



2022-2023 Wilkinson School Community Council June 5, 2023

Meeting Minutes - Pending Approval

The 2022-2023 Co-Chair, Beth Martin 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 June Agenda3. Approval of May Minutes4. Principal's Update | <ol style="list-style-type: none">5. Committee Updates<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Fun Fair- Finance Update- ARE Committee- Greening and Grounds | <ol style="list-style-type: none">6. New Business<ul style="list-style-type: none">- September Meeting Date7. Equity and Inclusion8. Adjournment of Meeting9. Annual General Meeting |
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Attendance

Present:

Liz Albrecht-Bisset (Principal)
Dayna Tekatch (Co-Chair)
Beth Martin (Co-Chair)
Vince Chan (Treasurer)
Shanna Breslin (Secretary)
Angeli Mehta
Brenda Ohngemach
Lindsay Reimers

Sharon Scanlon
Pratik Shah
Deborah Shub

Guests:

Zakiyya Ingar
Sarah Weaver

Regrets:

Emily Davidson
Stephanie Lamb
Zoya McGroarty
Nicholas Palmer
Jennifer Stiff
Lisa Zivontsis

Absent:

1. Land Acknowledgement

2. Approval of June Agenda

- Dayna and Brenda approved.

3. Approval of May Minutes

- Dayna and Brenda approved.



4. Principal's Update: Liz Albrecht-Bisset

- Staffing: Wilkinson got a 0.5 Vice Principal allocation for next year!
 - It was very difficult to juggle the workload this year - many people were involved in covering for our lack of Vice Principal
 - Our kindergarten enrollment has increased again, and we will be adding a 5th class of 15 students in September. On Welcome to Kindergarten Night, we had more people attending than were registered, so we expect more registrants over the next few months.
 - Next year's student class placements will be determined next week. In the French Immersion program, there is one room for each Grade (Mahovlich, Jim and Butler). There is also one English Grade 6 class (Wong). There is a high probability of reorganization over the summer, so class placements will not be distributed to families until the week before school.
- Pride Month: We are planning to do a Pride walk with students and staff during the last week of June. The learning we do at school about Pride involves talking about respect and acceptance, and making sure that people feel safe and welcome. Gender and sexuality are not part of this discussion as those topics are part of the health curriculum.
 - On June 1, several families were absent from the school as part of a province-wide protest in solidarity with York District's decision not to allow Pride flags raised in front of schools. This protest was quite hurtful to many Wilkinson staff and families who are LGBTQ2+ and to the many Wilkinson families and staff who wish to foster an environment of respect and acceptance at the school.
- Permits: This year, Liz held all the permits for events and meetings etc. When she is going to be at an event, she can get a permit quickly (and for free) but does need about 2 weeks advance notice. Note that teaching staff can also get free permits, but office staff cannot.
 - When Liz is not going to be in attendance, there is a permit fee. Next year, we need to book permits in advance to make sure we can secure the dates we need. As soon as event dates are confirmed, please send them to Liz.
- Movie Nights: Sarah will be taking over from Brenda as our Movie Night lead next year. Welcome Sarah! Our movie license is now active until May 22, 2024. The teachers can also use it to show movies in class.



5. Committee Reports

Committee members provided an update of upcoming and ongoing initiatives.

Greening and Grounds: Beth Martin

- At the Fun Fair, the Learning Garden was used as a chill out zone. The Greening and Grounds Committee put up signs in the garden about the TD Friends of the Environment grant, which will be used to create a food forest where everything is edible (blueberries, cranberries, grapes, service berries, mulberries, and nanny berries that bloom in winter). In May, we pulled all the toxic plants out of the garden. We are often taught not to eat plants we come across, so it's exciting for students and adults alike to be able to use the garden in this way.
- Also using funds from the TD Grant, Carolynne Crawley has presented the first in a two-part workshop for teachers about integrating Indigenous forms of pedagogy into the curriculum. She is also scheduled to share Indigenous perspectives to students in Grade 3 in mid-June about the interconnectedness of living things.
- The Learning Garden has become a core component of the outdoor ed program. People feel it's like another play area.
- We are looking for help watering the garden over the summer. Interested parties should contact the council (council@wilkinsonps.org) or Beth.

Anti-Racism and Equity: Dayna Tekatch

- Crosswalk: Donlands will be torn up repeatedly over the next year, so repainting the crosswalk in the colours of a progressive Pride flag will wait until the work is done.
- Portrait of a Name: The artwork was put up in time for the spring concert, which was wonderful.
- At the Fun fair, the DJ we used in the past was not available on the day of the event, so we used a DJ who was recommended by him. Unfortunately, there were issues with the DJ's attitude and the music he was playing. He was not playing the radio edit versions of the songs, so there was offensive language, which is not acceptable at a school function. He was also rude to some people who spoke to him about this. He will clearly not be hired back, and we are sorry this happened.
- In the last newsletter, the ARE added Days of Significance content that was provocative and made a few people uncomfortable. This was discussed, and the committee will be sure to stay within the days recognized by the TDSB. Note that observances can be added to the TDSB list if requested.



Fun Fair: Dayna Tekatch

- The event went very well and seemed to bring joy to everyone there! We learned a lot this year and are taking notes about things we'd like to change going forward. If there are notes others have, please pass them on.
- Suggestion to print our existing Legacy Planning documents (in the Google Drive attached to the Council email) and keep them in a physical binder. This institutional knowledge is important, and people keep forgetting to use the shared drive and sometimes create documents outside of it that can't be accessed easily.
- It was so nice to get together as a community and hear the sounds of laughter and happiness. Many people who used to go to the school came back and it was lovely to see the yard used as a community space once again.
- Through the online order system, some families donated money to purchase food tickets and Game Cards for other families. Kim distributed the donations, and the families that received them came to the event, which was wonderful to see.
- We are still tallying up the event expenses, but it looks like we did very well in terms of fundraising.

Comments for the Next Event:

- Some people who are no longer at the school were disappointed to find that the Silent Auction had been moved online earlier (it used to take place at the Fun Fair).
- In the books and games room, some students were selling bracelets to raise money for the Student Council. At some fairs, external vendors are invited to sell things (we do this at Fall fest). Perhaps we could add a student corner to next year's Fun Fair for kids to sell things to raise money for school programs and initiatives.
- The food was great. There was a nice mix of activities and having art tables under the shade was awesome. The face painting was very popular, and we could have benefitted from more painters as there was a wait. There was also confusion around a waiting list that did not actually work, and this upset people. We realized after the event that Jack of Sports was also supposed to be doing face painting, but they did not show up. We will make sure to book more face painters next year.
- The lemonade and Freezies were supposed to be roving to make waiting in line easier, but they both stayed in one place.
- Many volunteers did not show up (as is always the case). As well, we had about 125 volunteers register and only around 20 of them were adults. We need to put the word



out next year that we need more adult volunteers to supervise and manage areas (and they are generally, although not always, better at showing up).

- We have some ideas to get the lines moving more efficiently next year.
- People were confused about when to use tickets vs Game Cards. Perhaps we should move to one currency next year.
- We will do our best to simplify all areas of next year's event.

Finance Update: Vince Chan

- There are still pieces missing from the year-end finance report, including our Fun Fair totals and the year-end transfer information (student programs paid for by the school and reimbursed by the Council).
- This is a year of learning as we get back into things after COVID. Supplies are more expensive, and our student population is smaller now that we have moved from Extended French to Immersion. Budgets and expectations will need to be adjusted next year based on what we've learned this year.
- Our expected income for Pizza Lunch was \$9,000 but we made closer to \$7,000. We also spent about \$1,400 more than budgeted on the program. We made about \$2,500 less on the Derby than expected. Both Fall Fest and the Bake Sale made more than expected.
- We need to get a refund for the Milk the Cow game at the Fun Fair that did not work. Currently, our Fun Fair profit is just over \$10,000. We are still waiting for the remaining expenses to be submitted.
- Field Trip Subsidies: There were field trips running all year, but staff did not understand what funds were available and how to access them, so it's unlikely we used much from this category. Mr. Kotsampouikidis will be the liaison next year, and we will ensure staff know how much is available per class.
- The year-end financial report will be updated before the September meeting to include any outstanding amounts, including the income from our shopping fundraisers over the summer.

6. New Business

September Meeting Date: All

- We need to choose our September meeting date. Proposed: September 18 to give people a chance to settle into the new year and attend a meeting before nomination forms are due near the end of the month.
- Motion to approve September 18. *Motion carried.*



Other: All

- Question: Has there ever been school swag available for purchase? The last time we purchased and sold shirts, it took us 5 or 6 years to sell them all. This is similar to the silicone snack bags. We did a poll before purchasing them to determine if there was interest, and now a few years later, have sold less than half. To get good pricing, we need to order in bulk but then are left with inventory for years after.
 - A few years ago, we set up an online store through Café Press, which allowed us to sell any number of items without purchasing inventory. Sales were very low because the items and shipping were expensive. The cost of each item was set by Café Press. We could mark up items and keep the difference. Because the base cost was high, our mark up was only \$1 per product.
 - We talked last year about trying this again with a pre-order system, so that we order only what we need plus a few extra.
 - School staff are interested in shirts and some parents have asked too. Maybe we could do a pre-order period that is timed around a school event, so we can talk to people about it directly. We could order shirts for grad, but currently, it seems people would prefer to spend the money on yearbooks.
 - School staff would like to partner with the Council on this. Sharon has some contacts for bulk orders to look at next year. *We will discuss this again in the fall.*
- Rice Krispie Squares Fundraiser: Aisha Bhayat would like to run this fundraiser for the snack program.
 - The plan is for junior students to work with the snack program volunteers in small groups to make and sell the squares throughout the year. The squares would be halal, using vegan marshmallows (Aisha has found a source for these).
 - She would like a grant from the Council to purchase the marshmallows in bulk next year. We already get the cereal through the snack program.
 - *We will discuss this in September, once we have our finance report finished.*



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.
- Please bring forward any issues or thoughts; there is always a place to talk about these things. If people are uncomfortable sharing things at meetings, they can always email Dayna, Beth or Liz.
- There were some very lovely community moments during the Fun Fair. We were very happy to be able to tell people that all the food in the food tent was halal.

8. Council meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

9. Annual General Meeting (AGM)

- Within the AGM Report, the Council outlines our activities and accomplishments for the year. The AGM report will be distributed to the community following the meeting and posted on our website.

**The last meeting of the 2022-2023 Council will be held on
Monday, September 18, 2023, at 6:30pm.**