? Our air exchanges are on max – they are open early and run throughout the day. We have HEPA filters in every classroom but not in the hallways. We do have good windows all over the school and they are opened as soon as staff arrive. CO₂ – nothing outside of what's normally done at the school.
- Fundraising and Events: We do not know the current guidelines yet, only that council meetings are virtual currently.
 - ***Update: Fundraising can continue but must adhere to TPH guidelines.***
 - ***In-person fundraising events are not recommended – best to opt for virtual fundraising initiatives & promote online fund collection options.***
 - ***Encouraged to use School Cash Online system for school activity fee collections and/or the TDSB online donation module for collection of donations [to minimize cash & cheque handling]***
- Comment: We seem to have about 25 fewer students this year. How does it impact us and why are there less? Our population impacts our staffing allocation and ratio of students to staff. Our Kindergarten numbers are lower than usual, but otherwise, our enrollment matches where the board estimated it would be in the spring.
- Introduction of Nicki Keenlside, our new Vice Principal. It's been wonderful to meet so many new students and watch their interactions with our staff. Wilkinson has a great reputation and I'm excited to be here. Welcome Nicki!



4. Committee Reports

Committee members provided an update of upcoming and ongoing initiatives.

Anti-Racism and Equity (ARE) Committee: Beth Martin

- Our goal is to ensure that everyone at the school feels welcome > we're trying to continue the TDSB anti-racism and equity work.
- We've been working on several projects over the summer, including the signs at the front of the school and working with the library to bring in diverse stories and protagonists.
- We would like to turn our crosswalk into a rainbow crosswalk.

Greening and Grounds Committee: Beth Martin

- We are trying to create more opportunities for kids to learn outside > the Learning Garden has been cleaned up and mulch has been added.
- We're taking an inventory of the plants in the garden, compiling facts about them, and pushing an indigenous agriculture connection. We're hoping to get some speakers involved to give families exposure to indigenous principles and learning opportunities.
- The garden is directly off Donlands in front of the Kindy playground. You will see our three sisters mound, which illustrates companion planting (corn, beans, and squash).
- We have been working with Mr. Quenneville to introduce a lot of these ideas into the curriculum.
- It's hard to build community when we can't get together in-person in the school, but these committees are a great way to build community and get involved. Thank you, Parent Council and Principal Jensen for your support over the last several months!
- *Both the ARE and Greening and Grounds committees are looking for new members > email council@wilkinsonps.org if interested.*

5. New Business

AGM Report Approval: Shanna Breslin

- Our Annual General Meeting is held each year in June. At that meeting, we report on our accomplishments for the year and outline how our programs and activities supported the curriculum. Council members are given time to suggest edits and then we approve the final version of the report each September.
- The report is available on the [Council page of our website](#) and was circulated to the community in June.
- The only thing that changed since June is the financial summary on the last page.



- In June, we closed our external TD bank account and moved to the School Cash Online system used by the TDSB. We had some loose ends to clean up as a result. After the October meeting, the new Executive Committee will meet with the school administration to go over the new policies and protocols for that system. Most things won't change much from the perspective of Council members, but there will be extra steps for the Executive Committee and the school Office Administrator.
- The "YE Transfer" section includes programs that are paid for by the school. We then reimburse the school at the end of the year. We were not able to get final figures for the 2019-20 school year because of the school closure, so we paid the year-end transfer amount for both 2019-20 and 2020-21 in June.
- Mabel's Labels sent us fundraising cheques last year. Because the school was closed, they expired. They reissued the payments over the summer, and we are awaiting arrival of the cheque.
- While submitting our financial report to the TDSB last month, we noticed that our Amazon payments (online shopping program) have not come through. They were set up via direct deposit. After entering in our new bank account information, Amazon said they would reissue our payments. We have confirmed that we just received \$556 from them – our [online shopping links](#) are a great way to earn money for the school!
 - At our October meeting, we will be discussing our budget for this year.
- Motion to approve the AGM report. *Motion carried.*

Brainable: Brenda Ohngemach

- Brainable is an engaging and interactive 75-minute session about the brain and brain health designed for students in grades 5 through 8 in Ontario. Brainable is available at no cost to participating schools thanks to the generous support of Women's Brain Health Initiative donors.
- Taught by a board-certified and qualified educator, in both English and French, Brainable enhances the Middle School Health Curriculum and includes follow-up guides and activities for students, teachers, and parents that reinforce brain healthy habits.
- Principal Jensen feels it looks very promising. We need to ensure it is TDSB approved. She will look into it further and will get back to us on it.
- More info can be found at the website <https://www.brainable.ca/>
- Here is a link to a CBC segment on it (5 min overview): <https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-82/clip/15865195>



Reminders for Next Month: Lisa Zivontsis and Shanna Breslin

- After this meeting, we'll be sending out information about joining this year's Parent Council. Please note that we are required to submit new nomination forms each year. This includes existing members who wish to continue. The form will be emailed out later on this week.
- At the October meeting, we'll be electing the new Executive Committee. Descriptions of the roles will be sent out with this month's minutes. We have some executive members that would like to continue in their current roles, but the positions are open to all Council members.
 - Sadly, Angeli is not able to continue as Co-Chair this year, so **we are looking for a new active Vice Chair or Co-Chair**. If you have questions about specific roles, please email council@wilkinsonps.org.
 - *If you'd like to run for a position, kindly let us know by Monday, September 27th.*
- We will also need to approve the School Statement of Needs (SSON). Information about this document was circulated with this month's meeting agenda and will be sent again with the minutes.
 - Each year we update this document, which is used by our superintendent in the event that a new principal needs to be hired. It captures the school/community's priorities so that an appropriate candidate can be matched with the school. More information about the Statement of Needs can be found on the [PIAC website](#).
 - *Please take some time to read over the document and submit any edits/suggestions by Monday, September 27th. The document must be submitted to the TDSB by the end of October.*
- And we'll be approving this year's budget at the October meeting. The current budget is included at the end of the AGM report, which was sent out with the agenda and will be distributed again with the minutes.
 - *Could all committee leads please review the 2019-2020 budget column and let us know by Monday, September 27th if your committee's budget requires an update?*
 - This is a "best guess" scenario as we know that things are uncertain now. If you know your event will not run this year, please let us know.
- The TDSB and PIAC will be distributing information about the PRO Grant next month. We would like to come up with ideas for how to use this money.
 - *If you have any ideas, please check the [PIAC website](#) for criteria (not posted yet) and plan to present your idea at the October meeting.*
 - We'll then vote to choose one and our Education Committee will submit the



application.

Priorities For the Year: Lisa Zivontsis and Angeli Mehta

- Last year we tried our best to be creative and come up with new ideas for virtual events and fundraisers, like Scientists in School, coffee meet and greets, trivia night, and the book fair.
- Do we have any initial ideas for this year?
- Another trivia night!
- The ARE and Greening Grounds would like to do speaker series as soon as possible. Does this qualify for the \$500 Ministry [Parent Engagement](#) funding? Last year we were not able to use it, but a speaker series involving parents would qualify. We don't have to apply for that funding, instead it is allocated within the system.
- *If anyone has ideas for how to use Council funds, please submit a [General Funding Request form](#) a week before the nearest Council meeting so we can discuss and vote on proposals. The same process should be followed for PRO Grant ideas.*

Meeting Dates Approval: All

- The proposed dates are:
 - October 4
 - November 15
 - January 10
 - February 7
 - April 4
 - May 9
 - June 13
- We have done our best to avoid any conflicts, but if these dates conflict with a religious observance that would prevent someone from attending a meeting, please [let us know](#).
- Typically, we don't meet in March or December. The requirement is a minimum of five meetings per year, and because those two months are usually quite busy, the meetings are never well-attended.
- Motion to approve these meeting dates. *Motion carried*

6. Council meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm

The first meeting of the new 2021-2022 Council will be held on Monday, October 4th, 2021, at 6:30pm via Zoom Video Conference.