



2022-2023 Wilkinson School Community Council

Monday, May 1, 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 May Agenda3. Approval of April Minutes4. Principal's Update | <ol style="list-style-type: none">5. Equity and Inclusion6. Committee Updates<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ARE Committee• Greening and Grounds• Silent Auction• Movie Nights: New Dates• Fun Fair | <ol style="list-style-type: none">7. New Business<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student Council Bake Sale• Danforth Nature & Climate Expo8. Adjournment of 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)
Zoya McGroarty (Secretary To Be)
Anthea Moreau (Dandylion)
Emily Davidson
Angeli Mehta
Brenda Ohngemach
Nicholas Palmer
Kostas Kotsampouikidis (Staff)

Jennifer Stiff
Lisa Zivontsis
Lindsay Reimers
Deborah Shub
Sharon Scanlon

Guests:

Regrets:

Pratik Shah
Stephanie Lamb

Absent:

1. Land Acknowledgement



2. Approval of May Agenda

- Sharon Scanlon, Beth Martin and Zoya McGroarty approved.

3. Approval of April Minutes

- Sharon Scanlon, Beth Martin and Zoya McGroarty approved.

4. Principal's Update: Liz Albrecht-Bisset

- The **track and field** date is changing from Wednesday (May 3) to Friday (May 5) because of rain. Parents will be updated by email shortly. Track and field won't interfere with the Eid celebration because they happen at different times. The gym can be used for both.
- We have three **spring concerts** coming up. They have been split up to limit numbers. The **book fair** will be open during concerts so parents can visit while they're here.
 - Question: Are all students participating? At the Kindergarten level, all students are performing. For students in 1-6, only those in band, choir, ukulele, etc. are performing but the concerts are open to everyone.
- A **new after school program for Grade 6 students** with the TPS community policing team is starting soon. It will be a Monday after school program. The program will be expanded to Grade 5s next.
 - The program will focus on sports and developing social/emotional skills. Students will receive a snack.
 - Enrolment is on an interest basis. Any student who wants to participate can pick up a form. The program is capped at 20 students, but there is the possibility of going above that.
- The date for **Grade 6 Graduation** will be changing again as our gym is permitted on election day (June 26). We are looking at either June 23 or 29. June 28 is also Eid al-Adha. We are consulting with Muslim parents to ensure that having the graduation on June 29 will not conflict. The preferred date is June 23. However, the **Grade 6 Day of Fun** is on June 22. It may be doable if graduation rehearsal is on June 21.
 - Question: time and dress code? It starts at 1:30 p.m. but we ask students to arrive at 1 p.m. Students tend to dress up a little.
 - The reception will be in the ball hockey court (room 3 if it rains). There will be snacks and cupcakes.
- We will be holding a **volunteer tea** to share information about volunteering and recruit new volunteers. Snacks and coffee/tea will be served in Room 3. This will help ensure we have volunteers ready to go in the fall. For example, for the rollout of the Science of Reading curriculum, we need 6-12 volunteer parents to read to students, do phonemic



games with students, help support students who may be struggling with reading by providing 1:1 reading time with an adult.

- Working on getting updates/information regarding **schoolyard construction** (community message board, shade structure, moving the planters, log benches, better gate, etc.) Now that they are back on site, we hope to have more information soon. Since paving can't be done during the school day if we use the yard, we have agreed to spend one day indoors (no outdoor time, gym, etc.) so that paving can be finished sooner.
 - This won't conflict with the Fun Fair. We have advised that we need 24 hours notice so that we can notify parents of changes to drop off/pick up, etc.
- We continue to have issues with the **parking lot** and construction workers/community members using the lot. We will be looking at chaining the gates after hours more frequently and putting up signage. We also ask that parents not use the parking lot for drop off/pick up just as school is starting/ending (not daycare pickup/drop off). With children coming in and out, it is not safe. In addition, we have had staff not be able to find a spot to come to the school. Some of our itinerant staff work at a number of schools and arrive after school starts. As a reminder, there are drop off spots at the front of the school, or parents can also drop off on Strathmore.

5. Equity and Inclusion

- I really appreciate the time and effort that goes into running the sports teams. For many of the teams, there are more students interested than there are spots, and cuts have to be made. I understand this, but I have noticed this year that the same group of students has made it onto every team and other students have only gotten one chance to play despite trying out for several teams. I thought the teams at this level were more about teaching student's skills and sportsmanship and giving them a chance to compete rather than putting together a winning team. The kids that play have an amazing experience, and with so many teams available, there should be a way to give more students more opportunities to play. One suggestion could be limiting the number of teams each student can play on.
 - Liz: This is a good point that we can raise with staff. A challenge is that we don't know how many sports we will have at the beginning of the year as it depends on staff volunteering their time. Everyone who tries out can also join the cricket team.
 - Question: Can parents run house league teams or clubs in the evening? Yes, but we run into permitting issues with this (costs for parents, insurance, etc.)



- Kostas: There is a lot happening at Wilkinson so we also run into issues with competing for time/space at the school. When I coach a team, I try to take everyone. However, sometimes there is a maximum number in terms of supervision. Two teachers is an option, but it is a significant amount of time for staff and most are already involved in some kind of after school activity. But this is something to consider.

6. Committee Reports

Committee members provided an update of upcoming and ongoing initiatives.

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

- Work on the crosswalk project continues although there are delays with the city and construction on Donlands.
- The portrait of a name project is almost complete in all classes. We need parent volunteers to help install the artwork in the school.
- New project/idea: will be reaching out to the local branch of RBC to ask them if they'd be willing to match the proceeds that we make on the fun fair. This will allow us to make a contribution to a nearby model school that does not raise as much in terms of fundraising dollars. Have already contacted Nadira (Superintendent) to discuss the idea. Parents can reach out to Dayna if interested in working with her on this project.

Greening and Grounds: Beth Martin

- Tomorrow (May 2) is spring cleaning day (weather permitting). Parents can come to the main office if they want to help.
- Update on the TD Friends of the Environment Grant: Will be using grant to purchase plants to expand on the food forest concept. However, there are concerns with watering the plants over the summer.
- Liz: the council can go ahead and purchase a hose and we will figure out how/where to store it.
- Working to finalize the virtual presentation for Grade 3s with Carolynne Crawley.
 - Liz to confirm topics.

Silent Auction: Deborah Shub

- The silent auction is now open and we have already raised 2k. Our goal is 10k.
- Question: Is it too late to add items? No, it is not too late. Items can still be added.



Movie Nights: Brenda Ohngemach

- The new dates are May 26 and June 9.
- Last time, we had a parent connection which allowed us to get the movie license for free. We will likely have to purchase the license this time (approximately \$300-\$400). The movie license would be good for a year from the date of purchase.
- Question: Have the issues with the sound been solved for next time? Yes, we believe so.
- Suggestions for the movie and/or timing next time?
 - Zoya: the later start time is challenging for younger kids (kindergarten) so suggest showing a movie geared toward older kids if we are sticking with the later time.
- Need volunteers to take over movie nights next year. Ideally, the new volunteers would shadow Brenda for the next two movie nights to make it easier for next year.

Fun Fair: Dayna Tekatch

- Work continues in a number of areas to plan for the Fun Fair which is quickly approaching: sponsorship, grocery shopping in advance, flash mob, Wilkitchen (make sides the Thursday before the Fun Fair), etc.
- The Friday before the Fun Fair is a PA day and we hope to do some set up (carnival games, books and games tables, tables in gym) that day so that everything inside is done the night before.
- Kostas to provide some extension cords for the Fun Fair (needed for things like popcorn machine, etc.)
- A final meeting with volunteers will be taking place next week.
 - Anthea to confirm if older Dandylion students (Grades 4-6) will be available on the PA day to help with indoor set up.
- Lindsay to offer her BBQ for the Fun Fair. There are now 5 BBQs lent for the day.
- Currently finalizing the menu, confirming the cost of tickets, setting up School Cash Online so that tickets can be purchased ahead of time.
 - Liz to ensure that the staff link to buy tickets is sent to Dandylion staff.
- Lindsay: Like pizza lunch, will there be an opportunity to pay extra so that families with financial barriers can participate?
 - Great idea. Liz and Dayna will look into this.



7. New Business

Student Council Bake Sale: Kostas Kotsampouikidis

- The current proposed date is May 23 but we will revisit this. It can be in June.
- Student Council's idea was to hold a bake sale as an opportunity to give something forward to the next student council, as well as raise money for clubs, so the art club (for example) has money for supplies going forward.

Danforth Nature & Climate Expo: Dayna Tekatch

- Event is upcoming on May 6. It looks like it will be a great event with speakers, vendors, food, bike tune-ups, etc.
- Speakers include MPP Peter Tabuns and others.

8. Council meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

**The next meeting of the 2022-2023 Council will be held on
Monday, June 5, 2023, at 6:30pm.**