

Givins/Shaw School Council Meeting Agenda
February 24th, 2016 - 6:15 pm to 8:00 pm
School Library

Parent Attendance

Michael Candeloro, Cadence Wade, Dave Capelli, Jennifer Cannham, Dale McIntosh, , Penny Pantazopoulos, Vivian Rosstuscher, Garth Nichols , Heather Shaw, Donna Diakun, Pauline Dolovich, Kate Greenaway, John Peterson, Hayley Hector, Jorge, Vanessa, Nicolai Salcedo, Stephanie Hodnett, Joanne Van Bruggen, Nancy Ribeiro Christodoulou, Abigail

Faculty Attendance

Ms. MacIntyre, Ms. Persaud, Ms. Dunne, Suzie Keko-Aranilla

Acceptance of last meeting minutes – APPROVED

Principal's Update —

A number of teachers are participating in STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) professional development. We are building capacity in our staff. Georgia Dunne, a STEM DLL trainer, will be providing support.

In response to incidents of unsafe garbage pickup (garbage trucks were entering the school during peak times – transition and other), small bins have been placed in the garbage pickup area. The large metal bins have been locked and are awaiting removal. Staff actively supervise the area and remind the children not to play in the area. We are looking into moving the bins to allow clearer sightlines.

In an effort to create awareness about world issues and the Syrian crisis, a representative from First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto's project, "Save A Family From Syria" was invited to present to students in grades 3 to 6. The assembly helped ground future discussions/lessons/activities about refugees and the Syrian family sponsored by the Givins/Shaw community. Thanks to Trevor Lightbody for his leadership and Kate, Melody, and others for their support.

As a school, we are focusing on respect as we feel that everything we do hinges on this core value. An example: Hallway etiquette - respecting that others share this space, keeping the hallways clear and clean, etc.

Arts Alive is not happening this year. We are looking into other whole-school options. Visual and Performance workshops at Harbourfront have been suggested and are being reviewed by our Arts Committee.

The Math Committee is working with participating teachers on a Family Math Night for May 3rd. The focus will be on Number Sense. Families will participate in multiage activities. More details to follow.

Ms. Montanera is preparing for the Spring Concerts--April 19th for Kindergarten Students and April 20th for Grades 1 – 6.

After hearing feedback from parents, carefully reviewing QSP communication materials, and consulting with TDSB's Business Development department, the decision has been made to stop the QSP fundraiser. Orders made before February 29th will be processed by QSP. If you have placed an order and would like to cancel, please call 1-800-667-2536. Nadira offered her sincere apologies for any inconveniences that this may have caused.

Nadira stated that QSP and Acorn are not on the board's list of approved fundraisers. She has made the decision that our school will not engage in fundraisers that aren't first approved by the board/superintendent.

Lunch Hour:

While supervision is available at school, with parent permission, Grades 5 and 6 students can opt out of our lunch program. This means they go off-site for lunch. This is not the case at all schools.

Lately, there have been issues with the behaviour of some students during the lunch period at Artscape. Nadira reviewed Artscape's expectations with all grade 5/6 students, stating that they are ambassadors for our school and their conduct matters. After discussions with their parents, some students now eat lunch at school.

Opting out of the lunch program is something we'll take a look. Before June, we'll consult with current grade 4 and 5 parents to develop a plan for next year. There was a suggestion of students remaining at school for 4/5 days. ie. one day off site.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's Report		24-Feb-16		
	Inflows	Outflows	Net	
Events/Fundraising				
Fall BBQ	541	897	(356)	
Wine raffle	1,700	-	1,700	
Pancake breakfast	1,459	480	979	
Clothing sale	488	-	488	
Coffee sale	2,168	1,335	833	
Cookie sale	1,549	900	649	
School holiday party	-	437	(437)	
Toonie Sale/Donations (Syrian Family)	2,163	2,163	-	
Total	10,068	6,212	3,856	
	Budget	Actual YTD	Remaining Budget	
Budgeted Expenses				
Nutrition	9,500	-	9,500	
Music/art/presentations	3,500	1,898	1,602	
Eco/outdoor space	1,000	-	1,000	
Classroom funds (14 x \$500)	7,000	1,206	5,794	
Transportation (14 x 300)	4,200	-	4,200	
Music	1,000	-	1,000	
Library	1,000	-	1,000	
Sports / phys. Ed	2,000	-	2,000	
Graduation	500	-	500	
Lice squad	750	-	750	
Technology Fund	5,000	-	5,000	
Council meetings, police checks, bank fees, and miscellaneous	2,000	1,078	922	
Total	37,450	4,182	33,268	
Year to Date Summary				
Opening balance August 1, 2015			53,479	
Prior fiscal payments/deposits			(3,013)	
Net funds raised (above)			3,856	
Council spending (above)			(4,182)	
Cash position February 23, 2016			50,139	
Cash position if remaining budget spent			16,871	

Classroom Funds Summary (2015/2016)

Ms. Halton	\$ 67.79	Supplies
Ms. Miller	187.50	Ontario Art Council community digital story telling
Ms. Brennan	281.25	Ontario Art Council community digital story telling
Ms. Hird/Ms. Chang	281.25	Ontario Art Council community digital story telling
Ms. Di Zio	194.00	Scientist in School workshop
Ms. Brammanis	194.00	Scientist in School workshop
	<u>\$ 1,205.79</u>	

Technology Committee –

The school (Georgia Dunne) presented an update on the school's current request for ipads. School Council is excited to provide financial and expert support to the integration. Over the next month the school's tech committee (teachers), the council tech committee (Garth, Vivian, Bretton, Mark) and Nadira will review the points below with the intention of making a motion to approve at the Council meeting on March 31st.

- Vision: immediate, short-term and long-term
- Strategy: what choices are we making with the devices (ensuring the right iPad - the devices selected have the capabilities for Shared iPad etc. There are certain models that will allow for this new feature once it becomes available, so this will be an important thing to consider, including storage.), and what are we going to prioritize (i.e. Say "yes" to, and conversely say "No" to), as well as infrastructure
- Roll out: who will be in the pilot, and what roles will they have, what teachers are ready to launch, and in what Grade will we launch
- Creating Benchmarks: what will success look like for students, teachers and parents
- Looking Beyond the pilot: as much as possible what needs (financial, professional development, time) do you forecast for next year and for the life of the devices
- Thinking about these types of questions/thoughts: technology should help solve a problem you're looking to address- is it student engagement? Is it making thinking visible, or a change in assessment practices? Is it to deliver a more personalized and collaborative experience for students? Is it a focus on critical thinking, inquiry, or problem solving? What is it that you'd like to see the technology support, in terms of the learning objectives?

Space Committee –

The Space committee has met twice at the time of these minutes being distributed. The committee has put forth several ideas for discussion in lieu of adding portables to our property.

We feel that there are other options we'd like to see explored such as:

1. Using the music room as a classroom
2. Changing catchment area to exclude part of Liberty Village (but grandfathering those children who are already in the school)
3. Rerouting kids to Niagara Street, Charles Fraser and Alexander Muir, all of which are not full (with catchment change – again, all families currently in the school would remain in the school.)
4. Asking the daycare to restrict their care to before and after school (therefore not needing the classrooms all day) (Note this would NOT happen for Sept 2016)
5. Sending the grade 6 class to Alexander Muir
6. Leasing space from Senhor Santo Cristo which is slated to close

At this time, we're not advocating for any of these options in particular (without more information) but we do know that we don't want to lose our basketball courts and have kids going back and forth to school in an open-to-the-public schoolyard if we don't have to. Plus we'd to know that there is a long-term plan for the space at the school.

A meeting occurred on March 2 to explore these options and get more answers from TDSB staff.

Sports Committee –

House League soccer for grades 1 and 2 is currently underway. The Boys' Basketball and Girls' Volleyball seasons have wrapped up, each concluding with the participation in tournaments. The hockey team also had an exhibition game. Thank you to staff, coaches and volunteers.

The Spring Sports will commence after March Break: Co-Ed Badminton, Ultimate Frisbee, Girls' Soccer and Boys' Soccer as well as Track and Field.

Fun Fair – Mark your calendars: MAY 28th
Needed:

Silent Auction Committee Members

Silent Auction Items – Flowers, Gift Baskets, Photographs, Tickets (sports, theatre, concerts), Gift Cards (restaurants, hotels, services, spa), Sports (skis, bikes, outerwear, golf, signed items), Weekend getaways, Tools, Car detailing, Subscriptions. Wine, House items (furniture, interior design, pillows, light fixtures), Technology (cameras, selfie sticks, ipads, gaming devices), Kids' items (toys, family movie packages, board games)

Class Parent Reps will be equipped with “Silent Auction” item lists with complete instructions. Each rep will be tasked with finding parents to assist with contacting, confirming, picking up item, thanking donor a list of approximately 10 items.

Sponsorship: There are a variety of levels of both corporate and personal sponsorship and these help to off-set the costs (food, beverages, tents, tables, activities, equipment, prizes). If you are interested or have a recommendation please contact Kate at hobsonkate@gmail.com

Integration of other “committees” – the Nutrition Committee will be taking a lead on the “indoor” food, the Eco-Committee will be supporting the beverage area by possibly selling reusable H₂O bottles (TBC).

Nutrition Committee – The Nutrition Committee has its own “webpage” - <http://gsschool.wix.com/gsnutrition> that is updated regularly. Be sure to check it out. As well, they continue to offer new snack foods and drive positive awareness about nutrition and wellness.

On February 26th they hosted a Movie Night that was a great success. Any feedback or suggestions on the evening can be directed to Council and will be passed on to the committee.

Eco Committee – The Committee is fundraising this year to develop a “tree tour” with plaques and maps that classrooms can use to learn about the many species of trees and plants in the school yard. It is also talking to the Nutrition Committee about potential educational activities for growing healthy food. Earth Day falls on April 22nd and will be the date for the annual “Eco Hop” (a student dance-a-thon whereby students will collect pledges and funds raised support the school). Later that month, April 30th will be the bike sale / yard clean up and all families are welcome to attend. Hold on to your “kids/young adult” books as they will be hosting a used-book sale in June in preparation for “Summer Reading”. More information to come in the spring.

Suggestion – with the new garbage bins should we consider building storage bins?

Other Business

Syrian Family Update:

After a long journey from Turkey, Adnan and his family arrived at the airport hotel in the early hours of Wednesday morning. A welcoming committee greeted them in the lobby with a large banner and stacks of homemade cards. They were overwhelmed and grateful (and tired!) and were driven to their new home at Dovercourt & Bloor. The team members had lovingly prepared the home and made sure the beds were made up and food in the fridge. Colourful welcome cards covered one wall. 7-year old Elizar said it was 'Soooo Beautiful'. Over the next week they will be taken to various appointments and shown how to get around the city. Thanks again to everyone and we will share more updates soon.

Communication:

The Bulldog Bulletin Newsletter and the Bulldog Bulletin Notification messages seem to be working well for distributing information to the Givins Shaw parents. If you are not receiving these please email Givins Shaw council so that your email can be put on the list.

Website – the school's TDSB site is up to date (correct information); however, more creative pages are in the works to direct people to that will include more photos and a nicer aesthetic look. <http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/givinshaw/Home.aspx>

UPCOMING DATES:

March 14 – 18th – March Break
March 25th – Good Friday
March 28th – Easter Monday
March 31st – School Council Meeting 6:15 PM in the library
April 15th – PA Day
April 12th – School Council Meeting 6:15 PM in the library
April 19th – Spring Concert (Kindergarten)
April 20th – Spring Concert (Grades 1 – 6)
April 22nd – Eco-Hop (during the day)
April 30th – Yard Clean-up / Bike Swap
May 19th – Parent Band Night @ Cadillac Lounge (Parent Social)
May 25 – June 8 – EQSO Administration (Grades 3 and 6)
May 28th – Fun Fair