



2022-2023 Wilkinson School Community Council January 16, 2023

Meeting Minutes - Approved

The 2022-2023 Co-Chair, Dayna Tekatch called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

Agenda

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Land Acknowledgement2. Approval of January Agenda3. Approval of November Minutes4. Principal's Update | <ol style="list-style-type: none">5. Committee Updates<ul style="list-style-type: none">- ARE Committee- Communications | <ol style="list-style-type: none">6. New Business<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Funding Request: Community Message Board, D.O. Gibson, Lawn Signs- Wood Car Derby- Bake Sale- Fun Fair- Silent Auction- Eco Fair- Schoolyard Add-ons7. Equity and Inclusion8. Adjournment of Meeting |
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Attendance

Present:

Liz Albrecht-Bisset (Principal)
Dayna Tekatch (Co-Chair)
Bath Martin (Co-Chair)
Vince Chan (Treasurer)
Shanna Breslin (Secretary)
Zoya McGroarty (Secretary To Be)
Anthea Moreau (Dandylion)
Stephanie Lamb
Brenda Ohngemach
Sharon Scanlon
Pratik Shah

Deborah Shub
Jennifer Stiff
Lisa Zivontsis

Guests:

Lindsay Reimers
Crystal Basi
Alana Hamilton
Nikki Gouzopoulos

Regrets:

Nicholas Palmer

Absent:

Emily Davidson
Angeli Mehta



1. Land Acknowledgement

2. Approval of January Agenda

- Lisa and Dayna approved.

3. Approval of November Minutes

- Beth and Dayna approved.

4. Principal's Update: Liz Albrecht-Bisset

- Good news. Staff were able to locate the \$17,000 for **playground renewal**. It had been put in SAP but not marked correctly. This means that the council can now move forward with planning and prioritizing what they want to do with these funds.
- Question: Did the TDSB get back to us with any pricing details for add-on items? Shanna: No, we were never provided with a list of options. Beth will provide an additional update further on in the agenda.
- If there are any ideas, draw up a list and Kim will do the pricing with approved vendors.
- The results of **Gifted testing** are out and parents whose children are eligible for further Gifted testing have been contacted today.
- An exciting update on the art project (**Portrait of a Name**). We have divided the classes by division. Each class is coming up with a different art project based on their names. Most classes have the materials they need for the projects. If there is something they need (e.g., canvases), they will approach the council with a proposal. We expect the projects to start going up in March at the latest.
- The **Graduation committee** is up and running. Grade 6 parents are participating in the committee, and we will be reaching out to Grade 5 parents as well to build relationships and for succession planning purposes.
- The school has rented five additional **instruments** (three trumpets and two clarinets) due to an increase in interested students. The cost of these new instruments is approximately \$800. We have also sent a number of instruments out for repairs. We have also connected with Danforth Tech to see if they have any leftover instruments that can be donated to our school.
- **Enrolment** at Wilkinson PS continues to increase. We have gained nine new students since January. As a result, we received a small School Budget top up from the Board. Dandyllion Daycare is starting to do their planning for next year and it looks like we will have a pretty healthy enrolment in Kindergarten once again.



- The **Out of Area Admissions** process has changed at the TDSB, and the biggest change for us is that all Dandylion Daycare (in school provider) children will automatically be accepted to Wilkinson for JK. This will be helpful for Dandylion parents as they will not have to apply separately. However, children who have other daycare arrangements in the community will no longer have priority access. Siblings will now be given first priority. After siblings, other requests will be considered. Wilkinson's status is currently "limited" for Out of Area Admissions, meaning that depending on space within different grade levels, students can be accommodated at our school.
- The office has been answering questions about the new process and we know it is confusing. We are doing our best to answer the questions that come up. One of the school's main questions is that now that the process is streamlined/electronic, how much input will schools have? We know that it is a huge advantage for parents to have siblings in the same school.
- For Grade 4 French, if you are in area for Wilkinson, you will be automatically accepted. If you are Out of Area, then you have to apply (even if you are already enrolled at Wilkinson). We do usually have spaces available as enrolment has been lower for Grade 4 French Immersion than it was for the Extended French program. Last year, all out of Area applications were accepted for the French program so hopefully that will continue to be the case.
- Question: Does the enrolment increase you mentioned mean that the school may be allocated a Vice-Principal? Liz: I certainly hope so. As you know, the work that a VP would typically do is currently split between Liz and our fantastic OA Kim. That means there is a lot of extra work and things we want to do but don't have the capacity for. We will certainly be advocating for a VP.
- Question: Last year, the ARE Committee purchased materials to make more wooden signs for the fence. How is this project progressing and can we aim to have them up for the Fun Fair in early June? Liz: Several classes have decided what their sign is going to be. We will aim to have them up before June.
- Question: What is the difference between Alternative Schools and Central Student Interest Programs? Liz: [Alternative schools](#) are different at the elementary and secondary levels. In elementary, they are typically based on a certain educational philosophy, alternative way of learning, less traditional. At the secondary level, they are often based on need – serving students who need a different environment to be successful in school. [Central Student Interest Programs](#) tend to be specialty programs that are arts or science based.



5. Committee Reports

Committee members provided an update of upcoming and ongoing initiatives.

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

- There are no updates to provide for the Portrait of a Name art project as Liz already covered it in her update.
- As part of the work to decolonize the school, Dayna, Beth, Shanna and some other volunteers painted pride colours on the cork boards in the large lunchroom. Colours representing the trans flag will be added soon. Liz has heard a lot of positive feedback from students about the newly painted boards. Made them feel cared for and like they belong. (SB: each board is a single colour)
- The ARE committee also spoke about the idea of purchasing rotating flags (approximately six) for different times of the year. For example, Black History Month, Indigenous History Month, Pride, etc. Liz will look into this and report back. The flags would be hung in the main hallway.
- Liz: There is a teacher at Wilkinson who is interested in starting a GSA (Gender and Sexuality Alliance) at our school. We will be looking for parent participation as well and ARE committee members can be involved as well. Dayna expressed her interest in being involved.

Communications: Shanna Breslin

- As a reminder, this is Shanna's last year and additional volunteers are needed to support the Communications committee moving forward. Please email Shanna if you are interested.

6. New Business

Funding Request - Community Message Board, D.O. Gibson, Lawn Signs: Beth Martin

- Through the Ministry's Parent engagement grant (\$500), we have received funding that we can use for a community message board. This will help us in our goal of communicating more equitably with families in our community. Now we have to decide what look we want to go for – freestanding or affixed to the school? Affixed is cheaper. Dayna: Freestanding is more vulnerable to vandalism. The preference seems to be two posts vs one.
- It will be used to communicate major announcements and feature translations in top languages (e.g., Gujarati).



- ***Motion to use the grant money for this project. Motion carried.***
- In 2019, D.O. Gibson presented at Wilkinson and we are looking at the possibility of having him back. He will adjust his presentation so that it will be different for students who are still at the school and will be seeing him again. This would cost approximately \$1,000 and the money would come from funds typically used for visiting authors.
- Liz believes that the Librarian (who typically plans author visits) will be ok with the use of the funds for D.O. Gibson as he has been requested as a response to bullying identified by ARE members.
- Question: Since some of the classrooms already have supplies for the Portrait of a Name Project, could the money earmarked for those supplies be used for this so we can still have some authors/illustrators come in to speak to our students? This is a good idea.
- ***Motion to approve using the leftover Arts Committee budget for D.O. Gibson. Motion carried.***
- Wilkinson's Outdoor Education teacher has put together information about the history of Wilkinson's geographical area and the stream that was covered when the school was built. We would like to have these professionally printed as lawn signs using the Greening Committee budget.
- ***Motion to approve using Greening budget funds for this. Motion carried.***

Wood Car Derby: Dayna Tekatch

- There is a new date for the Wood Car Derby: Friday, April 28, 2023.
- There are some cub car kits in storage so Dayna will confirm those numbers before we buy more for this year.
- Liz confirms that the school can order what is needed and be reimbursed.
- Shanna put a call out for additional volunteers (for planning and night of). Email the council if interested at council@wilkinsonps.org.

Bake Sale: Shanna Breslin

- The council is planning to run the bake sale again (tentative date, February 15 from 9:15 to 11:15 a.m.) but we have heard that the Student Council may be interested in taking it on this year.
- Classes typically sign up to come down to the bake sale. There is Dollarama stuff for students who can't participate in the bake sale due to allergies.
- Typically, the council makes approximately \$1,500 at the Bake Sale. We have a Bake Sale at the Fun Fair, do we want the Student Council to run this Bake Sale?



- Liz has not heard anything about this but recommends partnering with the Student Council. Liz will find out more about this (Student Council's timing, etc.) and report back.
- Question: Can we ask the Student Council to remind students to bring reusable containers and make posters to advertise the event?
- To ensure all students can participate, Liz suggests providing the option for purchasing a treat that the whole class can share (donating small platters/trays for classrooms).
- Question: Is this usually inside or outside? Shanna: It is not practical in February to hold the bake sale outside. It is typically held in the large lunchroom (not crowded).
- Question: Can we be mindful of the Dollarama stuff that is purchased (e.g., not plastic, etc.) Shanna: We typically purchase things like pencils and erasers that are useful.

Fun Fair: Dayna Tekatch

- The tentative date for the Fun Fair is Saturday, June 3, 2023, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Concerns were raised that this date conflicts with Pegasus Dance Studio's dance presentation. However, being mindful of Days of Significance, and the fact that most activities have showcases in May/June, we feel as though we should confirm this date. It is also far enough away from Report Cards for staff.
- Post Covid, there have been many changes with the rental companies that we continue to work through. For example, some companies now have a minimum rental fee (e.g., \$4,000).
- Another issue is that we will not have access to the field. However, we are planning to keep as much outside as possible as we do not know if Covid restrictions will be implemented again.
- We will have access to the washrooms, and we plan to have the Cake Walk in the gym with the doors open so that the sun/heat doesn't melt the baked goods. Should there be another Covid wave and additional restrictions, we can cancel the cake walk.
- As we don't have access to the same space this year, it will be a smaller Fun Fair. However, Arts will have a bigger presence. We plan to have slime, clay, performances/flash mob, etc. In addition to the DJ, bouncy castle, dunk tank.
- We are working to map it out. We can use the space in front of Dandy Lion although there is a concern that this feels far away.
- We are also working on ensuring that the Fun Fair communications are translated in different languages (definitely Gujarati).
- Liz provided additional information about the field. The hope is the field will be re-sodded at this point, but it cannot be used for 2-3 months once re-sodded.
- We will put out a call-out for additional volunteers.



- The Fun Fair committee discussed the use of wristbands, as well as School Cash Online.
- In terms of Food, Jamila is reaching out to previous contacts, and we will connect with Aisha, who participated previously.

Silent Auction: Lisa Zivontsis

- We plan to run the silent auction virtually from May 1-5, 2023.
- Liz flagged that this will be a busy week with the Eco Fair, but Crystal confirmed that this is not a concern.
- Liz also flagged that last year, staff expressed that they could not bid as it was only through School Cash Online. This should not have been an issue, though, as cash was also accepted.
- Lindsay confirmed that she will sponsor again this year which brings any costs down to zero.
- A planning committee is being held on Friday, and if anyone else wants to volunteer (web updates, deliver letters, etc.) please contact the council.
- Last year, items that were available to bid on were gift cards to restaurants (e.g., the Keg), tickets to events, clothing, jewellery, front row seats to graduation, principal for a day, extra recess for a class, etc.
- Front row seats to the Spring Concert can be auctioned off this year too.
- Please let us know if you have any ideas or know someone in the community who could donate to the silent auction.
- Question: Since both the silent auction committee and the fun fair committee will be going to the community for vendors, is it possible to consult so there is no overlap? Yes.
- Lindsay: We can also work together so that if, for example, a company donates taekwondo lessons to the auction, they can be given first dibs for a demonstration at the Fun Fair.

Eco Fair: Crystal Basi

- In partnership with the Better Danforth Climate Action Group, Wilkinson is planning to hold a Nature and Climate Expo on Saturday, May 6, 2023 (date TBC) from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- This event is a learning experience (not a fundraiser). It is an opportunity to bring the community together.
- Through the City of Toronto, community groups apply to this grant (\$2,000) to do a community project. The projects should reflect the City's climate targets: lower



emissions, waste reduction and active transportation. We have combined these with Wilkinson's commitment to the learning garden and Indigenous education. Our grant proposal was approved by the City.

- The tentative rain date is Saturday, May 13, 2023.
- We plan to have a variety of activities in different sections: bike repair area, scooter races (active transportation); clothing exchange and art-based project run by a local women's group (waste reduction); and, Indigenous speakers, etc. The activities will all take place and once and participants can go from section to section.
- A goal is to ensure that the event is accessible to those most impacted by climate change. Any family, regardless of income level, will be able to participate. An idea is that participants can collect tickets by participating in sessions and these tickets can then be used for food at the event.
- The event will be open to the entire community.
- We are hoping to get volunteers for the event, including local high school students who are interested in climate issues.
- Our goal is to get 200 participants out to the event, but this will obviously depend on the weather.
- We are very excited about this event and will continue to update the committee moving forward.
- Dayna thanked Crystal for her hard work in applying for the grant and planning the event.

Schoolyard Add-ons: Beth Martin

- We will move a larger discussion about this to the next meeting given the time.
- Add-ons include smaller things that can be added to the playground after the fact, such as seating around the playscape (can be made for free by the TDSB), shelter for Outdoor Education, storage shed, games painted on the asphalt, water fountains, etc.
- We will ask for other suggestions in an upcoming newsletter and speak about a list in more detail at the February meeting.
- Liz shared that outdoor plumbing is very expensive and the TDSB is moving away from water fountains in favour of refilling stations which are more sanitary.

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.



- Courageous conversations are hard to have but are very important.
- Recently, there have been concerns raised about the lack of diversity on the Fun Fair volunteer committee. We hear these concerns and are working on this.

8. Council meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

**The next meeting of the 2022-2023 Council will be held on
Monday, February 13, 2023, at 6:30pm.**