



## 2022-2023 Wilkinson School Community Council

### October 3, 2022

#### Meeting Minutes - Approved

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The 2022-2023 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"><li>- Executive Elections</li><li>- Budget Approval</li><li>- ARE</li><li>- Greening and Grounds</li></ul> | 6. New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- SSoN</li><li>- Meeting Format</li><li>- Fall Fest</li><li>- Fun Fair</li><li>- Upcoming: PRO Grant</li></ul> |
| 2. Approval of September Agenda |   | 7. Equity and Inclusion  |
| 3. Approval of June Minutes     |   | 8. Adjournment of Meeting  |
| 4. Principal's Update           |   |  |
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#### Attendance

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##### Present:

Liz Albrecht-Bisset (Principal)  
Dayna Tekatch (Co-Chair)  
Bath Martin (Co-Chair)  
Vince Chan (Treasurer)  
Shanna Breslin (Secretary)  
Zoya McGroarty (Secretary)  
Kostas Kotsampouikidis (Staff)  
Emily Davidson  
Stephanie Lamb  
Angeli Mehta  
Nicholas Palmer  
Sharon Scanlon  
Pratik Shah

Deborah Shub  
Jennifer Stiff  
Lisa Zivontsis

##### Guests:

Nikki Gouzopoulos  
Adam Cadotte  
Lindsay Reimers  
Kathryn Moore  
Norah Shaughnessy  
Jonathan Asselstine

##### Regrets:

Brenda Ohngemach

##### Absent:

Anthea Moreau (Dandylion)

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#### 1. Land Acknowledgement

#### 2. Approval of October Agenda

- Stephanie and Lisa approved.



### 3. Approval of September Minutes

- Lisa and Nick approved.

### 4. Principal's Update: Liz Albrecht-Bisset

- Reorganization: Our kindergarten students are settling into their new class, and our new primary classes started today (an extra teacher was added – Ms. Mehta who was with us last year). The school was also allocated a new lunchroom supervisor and we now have 7 total.
- Orange Shirt Day: 2-3 classes at a time visited with Liz for mini assemblies. She shared TDSB information and personal stories about her cousin who was a victim of the Sixties Scoop. Orange Shirt Day is the beginning of an ongoing dialogue, not a single event.
- A staff committee met last week to plan days of significance > This month is Islamic History Month.
- Curriculum Night: This year, the event will be split in two with the kindergarten event beginning at 3:45 pm. Staff felt it would be easier for parents to attend the event around pickup times, either right after school or when coming to Dandy Lion Daycare. The event for Grades 1-6 runs from 5:30-7:00 pm.
- Photo day: October 13 for individual portraits. Dates for group photos and retakes TBD.
  - *Update: There was a conflict with cross country, so photo day was moved to November 1 with retakes on November 24.*
- A Parent Council bulletin board has been setup in the school's front hall.

### 5. Committee Reports

Committee members provided an update of upcoming and ongoing initiatives.

#### Executive Elections: Dayna Tekatch

- Nominees for this year's Executive Committee:
  - Co-Chair: Dayna Tekatch
  - Co-Chair: Beth Martin
  - Secretary: Shanna Breslin with Zoya McGroarty shadowing
  - Treasurer: Vince Chan
- Motion to approve the new Executive Committee. *Motion carried.*

#### Budget Approval: Vince Chan

- As this should be amore "normal" year, we're working with the figures from 2019-2020 (the last pre-COVID budget).



- Scientists in School (SIS) or Equivalent: Staff should bring us their ideas for approval before booking if they plan to run a program other than SIS.
- This is discussed below, but Fun Fair will look very different this year. Most of the old event team is no longer at the school and we last held the event a few years ago.
- The silent auction is now its own online event, so it will be removed from the projected cost/profit of Fun Fair. The Fun Fair estimate should also be more conservative.
- *We will revise the budget and vote on a new version in November.*

#### **Anti-Racism and Equity (ARE) Committee: Dayna Tekatch**

- The ARE is a group of parents that has been working together to do actionable things around the school to increase equity and work towards anti-racism initiatives. Participation is open to any and all parents.
- Crosswalk: We applied to get the Donlands crosswalk repainted two years ago for issues of safety and inclusion. The original plan was a Pride flag > Repainting estimate \$25-30K.
  - There was already a program in place to fund reconciliation crosswalks (bright orange with white feathers), so we have applied to join this program. The organizers are now saying ours may be painted in spring or summer 2023.
  - We would still like a very visible artistic installation involving Pride somewhere on school property and are brainstorming ideas for this.
- The ARE has ideas for redesigning the school's front entry, perhaps by having students create self-portraits. The school recently removed the large portrait of Queen Elizabeth II (i.e., the monarchy).
- Liz: A family has donated a beautiful quilt for Orange Shirt Day, and we would like to incorporate this into the new design.

#### **Greening and Grounds (GG): Beth Martin**

- Please refer to the September minutes for information about this committee and its current projects.
- We were awarded a TD Friends of the Environment Grant: \$1800 to expand the learning garden into a food forest. The TDSB has already installed new planters for the project.
- One of GG's members (Crystal Basi) has been awarded \$2000 to run an eco-fair on school grounds in the spring. The committee will assist with the event.
- Most of the money is earmarked for certain items, and additional ideas may require seeking out new grants > Liz will support anyone writing grants but does not have the capacity to research and write them herself.



- As discussed last month, a neighbour who shares the school's fence has mentioned some incidents in the learning garden over the summer (random people using the space inappropriately). We're working to create a privacy screen and want to work with the ARE and Arts Committees to create something progressive involving Wilkinson students.

## 6. New Business

### School Statement of Needs (SSoN) Approval: Shanna Breslin

- Information about this document was circulated with last month's minutes and this month's agenda.
- Each year the Council updates the SSoN, 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 can be found on the [PIAC website](#).
- The SSoN can also be used when the Principal is interviewing new staff.
- The ARE Committee has a few suggestions to make it clear that we support equity, inclusion, and belonging for things other than racism.
- *Dayna will send in the edits, and we'll approve this at November's meeting.*

### Council Meeting Format: All

- Discussion: Should the Council continue doing virtual meetings, move to in-person, or try a hybrid version?
- Being in-person is preferable for many, but virtual meetings are extremely convenient and allow people to join who may not otherwise.
- Comment: Other councils are saying that to do a hybrid meeting, councils should invest in a good conference microphone for the middle of the room and possibly a camera. Otherwise, people at home can only hear the host of the meeting (who is sitting in front of the laptop).
  - The school started doing hybrid SST meetings and the sound is an issue. This technology may be needed for the school regardless of which option is chosen.
- Suggestion: Perhaps we could alternate in-person and virtual each month?
- Note that for in-person meetings, a Council member would need to act as babysitting coordinator, responsible for finding and booking sitters. Before COVID, this was challenging as people would often express a need last minute. *Deb and Liz could help with this.*



- The TDSB prefers if we have at least one adult babysitter, 16+ each time. Younger kids can help but cannot do it unsupervised.
- *We will send out an anonymous survey with the minutes to see how people feel about the formats and the possibility of trying to meet in-person in November.*

#### **Fall Fest: Shanna Breslin**

- Fall Fest is coming on Sunday, October 23 from 11 to 1 pm. Yay! It's a great way to celebrate the season, meet other families, and learn about some of our committees. Our goal is to bring the community back together.
- We'll be selling pumpkins, hot dogs (halal and veggie as well), hot drinks, and baked goods.
- We're also running yard games and crafts; selling cheap gently used books, games and puzzles; and hosting a food drive and free winter gear and Halloween costume swaps.
- Question for Liz: Could we ask Mme Jim and Mr. Wong to mention this to their classes? We'd like interested Grade 6 volunteers to help with setup (around 9:30 am) or clean-up (around 1pm)? Some students have asked Liz already. *She will speak to the teachers and will give us parent contacts for any interested students (we can't email TDSB student accounts).*

#### **Pizza Lunch: Deb Shub**

- We're hoping to get this program up and running but are having some difficulty sourcing vendors > Many do not have the staff right now to support this program (cooking and delivering).
- Papa John's may have some capacity to do Wednesdays instead of Fridays, but we need more volunteers. *Zoya can help on Wednesdays.*
- The cookies sold previously were unwrapped, but post-COVID, individually wrapped food is preferred. We're looking for a new cookie vendor who provides halal (no vanilla extract) and nut-free cookies. *Deb will connect with Emily (her sister-in-law makes cookies) and Lindsay (a client works for Peak Freans).*
- Comment: Papa John's had some bad media press for a racist comment made by its CEO. Should we be using them? The CEO was removed in 2018 and we have a good relationship with our local franchise owner. We used to use Pizza Pizza, but there were issues with them. We require halal vendors who are cost-effective and can support a program of this size, which typically excludes smaller local vendors.



### **Fun Fair: Dayna Tekatch**

- Fun Fair is usually held in the spring and used to be our biggest event (\$15-20K). Due to its size, it involved a large planning team and about 100 day-of volunteers.
- Most of the team that used to run it are no longer at the school and the landscape has changed, so the Council needs to come up with new ideas.
- This year we get to connect for the first time in years; how can we be together as a community? We should involve community members to figure out how to build something new. Perhaps families have talents, ideas, or contacts (e.g., selling samosas).
- *We'd like everyone to think about this so we can brainstorm new ideas and get the ball rolling early.*

### **Upcoming Items: Shanna Breslin**

- The criteria for the PRO (Parents Reaching Out) Grant should be posted over the next two months: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Parent-Reaching-Out-Grants>
- This is a TDSB grant for Councils to use in engaging parents and caregivers. Not every council that applies receives grant money.
- Last year we were awarded \$900 to run an anti-racism workshop. We'll look for this year's criteria so we can come up with program ideas.

## **7. Equity and Inclusion**

- This is a space for people to share stories or incidents related to equity and inclusion.
- Any small incidents can be addressed so the school can take action.
- The school had railings installed for a student with mobility issues and two of them fell off the wall in the basement because kids were playing on them. It's important to remind kids that they are not toys but are there for the people who need them.
- If you don't feel comfortable speaking at a meeting, you can always reach out privately to any of us or visit the school to meet with Liz.

## **8. Council meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.**

**The next meeting of the 2022-2023 Council will be held on  
Monday, November 7, 2022, at 6:30pm.**