



2021-2022 Wilkinson School Community Council

September 19, 2022

Meeting Minutes - Approved

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

Agenda

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|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Land Acknowledgement | 5. Committee Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">- ARE- Greening and Grounds | 7. Equity and Inclusion |
| 2. Approval of September Agenda | 6. New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Trustee Candidates- AGM Approval- Brainable- Meeting Dates- Next Month | 8. Adjournment of Council Meeting |
| 3. Approval of June Minutes | | |
| 4. Principal's Update | | |
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Attendance

Present:

Liz Albrecht-Bisset (Principal)
Lisa Zivontsis (Co-Chair)
Dayna Tekatch (Co-Chair)
Vince Chan (Treasurer)
Shanna Breslin (Secretary)
Kostas Kotsampouikidis (Staff)
Stephanie Lamb
Beth Martin
Brenda Ohngemach
Deborah Shub
Jennifer Stiff
Chantal Sweeting

Guests:

Sara Ehrhardt
Matt Farrell
Arun Ramani
Heather McLean
Adam Chaleff
Nick Palmer
Tory Cadotte
Michelle Seem
Joyet Chakungal
Lindsay Reimers
Nikki Gouzopoulos
Crystal Basi
Bryce Murphy

Regrets:

Amy Cole
Anthea Moreau (Dandy Lion)

Absent:

Muneerah Chohan
Emily Davidson
Rob Jefferson
Parsa Khandaker



1. Land Acknowledgement

2. Approval of September Agenda

- Dayna and Lisa approved.

3. Approval of June Minutes

- Stephanie and Lisa approved.

4. Principal's Update: Liz Albrecht-Bisset

- Hello to everyone I have not met (Liz started in January).
- Reorganization: We added a fourth kindergarten class last week as the classes were too large.
 - We're still compiling data for the primary division: 3 classes are over the cap. In each grade, one class is allowed exceed the cap, so we're trying to get another teacher for the primary rooms. Waiting to hear from the TDSB.
 - Would emails from parents help with this? It's certainly not a harm. Emails would go to the superintendent Nadira Persaud (Nadira.Persaud@tdsb.on.ca) and copy Liz (elizabeth.albrecht-bisset@tdsb.on.ca).
 - We lost our Vice Principal this year > some office items will take a little bit longer. Factors determining if we get a VP include the size of the student population and the number of special needs programs at the school. Also, our position on the Learning Opportunities Index which ranks TDSB schools based on measures of external challenges affecting student success. It is often based on real estate values and not a true representation - schools in wealthier areas are less of a priority (TDSB may be revamping this index).
- Our extracurriculars are back! Cross country has started, using Danforth Tech's space. Soccer will be starting soon. We're getting more access to the Danforth Tech field in the morning, but they have many programs in the afternoon.
 - Choir and Orff have started. Our ukulele program will be back and starting in October. Band and strings (with itinerant teachers) will also be back.
 - Yearbook team is being led by Mr. Kotsampouikidis who is also leading the EcoTeam with Mme Jim (Thursdays at lunch). Currently, we do not have a staff member to lead the Student Council.
- We have a team of Gr. 6 announcers who have started doing announcements.



- The Grade 6 grad committee will form in October (once reorg is done) as we haven't done a regular graduation in a few years and want to start planning early. School busses are limited and in high demand as they were last year, which means we have limited options for day trips.
- The Kindy - Grade 3 snack program is back. We will stagger the start for each grade and begin in October.
- Thank you ARE committee for creating a pamphlet about racism that we emailed and will be going home in backpacks. We don't send paper home often anymore, but this is quite important. There were some racist incidents last year, and we are trying to incorporate such incidents into opportunities for learning.
- Our first School Support team meeting (SST) was held this week. We bring in our specialists (SLP, OT, Special Ed) and they meet with parents whose children receive support from special education, including gifted and physical barriers.
 - They help us to put accommodations in place to help students and staff be successful. These meetings happen each month for planning purposes.
- The gym floor is in the final stages of completion. There were issues with water, and water proofing needed to be completed. It should be done at the end of this week or next week. We planned to have gym outdoors now anyway, and we have been using Rm. 3 when needed (rain).
- Schoolyard improvement is well underway. Since space is limited, we have retained a split recess at lunch so only half of our students are out at a time.
 - We've had issues with trucks entering the yard. They will now avoid coming when kids are out in the yard and immediately after school. If you see them when kids and families are out, please let us know. They do come before 9:05 am and are fixing drainage issues. We also replaced the power lines going into the school. We are trying to get the plans to share.
 - Will accessibility features be added? They are supposed to be added in the yard, but we still won't have them to get into the actual school. It's a major issue. We only have one accessible door at the back of the gym and a ramp going to the basement and washrooms. It's quite expensive to add such features, but Liz is fighting for this (will take lots of time).



5. Committee Reports

Committee members provided an update of upcoming and ongoing initiatives.

ARE Committee: Dayna Tekatch

- We are a group of parents that have been working together to do actionable things around the school to increase equity and work towards anti-racism initiatives. Last year, several racist incidents were noted. Our black lives matter sign has been defaced and damaged twice in the last few months.
- At other schools, they publish racist incidents in their newsletter so that everyone is aware. Can we do this? Sometimes issues do not involve our students or involve students who are not capable of forming intent, so they are not reported. We can do this for incidents involving our school community > It's good for people to be aware of these incidents so that families can discuss these things at home.
- We purchased the supplies so kids could create more signs for the yard fences. When can we begin working on this with classes? After reorganization is complete.
 - Restocking these supplies could come from the Arts Committee budget.
- Could we print a few paper copies of our email newsletter and leave them by the office for parents who have not signed up for can't sign up? Yes. The school is planning to make one of the bulletin boards outside of Room 3 a Parent Council board.
- There is a small issue with a neighbour bordering the Learning Garden. Sometimes people use it at night to do things that they shouldn't. We talked about obscuring the sightlines from his window with a sign or banner so he can't see what's going on.
 - We have community police officers out and about again now. We have mentioned this to them as it was also an issue in our outdoor education yard and the construction vehicles last year. They are trying to send more regular patrols, but it's a challenge with the construction.
- Good Egg Initiative (TDSB): A program to recognize students who do really nice things.
Liz will find out if a staff member wants to take it on at the school.

Greening and Grounds: Crystal Basi

- The committee has been operating for a long time, but with new members over the last two years, there has been more of a focus on indigenous agriculture.
- We get together once per season to maintain the garden and then do planning in between to accomplish our vision. We'd like to make the area more functional for teachers to bring in classes and families to use it on the weekends.
- We've used native plants to indigenize and rewild the area. Invasives have been



removed and pollinator-friendly plants have been added. Signage was also added to help educate visitors.

- We're trying to build stronger connections between children/families and nature.
- We're looking for new committee members > people don't necessarily have to love nature. We're in need of administration and fundraising skills for grant applications and need people to weed, water, and harvest in the garden on a regular basis. We're also looking to plan events and participate in things like Fall Fest and maybe an Eco-Fair.
- Two new planter boxes were added over the summer and the TDSB will fill them with soil. This will be a shaded garden, hopefully with some food crops.
- Everyone is welcome in the garden before and after school and on weekends.
- *We have an outdoor ed class again for JK to Grade 3. Would a committee member like to connect? Yes.*
- Question: Can we put up more no dogs allowed signs? It is a bylaw, and we'll put up a lot of new signs when the construction is done. We would like to find a spot just outside the yard that could be a dog area for people who walk them while picking up kids. Also understand that they must be on-leash at all times in the yard. The staff parking lot is also an issue with random people parking there.

Areas of Need: Shanna Breslin

- We Need Committee Members For: **Arts** (now a committee of 1 – *Dayna will join*), **Pizza** (need day of volunteers and could use one more Council member on the committee), **Movie Night**, and **Communications** (this year is Shanna's last, so we need people ready to take over next year). And **Greening and Grounds**.
- Pizza: Needs 1-2 more members. We've met and are researching materials to start up again. None of us have led it before, so we're unsure of the process to get this going. We're calling vendors this week to find out pricing and options.
 - We can use school cash online for registration and paper forms for those who can't use the online option. *Once the group is ready, they should connect with Liz to go through dates and get the program set up in the system. Shanna has pointed Deb to the shared folder with info.*
- Movie Night: What is the status of the screen and permits? At the moment, we do not have a screen. *Once the gym floor is done, the committee can meet with Liz to discuss screen options.*
 - If Liz is at the event, the permit is free. We usually hold the event once per month. We buy a movie license for about \$300, which extends to classroom use.
 - This committee also needs more members.



- Arts: We get together at the start of the year to plan our season. Once it gets approved, we book it, and the school usually does the prep on the day of each performance.
 - Are there interested teachers? *Liz will ask so Steph can connect.* A staff committee is now looking at dates and planning to coordinate all events. It is a very easy committee to join with a big impact!
 - Does the school have any suggestions to themes to focus on? We are working to increase our understanding of diversity > That has always been the committee's mandate as well.

6. New Business

Trustee Candidates: Sara Ehrhardt and Matt Farrell

- Sara: I'm a parent of a child entering Grade 2 at Duke of Connaught. I've been working from home while my child was in virtual school through Morse. I sat on the Duke of Connaught school advisory council in 2020-21, where my child is starting Grade 2.
 - I know government and how to make change happen. Alongside other parents, I successfully fought to save the Duke school pool, increase city swim classes across the east end, and save city and school childcare centres from cuts. I work full-time for the Ontario Public Service and have degrees in engineering and public policy. You can find more information at www.SaraForTrustee.ca. Contact her with comments and thoughts at SaraTrusteeCampaign@gmail.com
- General Comment: Historically, the voting for school trustees has a very low turnout – please consider voting!
- Matt: I have two kids in the school board and a background in working with labour relations and capital planning. I've been hearing very similar themes from many families around concern for: school safety, class size, equity, mental health supports, and special education. I frequently hear of a desire for the TDSB to measure carbon dioxide (CO₂) in classrooms to give parents and caregivers transparency around the quality of ventilation in their children's schools. This in turn will help parents and caregivers decide how best to protect their families from COVID-19.
 - For this reason, I have started a "proof of concept" crowdsourced CO₂ monitoring program for all schools in Toronto-Danforth. If this program proves to be successful and something which parents find useful, I will advocate for a formal air monitoring program with publicly published results available for all schools in the TDSB.
 - I have set up a simple web interface where volunteers can work with their children to obtain and enter CO₂ readings in schools from freely available CO₂ monitors. I will



update the results daily, by school, for all parents and caregivers to view. Details on the program and volunteer registration can be found [here](#).

- Our school trustee is a member of the Toronto District School Board and is our community's advocate for public education. A trustee's role is to maintain a focus on student achievement, well-being, and equity and to participate in making decisions that benefit the board's entire jurisdiction while representing the interests of their constituents. Trustees must also communicate the views and decisions of the board back to their constituents.
- Information on the candidates can be found through the Ontario School Trustees Website: <https://elections.ontarioschooltrustees.org/2022Election/Search.aspx> or through the City of Toronto Elections site: <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/elections/candidate-list/>
- You can find voting information, including making sure you are on the voters list and applying to vote by mail, at <http://myvote.toronto.ca>

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 school community in June.
- Motion to approve the AGM report. *Motion carried.*

Brainable: Brenda Ohngemach and Shanna Breslin

- 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.
- 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.
- 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)
- We discussed it last year and were all in agreement that we wanted to bring them in. They are TDSB approved. It needs to be booked by the school.



- They are booked until November, but we can book after that. It sounds like an amazing program, especially since COVID.
- *Brenda to resend info to Liz to get it going.*

Meeting Dates Approval: All

- The proposed dates are:
 - October 3
 - November 7
 - January 16
 - February 13
 - March 20 (Ramadan is March 22 – April 22)
 - May 1
 - June 5
- 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. This year, we will meet in March instead of April due to Ramadan.
- Motion to approve these meeting dates. *Motion carried*

Reminders for Next Month: Shanna Breslin

- After this meeting, the current Parent Council dissolves and the 2022-23 Council is formed. **Please note that we are required to submit new nomination forms each year. This includes existing members who wish to continue. If you'd like to remain on this year's Parent Council, please submit your nomination form.**
- At the October meeting, we'll be electing the new Executive Committee ([role descriptions](#)). We have some executive members that would like to continue in their current roles, but the positions are open to all Council members.
 - Sadly, Lisa is not able to continue as Co-Chair this year, so **we are looking for a new active Co-Chair**.
 - It is also Shanna's last year at the school. She is happy to stay on as **Secretary**, but perhaps someone else would like to take over while she's still around to answer questions or shadow her or take over next year or later this year.
 - 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 Thursday, September 29.*



- 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 or vice 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 Thursday, September 29.* 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. An updated budget will be circulated before the next meeting.
 - *From the current AGM report, could all committee leads please review the 2019-2020 budget column and let us know by Thursday, September 29 if your committee's budget requires an update? If you know your event will not run this year, please let us know.*

7. Equity and Inclusion

- This is a space for people to share stories or incidents related to equity and inclusion.
- If things happen that are not good for your children or families, there are places to go immediately – to the ARE committee - so issues can be addressed.
- We could like parents to discuss the upcoming pamphlet with kids so that there is a plan of action in case something happens. If they see or hear something, they will know what to do and know to bring it to an adult quickly.
- The Grade 6 students have already started talking about how to make the announcements more equitable, which is wonderful to see.

8. Council meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

**The first meeting of the 2022-2023 Council will be held on
Monday, October 3, 2022, at 6:30pm via Zoom Video Conference.**