



2021-2022 Wilkinson School Community Council

June 13, 2022

Meeting Minutes - Approved

The 2021-2022 Co-Chair, Lisa Zivontsis called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

Agenda

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| 1. Land Acknowledgement | 2. Approval of June Agenda | 3. Approval of May Minutes | 4. Principal's Update | 5. Committee Updates
- ARE and Equity
- Greening and Grounds
- Finance Update | 6. New Business
- Plans for Next Year | 7. Equity and Inclusion
8. Adjournment of Council Meeting
9. AGM Meeting |
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Attendance

Present:

Liz Albrecht-Bisset (Principal)
Nicki Keenliside (VP)
Lisa Zivontsis (Co-Chair)
Dayna Tekatch (Co-Chair)
Vince Chan (Treasurer)
Shanna Breslin (Secretary)
Anthea Moreau (Dandylion)
Kostas Kotsampoukidis (Staff)
Noelle Butler (Staff)

Emily Davidson
Stephanie Lamb
Brenda Ohngemach
Deborah Shub
Chantal Sweeting

Guests:

Tory Cadotte
Crystal Basi

Regrets:

Muneerah Chohan
Amy Cole
Beth Martin
Jennifer Stiff

Absent:

Rob Jefferson
Parsa Khandaker

1. Land Acknowledgement

2. Approval of June Agenda

- Dayna and Vince approved.

3. Approval of May Minutes

- Stephanie and Deborah approved.



4. Principal's Update: Liz Albrecht-Bisset

- Staffing: We are losing our Vice-Principal allocation next year but could get one back in the future. We will miss you, Nicki! Nicki has been incredible and a huge help and support to us. All the best in your next adventure!
 - The loss is based on lower enrolment compared with pre-pandemic > French Immersion is less popular, we're losing our two virtual classes (very few virtual students were actually Wilkinson students), and a general shift during the pandemic of movement to the suburbs.
 - Our actual enrolment is higher than the TDSB projections > We may get an extra teacher in the fall, but there may be some flux over the next little while.
 - Reorganization will be early in September.
 - Welcoming Back: Mme Barbier, Ms. Stelmais, Ms. Vlahos, and Ms. De Mattio.
 - Losing: Ms. Harrison, Ms. Donald, Mr. Adzima > All are getting permanent positions in other schools.
 - Losing our LTOs: Ms. Wichert, Ms. Mehta (retired), Ms. Donais, and Ms. McFayden. Ms. Wilby is returning to her full time TUSC position.
 - We cannot share the class placement on the last day of school this year because we know there will be movement before the fall. We'll post the placements in August.
- Racism and Discrimination: There have been several recent incidents at the school (not all anti-black racism). We are not alone in this – it's been happening at other schools.
 - A virtual class was doing a program run by Bloorview Rehab with child ambassadors who have physical disabilities. One of the children was called "horrific" in the chat. They, understandably, felt very hurt and left the session.
 - A grade 3 student was told she was ugly because she has brown skin. When she turned towards the voice, the perpetrator was gone. Several days later, someone ran past her at morning entry saying the same thing. She caught a glance of a male and female, but we could not identify the students based on the description. We have been discussing this in the classrooms as it is completely unacceptable.
 - Last month, we talked about a student being bullied for wearing cornrows. He will try to wear them again. We have explained to students that hairstyles are cultural and there is no one norm.
 - We received a homophobic letter from a parent regarding an LGBTQ teacher and how they dressed on the Day of Pink.



- Recently, a pride book in the library office (not on the shelves yet) was defaced with black marker. The student entered the library office purposefully to deface it. We have replaced the book.
 - We've noticed disturbing interactions with our lunch supervisors. Most are not white, and many of our white junior students are disrespectful. They don't listen, taunt supervisors, and sometimes deliberately do things the supervisors have asked them not to do. We don't think the students understand this, but when behaviour like this targets specific people, it is racist and is not "joking around".
 - We want to invite some parents in during lunch to do behaviour mentoring and show our students how to properly interact with people. We want to create actions like this to change the dialogue.
 - Several students on IEPs are feeling left out and ostracised. We would like to connect parents of kids on IEPs to give them a community. Several of these families are also racial minorities.
 - We are doing ongoing equity teaching in our classrooms, through Wilkinson gatherings, and in the office. Perpetrators have consequences when they are identified. Situations are dealt with directly and named for what they are (e.g., racism). We have also brought in guests to educate people, like Aisha Boubacar (author of [Crowned in Curls](#)).
 - Our staff appreciate the support we get from parents, especially those on the ARE Committee. Committees like this are not widespread throughout the board yet.
- What's Happening Around the School: In the short period of time since we've been able to have extracurriculars, we've started cricket, ultimate frisbee, and slow pitch teams. Our Student Council and a student newspaper were created, and ORFF groups are meeting regularly. This month we have a virtual talent show, our first field trip since COVID for the 5/6s, play day, a rainbow walk on June 23, and a picnic for our graduates. Thank you to all our track and field parent volunteers!
 - We hope that next year we can get back to more activities. School busses are in limited supply, so we've had to go to areas within walking distance or that are accessible by TTC.
 - We have different themes each week this month: Bring joy to your class, to yourself and to your community > Activities in our classrooms to match these themes.
 - Question: We talked about partnering with Mixed Senses down the street on an art project. Do we want to go ahead with this, or should we ask to do it in the fall? The fall would be better. *Shanna will contact them.*



5. Committee Reports

Committee members provided an update of upcoming and ongoing initiatives.

ARE Committee: Dayna Tekatch

- We started with the signs in September and have really galvanized and done some great things as a committee.
- Crosswalk: because of the subway, this is on hold. It will be the orange reconciliation paint. We are going to incorporate a pride flag somewhere in the yard.
- The paint and materials for phase two of our sign initiative are ready! Perhaps leading up Fall Fest, each class will create signs to go all over the yard.
- Our newsletter has changed in the last year, incorporating acknowledgements and days/months of significance.
- Thank you, Dayna for the tremendous effort you've put into building this committee!

Greening and Grounds Committee: Dayna Tekatch for Beth Martin

- We sold 30 rain barrels and earned about \$300!
- Crystal Basi is our garden guru. She has really done wonders with our garden > Brought in indigenous practices and learning opportunities as well. Thank you, Crystal!
- Crystal is a City of Toronto Climate Action Program volunteer. She is applying for \$2000 grant to host an eco-fair in the spring: eco-friendly products, indigenous knowledge, upcycling, vermicomposting, transportation, upcycled toys and books, learning and speakers, and a local vendor fair (only if we get the grant).

Finance Update: Vince Chan

- The financial report is not yet complete. If there are any outstanding receipts, please submit them along with your forms ASAP so we can process them.
- The top section of the report is student/school programs. We underspent in Scientists in School category. There is some money left in the field trips budget for the graduation picnic. All other items are at budget.
- Next section shows expenses for Council initiatives > about \$9000 for this year.
- Income: shopping fundraisers about \$500, direct donations \$3810, Cookbook \$2402, rain barrels \$300, auction \$8000.
- After expenses, we should have just under \$20K for next year, which should cover all our usual pre-pandemic student/school programs (including things like arts performances).



Graduation: Noelle Butler and Kostas Kotsampouikidis

- Grad picnic: what money is allotted to this? Usually comes from the field trip budget. This year we have \$2344 left.
- We're planning to hire several giant games (\$500) and get an ice cream truck (\$250-350)
 - > It sounds like we can cover everything planned.
- Additional Council Funding:
 - Refreshments/ceremony/decorations: \$1000. This year, we're doing drinks and cupcakes. A parent is donating chocolate covered strawberries.
 - Yearbook and photos: \$800. The total cost is \$1950 and includes virtual students. We're also doing composites, which we may not do going forward. We weren't sure if we were doing a live grad this year, so we wanted to do something special.
- The school is covering the cost of the awards (\$700)
- Comment: We have at least 3 canopies in the storage room > we saw 2 and a pile of legs with some sort of canvas covering.
- Council Co-Chairs: usually say a few words at the grad ceremony (June 28- 1:30-3pm). It's very short (less than 2 mins) > say "congrats!" and something positive about what to look forward to as they move forward.

6. New Business

Preliminary Planning for Next Year: All

- Fall Fest: who wants to lead and help? We have 3-4 volunteers already. Brenda can lead.
- It is usually in October > we'll brainstorm ideas over the summer.
- Can we ask the Grade 6 students to help? Yes.
- Generally, volunteers are a bit of a concern > We are worried about having the labour that we need to continue our events. Pre-covid, there was a core group of parents that had been around for a while and took responsibility for the Fun Fair etc. A lot of those parents have since left the school.
 - We really need to spread the word that we can't bring back our events like we used to if we don't get more hands.
 - Kindy Night is a good place to do this > Lisa will be there to speak.
 - The Fun Fair email was clear and direct. We need to take any opportunities we have going into next year to be present and recruit people (e.g., Curriculum Night).
 - Many schools have volunteer teas. Maybe in the fall we could do a recruitment event. An evening for parents to tour the school and meet some Council members.



- At the start of school, the Communications Committee will send a message with a clear understanding of how to get involved (i.e., become a council member, be on the executive, volunteer for a single event, be on a committee).
- Many events need multiple leads.
- If people can't commit to being a voting member, there are many other ways to help out. We've sent this messaging many times in the past, but maybe it would help to start quantifying volunteers needed for each event. For example, send out weekly messages telling people we need 4 leads and 30 "day of" volunteers and this is how many we have so far. People will see that they can't leave it to others.
- The school is reorganizing the school's main office and have created a spot with a table and bulletin board for the Council to use.
- Movie Night: The bottom 1/4 of the gym screen is ripped. It will be taken down this month, but we are not sure if it can be repaired.
 - Perhaps we can use a single curtain pulled across on a rod. It's cheaper, may not get broken as easily, and is easier to replace.
 - School is open to doing whatever works to get the event going again.
 - Is the screen paid for by the Council? It wasn't paid for by the school and likely cannot come out of the school budget. A screen needs to be TDSB approved, but a lower-tech option may not need to be > Needs to be purchased by the Council.
 - The movie license costs around \$300. The permit is free if Liz is there, and it is a school event. It is also faster to get the permit through Liz. She is happy to do this.
- Arts: Pre-covid, we would plan our season during the summer. The goal is to bring live theater to the school for students to experience in a comfortable way.
 - We spend about \$4000 per year > 1 performance each for Gr. 1-3, 4-6, JK/SK and 1 French program. We used to do a visual arts program every two years.
 - Going forward, we'd like to do this in partnership with the ARE Committee. As well, some teachers are interested in partnering with the committee > the school gets some money for this.
 - We use Roseneath Theatre and Prologue, which are TDSB approved and very easy to use. It's very difficult for us to source a visual arts program that needs to be implemented by teachers. It would make more sense to buy art materials every other year (maybe for the juniors) and the teachers could use them as they see fit.



- We Need Committee Members For: **Arts** (now a committee of 1), **Pizza** (need day of volunteers and could use one more Council member on the committee), **Movie Night**, and **Communications** (next year is Shanna's last, so we need another person ready to take her spot when she leaves).
- Executive Committee: Lisa will not be continuing as Co-Chair next year, so we need someone to take over in October (she will remain on the Council though). Thank you for your leadership over the last two years, Lisa! You've done an excellent job as Co-Chair.
 - Next year is Shanna's last. If anyone is interested in the Secretary position, they might want to take over while she's still around to provide support or shadow her next year.
 - [Email us](#) with any questions or for more info!
- September Meeting Date: We'll meet next on Monday, September 19 > ***Please let us know of any conflicts with observances.***
- Will next year's meetings be virtual? In-person is great, but there's something to be said about the accessibility of doing virtual.
 - Some schools are doing a hybrid model. Maybe we can set up a web cam in the library. Hybrid would also allow us to do away with babysitting.
 - ***We'll do the first one virtually and then try hybrid and see how it works.***

7. Equity and Inclusion

- This is a space for people to share stories or incidents related to equity and inclusion.
- Issues were discussed as part of the Principal's Update

8. Council meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

9. Annual General Meeting (AGM)

- Please refer to the AGM report.

The next meeting of the 2021-2022 Council will be held on Monday, September 19th, 2022, at 6:30pm via Zoom Video Conference.