



## 2022-2023 Wilkinson School Community Council February 13, 2023

### Meeting Minutes - Approved

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The 2022-2023 Co-Chair, Dayna Tekatch called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

### Agenda

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Land Acknowledgement</li><li>2. Approval of February Agenda</li><li>3. Approval of January Minutes</li><li>4. Principal's Update</li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>5. Committee Updates<br/>- ARE Committee</li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>6. New Business<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- New Member</li><li>- Fun Fair</li><li>- Schoolyard Add-Ons</li><li>- Movie Nights</li></ul></li><li>7. Equity and Inclusion</li><li>8. Adjournment of Meeting</li></ol> |
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### Attendance

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#### Present:

Liz Albrecht-Bisset (Principal)  
Dayna Tekatch (Co-Chair)  
Beth Martin (Co-Chair)  
Vince Chan (Treasurer)  
Shanna Breslin (Secretary)  
Zoya McGroarty (Secretary To Be)  
Anthea Moreau (Dandy Lion)  
Kostas Kotsampouikidis (Staff)  
Emily Davidson  
Stephanie Lamb

Angeli Mehta  
Brenda Ohngemach  
Nicholas Palmer  
Sharon Scanlon

#### Guests:

Lindsay Reimers  
Rob Jefferson  
Crystal Basi  
James McIntyre

#### Regrets:

Pratik Shah  
Jennifer Stiff  
Lisa Zivontsis  
Deborah Shub

#### Absent:

### 1. Land Acknowledgement

### 2. Approval of February Agenda

- Stephanie and Lisa approved.

### 3. Approval of January Minutes

- Angeli and Dayna approved.



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

- We currently have a lot going at the school! We've busy getting report cards ready.
- Activities: junior and primary choir, Orff, cricket is ongoing, DJ club, Student Council, EcoTeam, chess club, volleyball and basketball.
- Mr. Kasaval runs Friday evening sports drop-ins in the gym, and there are two local police officers who would like to run a similar after school program. We will advertise once we know more.
- Our junior students have been doing anti-racism workshops with our social worker and two other social workers who visited from elsewhere in the city. The goal was for students to understand themselves and the society around us in terms of anti-black racism.
  - The program just finished, and school staff will now speak to the students about what they've learned.
  - We hope some of those students will teach younger ones. During this program, some students wrote black history month pieces for our morning announcements.
- Last year, the school started incorporating methodology called The Science of Reading into our school. It's based on 70 years of research, and is an instructional method that has been used by Speech-Language therapists for years.
  - Currently, the teachers are being trained, and the school will then assemble literacy bags (starting with a pilot classroom) that will include books and games about letter sounds. The school will need some help from parents putting these together.
- Eid Celebration: Some of Wilkinson's Muslim parents and community members held this event at the school in the past and would like to bring it back. It's a food-based event that will be held in the gym in May. The organizers have also suggested using the event as a place to advertise Fun Fair to get more community involvement.
- Snack Program: Our snack program now includes students from JK to Grade 3. The program is funded by grants and parent donations. Next year, we will expand this program through to Grade 6.
- Ms. Dilorio is retiring (this is planned). She hopes to come back as a supply teacher. Interviews are underway, and we hope to announce her replacement before the end of the month. We have plans in place to make this a smooth transition.
- So far we have 42 students registered in Kindergarten next year. Last year at this time, we had 30-something and ended up with 57 students this year. It's important for out of area families who attend Dandyllion to remember that they still need to register their



Kindergarten students with the school. Dandy Lion is not part of the TDSB and has a separate set of forms for their own use.

- Out of area students who attend Dandy Lion are automatically accepted in Wilkinson's Kindergarten program. This automatic acceptance does not extend to those entering the Grade 4 French Immersion program. However, students who have a sibling currently attending the school's French program do have priority over others.
- Health and Safety: the school committee is back up and running and may meet in March. The committee was on hold during covid and will now involve parents and staff again within the school. Several parents have already expressed interest in participating.
- Woodworking: Mr. Kotsampouikidis and Mr. Pirso applied for (and were awarded) a grant which will be used to teach junior students how to construct wooden outdoor games such as Jenga, mazes, and a scrabble wall. Students will accomplish simple woodworking tasks. This program will run from now to the end of June.

## 5. Committee Reports

Committee members provided an update of upcoming and ongoing initiatives.

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

- Progressive Flag Campaign: The committee has started rotating progressive banners in front of Room 3, beginning with a Black Lives Matter flag for Black History Month. The next flag themes will be anti-bullying, neurodiversity, Pride, and Every Child Matters. We're also looking to acquire a Disability Pride flag.
- On April 6 at 9:30 am, D.O. Gibson is coming in for an anti-bullying [presentation](#). He was in a few years ago and will adjust his presentation to incorporate issues specific to racial bullying to address some incidents that have happened at the school. The Council is using Arts Committee funds for this program.
- Beth has arranged for an indigenous speaker for the staff and the Grades 3 and 6 students (those grades have specific Indigenous curriculum content).
- Liz outlined some recent incidents of racism at the school. One involving parents and two others involving students.
  - The school wants to make sure that students, families, and staff feel safe and valued and that we are addressing things and looking for ways to change.
  - The incidents were used as teaching moments for those involved, and it is part of the process to find out where these things were learned. In the last 5-10 years, more incidents have involved things learned on social media and YouTube. Even



when we're diligent, it's so easy for kids to come across inappropriate content that they don't understand.

- Question: What responsibility does the school have to the child if there is an aggressive parent involved? There are protocols that are followed, especially if police are involved. Police notify CAS automatically as is mandated in situations where there may be mental health issues present.

## 6. New Business

### Elect New Member: Beth Martin

- Lindsay Reimers would like to join the Council. She plans to help with communications and has already volunteered for several things and sponsored parts of the silent auction and Fun Fair.
- Motion to elect the new member. *Motion carried.* Welcome Lindsay!

### Nature and Climate Expo (May 6 from 11 am to 2 pm): Crystal Basi

- Update: We now have 10 volunteers and would still like more.
- Councillor Paula Fletcher has agreed to make this event a community environment recycling day.
- Planned Activities: visits from MPP Peter Tabuns and Trustee Ehrhardt; vendors; waste reduction activities; an obstacle course from Active Participation; and speakers and learning opportunities with indigenous community members, [ClimateFast](#), [4OurKids](#), [author](#) Mariko Uda, Sausage Party (vegan [food](#)), seedling giveaways, Toronto Nature [Stewards](#), Todmorden Mills Wildflower [Preserve](#), and Garden [Kimbourne](#). The event committee is also looking for someone who can fix bikes.
- People can participate in activities and earn tickets to trade in for things like food.
- *Dandy Lion will put up posters and Brenda will help get high school volunteers.*

### Fun Fair: Dayna Tekatch

- Things are moving along! We have some big items booked and some sponsors have confirmed. We're also seeing more volunteers signing up to lead things.
- We have two big areas of need:
  - Tent Crew: We need tall people to make sure all the pieces are in the storage rooms and assemble them at the event > *Zoya's and Lindsay's husbands will help.*
  - BBQ Crew: We need people to clean and test the BBQs in the storage room and use them at the event. We'll also be picking up BBQs from community members who



are lending them to us and looking for donated propane tanks (they will not be given back) and charcoal.

- to volunteer, email [council@wilkinsonps.org](mailto:council@wilkinsonps.org).
- Vince and Beth will share the treasurer role at the event but need more team members to help.
- The event needs more volunteers, and we can place people in areas that interest them!
- We will also be doing a flash mob at Fun Fair. Dayna will do a little workshop to prepare students for this and also teach them about her job in theatre.
- We need walkie-talkies > We can borrow the ones from the school (there are about 10) and Dandy Lion has a bunch too – woo hoo!
- Special thanks to Dayna and Beth for the incredible amount of work they are putting into organizing this event! We have documentation from past Fun Fairs, but there are many holes, and neither Dayna nor Beth has attended a Fun Fair before. It's a huge job.

#### **Schoolyard Add-Ons: Beth Martin**

- The schoolyard construction will start again in March.
- Overview of Major Work: repaving many areas of the yard, the current ball hockey court will be a basketball half court (full courts are no longer allowed in TDSB), a new ball hockey court is being built in partnership with the mosque, the field is shifting and asphalt is being removed in the northeast corner, we'll have one newly built baseball diamond, the Kindergarten play area is expanding and a new play structure is being added, an outdoor classroom is being built beside the big play structure, new trees are being planted, and a new pathway on the east wide of the lot has been added to prevent people from walking through the yard during school hours.
- After the major construction is complete, the Parent Council can choose to add a few additional items. We have \$17,000 in direct donations (saved since 2011) that will be used for this project.
- Current Options: a community message board near the outdoor classroom, a shade structure (a 10 x 10 wooden was quoted at about \$7500 a few years ago), a storage unit for loose ends (this may already be covered), painted lines on our new track, and natural seating around the play structure (we may already be getting this at no cost).
- If you have an add-on suggestion, please email [council@wilkinsonps.org](mailto:council@wilkinsonps.org).
- We will not have access to our green space for Fun Fair (likely not until the fall).



### **Movie Nights: Principal Albrecht-Bisset and Brenda Ohngemach**

- Screen Update: The school purchased an inflatable screen which is felt to be too noisy for assemblies but might be fine for Movie Nights where there is sound already.
- Mr. Kasaval has the gym permitted every Friday evening and is happy to give it to us when we need it for this event.
- Brenda: A parent can also lend us speakers and a screen for this event. We have teenagers ready to volunteer but need to buy a movie license. Teachers will also be able to use it at school. The plan is to start this event in March or April.
- Interested volunteers can contact Brenda or [council@wilkinsonps.org](mailto:council@wilkinsonps.org). A call for volunteers was added to our newsletter as well.

### **Wood Car Derby: Rob Jefferson and James McIntyre**

- James's kids graduated from Wilkinson several years ago, but he has been running the Derby with Rob since it started.
- The event is booked for April 28. We have 78 cars left from previous years and will order about 48 more cars > ***Rob will be in touch with the school about this.***
- The next step is registration and the selling of the car kits. We normally do this in person over several days with 3-4 volunteers.
- Plan: March 7 & 8. And Thursday, March 23 from 8:30-9:30 am.
- ***Volunteers (2 per day): Dayna, Angeli, Zoya, Nick, and Lindsay.***
- ***Dandy Lion can also put up posters.***
- Timeframe of Event: Set-up starts at 3:30-4 pm. Registration is from 5-6 pm. The primary students (K- Gr. 2) race first and then the juniors race. Trophies and prizes are awarded, and concessions are sold. We are done by 9pm.

## **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.
- Much of this was discussed during the ARE update.
- Comment: It's so nice that the school is dealing with these issues in a restorative justice type of way, and we have the space to do this.

## **8. Council meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.**

**The next meeting of the 2022-2023 Council will be held on  
Monday, March 20, 2023, at 6:30pm.**