



2020-2021 Wilkinson School Community Council

March 22, 2021

Meeting Minutes - Approved

The 2020-2021 Co-Chair, Lisa Zivontsis called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

Agenda

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approval of March Agenda2. Approval of February Minutes3. Principal's Update | <ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Committee Updates
- Education Committee | <ol style="list-style-type: none">5. New Business<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ward Forum Update- Graduation- Book Fair- Year-End Activity6. Adjournment of Council Meeting |
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Attendance

Present:

Kim Jensen (Principal)
Lisa Zivontsis (Co-Chair)
Angeli Mehta (Co-Chair)
Shanna Breslin (Secretary)
Anthea Moreau (Dandylion)
Amy Cole
Stephanie Lamb
Brenda Ohngemach
Norah Shaughnessy

Deborah Shub
Jennifer Stiff
Chantal Sweeting
Dayna Tekatch
Rose Ullah
Ryan Wozniak

Guests:

Elizabeth Martin
Senela Curguz

Regrets:

Vince Chan (Treasurer)

Absent:

Rob Jefferson
Fernanda Perdikaris
Lindsay Reimers
Erin Vaillancourt

1. Approval of March Agenda

- Dayna and Stephanie approved.

2. Approval of February Minutes

- Dayna and Stephanie approved.



3. Principal's Update: Kim Jensen

- As of this week, our cohorts have been reduced to single classes. Toronto Public Health (TPH) came in to investigate our recent positive case and instructed us to move to this model. The yard has now been broken down into 7 smaller chunks.
 - The ball hockey court will only be used for Physical Education.
- Is it required that all kids sent home to isolate get tested and submit results? TPH encourages all close contacts of a positive case to get tested, but not siblings (unless they have symptoms) as they are second degree contacts. Testing is encouraged but not required.
 - Siblings have a different timeframe for possible positives than the close contacts. They would have a different testing window. However, if any family member has symptoms or a positive test, siblings should get tested.
 - Note that in a lot of schools, kids with very mild symptoms have tested positive (e.g., a stuffy nose or sore throat for one day).
 - If a child gets a negative test result, siblings still have to isolate for the full time period as symptoms could develop any time in the 14-day period.
 - The school has been given take-home test kits that families can pick-up when children have symptoms instead of making an appointment at a testing location (dependent on our supply on any given day). A parent can drop-off the test without the child coming along.
- Will we be told if our recent cases are variants? We do not know. If we receive this info, we will distribute it.
- When a class is dismissed, can they be sent home with the letter that contains general instructions? There was a lag in getting this info out. TPH has to distribute the letters - we cannot send the information until they pass it on to us.
- As parents, we appreciate all the time, effort, and stress this year has caused the school administration and staff.
- Equity, Anti-Racism, and our School Improvement Plan: At the school, we actively assume a stance of continually learning, unlearning, and relearning.
 - We need to ensure our teachers as individuals think about where they are in relation to becoming an anti-racist practitioner. We investigate what our own power and privilege mean. We look at how and where we have become complicit in replicating racist and discriminatory practices.
 - We investigate how colonialism has been manifested in our school and school system. What are our responsibilities for human rights and equity?



- We look at the definitions of what it means to be anti-racist and ways to ensure we bring these definitions and practices into the school.
- It is an ongoing process – we want to avoid acting too quickly as that may mean we’re acting on the surface instead of really delving into the issues.
- We look at where we are as individuals and how we’ll progress from here. How can we infuse equity into all of our meetings, teaching and planning?
- We do this partially by using various TDSB toolkits.
- As part of our School Improvement Plan, our focus is on bringing this into the math and special education curriculums as well.
- These discussions involve many different layers, and we embed them into our learning each month when we connect as a staff group.

4. Committee Reports

Committee members provided an update of upcoming and ongoing initiatives. We did not have any committee updates this month.

Reviving the Education Committee: Elizabeth Martin

- We have interest from two parents in reviving this committee! Elizabeth has a daughter in Grade 1 and is looking to get involved with this and the Greening Committee.
- The TDSB is encouraging anti-racism and equity discussions and projects for the PRO Grant. The thought is to connect the Greening and Education Committees by doing an event either by Zoom or outside to talk about indigenous agricultural practices.
- We could attach this to our curriculum through the Greening Committee, for example, planting specific plants in our learning garden (the three sisters: squash, corn, and beans). We’d have to figure out what will work in practice.
- We’d like to reach out to an expert at the Brickworks, Isaac Crosby to lead us in this.
- We would really like to involve indigenous families in our community. If there is no interest, we would defer to the indigenous educator. It might be a nice way to bring curriculum to the students and families instead of doing a formal speaker event.
- Mr. Quenneville (our outdoor education teacher) has been cleaning garbage out of the Learning Garden. He would like to start planning in the planters and would love helping hands. Email council@wilkinsonps.org and we can help to put you in touch.
- The PRO grant application has already passed. At the university Elizabeth works at, speakers are usually paid an honorarium of about \$60. We could look into approving this funding through the Council. A funding request can be submitted for the next meeting if there is something that we can do this year.



- Perhaps the garden could be prepped over the summer and then the curriculum piece could be put in place for the fall. *If anyone else would like to help with this and join the new Education Committee, please let us know (council@wilkinsonps.org).*

5. New Business

Ward Forum Update – Building an Anti-Racist and Anti-Oppressive School: Dayna Tekatch

- How can we as a Council support the framework that our school staff are working with?
- The goal of the Ward Forum was to explore the role of school councils in supporting the School Improvement Plan (SIP) in terms of equity, recognizing that we are all learning in different phases.
- Equity is not the same as equal treatment > the focus is on redirecting disparity.
- Blake Street PS made a very comprehensive SIP which covered their equity goals, long term and for 2021. Their focus was identity > placing yourself in the conversation > they went through with every class in the school.
- The principal spoke about personalizing the land acknowledgements - each day a different student does this over the PA. They also discussed their murals and art > every student in the school should look at the walls of the school and see themselves.
- They had a community social worker to help them set and reach goals. We get a half day a week with our social worker (different allotments per school).
- They created a relationship with the Freedom School in Toronto, which teaches specifically about anti-black racism. They did four sessions with the school council about how to talk to kids about racism, how systemic racism plays out in school, and how to make changes in the community.
- They created an infinity space: A safe space for parents of colour to meet and discuss issues with the Freedom School. Had four sessions to create conversation with parents who had not been a part of council or did not feel comfortable attending council meetings.
- Takeaways for Councils: develop a common understanding of race vs oppression, review the SIP with your principal, discuss how the school council can support the SIP, figure out how the funds we raise can be mobilized towards these goals, and figure out how volunteer efforts be mobilized towards these goals.
- We would like to start thinking about allocating funds towards equity goals and projects. We have an opportunity in our community with such a diverse community to ensure that all our students feel connected and cared for.



- As a council, we can get into a habit of doing the same thing over and over because it's the way we've always done things. The break over the last year will allow us to reassess and move forward in a different way to create more inclusivity.
- Angeli would like to work with Dayna on this.
- ***Update: The following resources from the forum were distributed by Trustee Story***

Addressing Bias; Let's talk about Race, Racism, and Resources

- [Minutes](#)
- [Presentation Slides](#)

Building an Anti-Racist School Community

- [Minutes](#)
- [Presentation Slides](#)

Graduation: Kim Jensen

- We are planning a yearbook with individual input for each graduating child, including our virtual students (about 26). We had a good one last year but will have fewer photos this year.
- The TDSB has sent instructions that all grads must be virtual this year.
- Last year, we recorded our valedictorians (from their homes). Our teachers recorded awards and speeches. The full video was shared with the grad families. It was put up and taken down but could not be saved or shared (for privacy reasons).
- Each child was announced – all names – for a virtual “walk across the screen (stage)”.
- Teachers went to all the kids’ homes to drop a gift basket and video to each student. This year we will likely have a pick-up location on site and take a photo in a selfie booth.
- There was some discussion with the teachers and some parents about selling spirit wear to only the Grade 6’s. Can we do this?
- Our spirit wear project has stalled. We were considering looking into it for next year. Has someone in the Grade 6 community spearheaded this discussion? Are they asking us for help setting it up for funding? This has to be determined.
- Lisa works with various promo companies but does not know if they are TDSB approved. She may be able to help put people in touch with them. There is a list of approved vendors on the TDSB website. Brenda has a list of some her school has used in the past and will forward it on. She can help > Brenda and Lisa will be the contacts for this to help the grads and put something in place for the whole community next year.



- The school is planning on taking on the cost of the yearbook this year as the Council has not been able to fundraise.
- Did we do anything with those lawn signs that people had last year? They were very expensive, so we encouraged students to decorate their own homes.

Spring Book Fair: Shanna Breslin

- We've booked a spring book fair! It will be through Scholastic again because they can ship books directly to customers and other vendors require us to distribute them.
- It's taking place from April 19-30.
- We're also inviting kids to submit book reviews or recommendations from now until the end of the fair. They can submit them to council@wilkinsonps.org and we'll post them on our website/social media and in our weekly emails using the students' initials. The books do not have to be from Scholastic, and the students don't have to like the books.
- Their book fair season ends at the end of May. Because our first fair went well and we're running a second one, we qualify for their June fair, which apparently has a lot of deals on summer reading. They're still working out the rewards structure, but in past years there were buy-one-get-one-free deals. It might be worth doing to offer people reduced pricing on summer reading.
- *Shanna will update this once more information is available.*

End of Year Activity: Angeli Mehta

- Do we have any idea what the end of year might look like for other grades?
- Usually, we have Fun Fair and Play Day and it would be nice to find a way to reconnect.
- Is there a way that we can virtually celebrate our teachers and staff?
- Idea: A slide show where students can submit a quote, statement, thank you message, etc. It would be emailed to staff. It was very much appreciated at Brenda's school.
- We could incorporate WordClouds > students submit a word based on a topic. The more a word is submitted, the bigger it appears.
- *If there are any other ideas, please reach out before the May meeting (council@wilkinsonps.org).*

Trivia Night: Brenda Ohngemach

- The overnight camp that Brenda's son attends has been running virtual trivia nights for campers and their families. They have offered to organize and run the event for interested families, free of charge.



- Our responsibility would be to promote it > the camp needs two weeks notice to set up the event.
- The event is split into different categories: general trivia, match a photo to a movie or tv show, Wilkinson-specific trivia, top 10 lists, and match an audio clip to movie.
- Participants submit their results using a Google form and the winner is announced at the end. They then give out prizes > Brenda would distribute or email the prizes.
- In return for running the event, the camp places a button on the Google form for interested families to get more information > they don't include ads or graphics.
- It has been done at other schools, but Brenda will check if it is TDSB approved.
- We've had Fun Fair sponsors before, so that aspect is likely not an issue. The TDSB would want to vet the vendor because they could be liable if kids attend the camp and something negative happens.
- It sounds like fun! *If they are an approved vendor, Brenda will submit an [event proposal](#) ahead of the May Council meeting.*

6. Council meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

**The next meeting of the 2020-2021 Council will be held on
Monday, May 10 at 6:30pm via Zoom.**