

School Council Meeting #2 October 17, 2016

Attendees: Rebecca Toth, Wendy Naimark, Donna Diakun, Joanne Zan, Heather Shaw, Myfanwy Marshall, Dale McIntosh, Stephanie Bonas, Michael Sims, Dana Kerimoglu.

Faculty – Ms. Gorman, Mr. Smith, Ms Stockton, Mr. Franklin, Mr. Taylor

Minutes of September - moved by Myfanwy Marshall and seconded by Heather Shaw. Passed.

Principal Taylor's update

Mr Taylor played a youtube video by TDSB Schools and Parents Working Together for our kids.
<https://youtu.be/Vs4pVtQEXtk>

Mr Taylor also shared the School Improvement Planning plan - attached as Appendix A

New caretaker - Jessie is with us for a few months – working with Paul. Dan Taylor has asked them to look at the School Council storage space for shelving.

Council Update Communications

All sorts of ways to stay in touch:

www.givinsshaw.com

givinsshawcouncil@gmail.com

Twitter @givinsshaw <https://twitter.com/GivinsShaw>

Communications seems to be going well through social media and through class parent reps. School is still in process of completing its own email tree so we will be able to email directly to parents (it is a blind cc so that emails are not shared).

School Clothing - A great success – thank you to all parents who participated and to Shannon and Stephanie for assisting with tallying all the orders up. Clothes will be available for pick up in November – details TBC.

Sports Committee

Boys softball team is undefeated.

Girls softball team is trying really hard

Cross Country has 12 participating on October 19th, and then it will be City finals.

Basketball starts in November and then volleyball (Grade 4 and up)

Nutrition Committee

1) Donations

Last week envelopes went home asking families to donate \$25 for the fall term's morning snack program. The bulk of the donations will hopefully be received by October 21st. A reminder will be sent out by Dora to the classroom reps this week so parents can remember to get their donations in. Thank you Shannon Groulx for getting all those envelopes prepared!

2) Nutrition committee newsletter is out

The first newsletter for the school year is on line for parents to get Nutrition tips, recipes, and the snack menus. It is a bi-monthly publication. We look for submissions so please have a look. Thank you Melissa Armstrong for making it happen!

<http://gsschool.wixsite.com/gsnutrition>

3) Movie Night

November 25th is the agreed upon date with Principal Taylor and is pending permit finalization. Last year we made over \$1000 for that one single event. This year we hope to do the same if not better. Details will follow.

Eco Committee

Have not had the first meeting yet, and still want new members so if interested contact Donna Diakun.

The Eco Committee is interested in a new project: A tree tour - identify the trees/shrubs on the school grounds with plaques identify the tree/shrub and provide a self-guided tour. Would enable students and broader community to learn about the diversity of trees and shrubs on the property. Want to involve the students in making the plaques and reach out to the community for information on the types of trees/shrubs and also to make a map. Still need to do some further research for the project and to see what amount of funding would be needed or could be raised. The committee will come back to Council with a budget and their proposal.

Used clothing sale has been a traditional thing done by the Eco Committee. But other initiatives have raised more money. If we want to have the clothing sale, then we need to have a new lead on the clothing sale. Used book sale is going to go ahead and a request to take adult books was requested

Transition Committee

A few parents expressed an interest in being a part of a transition committee (graduation / space) but still in discussion.

Discussion about open houses at other schools or for TDSB programs: Claud Watson is school for the arts and has an open house upcoming. Mr Taylor reminded parents that Extended French Program begins in grade 4 at the schools that have it. Karen Kain School starts in Grade 6.

Treasurer's Report

No update as of the date of the meeting.
Budget/Financial Plan for school council 2016/17.

Technology Committee

Mr. Taylor shared the new school technology plan. It is attached as Appendix B.

Mr. Smith and Ms. Stockton spoke about the benefits in the classroom of the iPads (they have 5 each).

Motion to approve support of the Givins/Shaw Technology Plan passed unanimously.

In proposed budget, \$20,000 for technology. It was agreed and passed to adjust this amount to \$22,000.00. Motion to approve \$22,000 for technology Moved by Rebecca Toth and seconded by Myfanwy Marshall.

Proposed Budget for 2016/17

The proposed budget was reviewed - see Appendix C. There were discussions where the dollar amounts were appropriate.

Motion was made and passed to approve the line items of the budget but agreed that the dollar amount for each line item was still to be finalized at the next meeting. Moved by Myfanwy Marshall, seconded by Rebecca Toth.

Academic Enrichment Committee

Still need parent volunteers. Likely commitment is 2-3 meetings of the committee. Please email council if you would like to participate in a brainstorm and/or planning.

Fall 2016 Events

Pancake Breakfast - November (date to be determined)

Toonie Sale

Holiday Party

Motion to conclude meeting.

CALL OUT FOR VOLUNTEERS:

Lead for Clothing Sale. It is typically held in the fall term. If interested please email the school council. – CONFIRMED TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 10th.

Reading Program

Looking for parents who can contribute time to be involved in the reading program.

Academic Enrichment Committee

Looking for parent volunteers who want to work with teachers to develop a list of what activities/education experiences could be brought into the school (like scientist in the classroom, authors, artist etc).

To get involved in any of the above, if there is an area or event you would like to be involved in, or if you would like to have your name on a list as a potential volunteer for “done in a day” type events (volunteering only for one date/time), please contact the School Council - givinshawcouncil@gmail.com.

Appendix A



Learning Focus in Equity 2016-2017

IF...."We examine as a school our own biases"

Then....+we can make a long term plan

- + we can invite Board Equity Department to educate staff on specific goals
- + we can gather and order the appropriate resources for the school and classrooms
- + plan appropriate whole school initiatives/projects
- + unpack staff, student and community biases
- + reach the needs of ALL individuals

Impetus for action:

- demographics of student body indicate overwhelming percentage of students (86%) are born in Canada and speak only English at home – concern that those who are not of the 86% do not feel fully included or are appropriately reflected in school decisions
- Acknowledgment of a need for more of a school-wide approach to global citizenry

Actions:

- Met with Learning Coach Beryl Cohen in Sept./16 and on Oct. 11/16
- Hosted Right to Play assembly on October 5/16 for all grade 3 – 6 students with the RTP country manager from Ghana
- Contacted Chelsea Takalo, TDSB student equity program advisor to plan meeting for Oct. 12/16
- Equity committee to examine possibilities of conducting student surveys from grades 4 – 6 and arranging training for our staff meetings

Learning Focus in Achievement 2016-2017

If we promote **problem solving skills** through active engagement, inquiry-based learning processes, and increased technology integration in the classroom, **then we will** increase our students' capacity to learn and think globally, and improve student achievement in core learning skills such as literacy and numeracy.

Impetus for Action:

- 2015/16 Grade 6 EQAO results in Mathematics indicates that 36% of student body met provincial standard
- June 2016 Report Card data indicates that 30% of entire student body receiving a level 2 in writing

Actions:

- Renewed math strategy – 3 vying for lead math teacher
- Whole School Technology plan to enhance digital fluency, problem solving, and student engagement
- Focus on effective use of achievement chart from growing success as it pertains to ensuring comprehensive and differentiated assessment techniques.
- Ensuring that resource support and HSP meet the needs of our most needy students and are rich in required resources

Learning Focus in Well-Being 2016-2017

If we commit to exploring options that support our own well-being as a staff,

Then we will develop an array of strategies and supports for ourselves, and the community, that could nurture a greater sense of well-being in the school, and provide a ground for fostering greater well-being amongst our students.

Impetus for Action

- 72% of student body receiving an excellent or good in self-regulation and the school is averaging over 80% in all other learning skills
- well-being @ Givins is at least two-pronged: well-being of staff / well-being of students
- well-being of staff is essential to modelling and providing an environment that promotes well-being for students; has filter-down effect

Actions:

- Brain gym - strategies for identifying and responding to stress in one's body • Mind Up
- Growth Mind Set (lesson-based): promotes self-regulation, teaches skills for focusing, attention, promotes self-esteem, mindfulness, resilience and risk-taking
- regular meditation, class meetings to voice feelings, reflect, time to share and reflect, build community
- intentionally slowing pace, including a weekly nature walk
- have a designated 'calming' area - a quiet room in the school, intentionally furnished sensory environment, diminished stimulation, books, actives etc available to provide a restorative time out of the classroom?
- over-arching theme to discussion: how do we build community and sense of belonging that extends beyond individual classrooms? School-wide events?
- create opportunities to support each other, and our students • develop and share strategies that are solution-oriented

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Appendix B



Givins / Shaw Technology Plan

September 13, 2016

On Monday, September 12, 2016 teachers Martin Franklin, Adam Smith, Debbie Stockton, and Principal Dan Taylor met with Craig Kirchner who is the Manager of Client Relations for the TDSB I.T. services.

Increasing the effective use of technology at Givins / Shaw has been a primary need identified by parents, students, staff and the administration of the school. The purpose of the meeting with Mr. Kirchner was to forge a plan which would look to integrate technology throughout our school in a manner that promotes a heightened digital fluency for our students and allows for a greater dexterity in the way the staff can implement the curriculum.

The plan that came from this discussion is multi-faceted and designed to be phased in over years. Our vision for digital fluency at Givins/Shaw focuses on students in each classroom, from kindergarten to their graduating year, being able to wirelessly collaborate together with their peers and teachers on projects, areas of inquiry, and problem solving through the use of ipads, and wireless connections to data projectors. Embedded in the plan, is an understanding that professional development for all staff would be made available on an ongoing basis in order to ensure that the technology would be used to its utmost capabilities.

Our ideal technology kit per class at Givins / Shaw would include:


Item	Inventory and cost per unit
Ipad Air 2 – 32 GB memory	1 per teacher - \$480
Ipad Air 2 – 32 GB memory	10 per class - \$5730 (for 10 pack)
Apple TV	1 per class - \$144
Dewey Document Camera Stand – allows for the ipad to become a document camera	1 per classroom - \$83
'Grips' for each ipad	10 per class - \$41.98 x 10 = \$419.80
Storage carts (tech tubs) for ipads for security and recharging	1 tech tub holds 5 ipads = \$242 Each class would need 2 = \$484
Total Cost per class	\$7340.80
Total cost for 15 classes	\$110 112

All prices as of the TDSB purchasing catalogue from September, 2016

In addition, we identified a need to improve upon wi-fi availability throughout the school and the computers the teachers require on a more daily basis in order to complete all the aspects of the position. The more devices we add to Givins/Shaw requiring internet accessibility the more we need to ensure that our wi-fi signal is strong. We also concluded that in order for our library to become a location for further research, exploration, and experimentation, a cart of 30 laptops available for the students which are secured in the library would be required. We see this part of the plan to be more of a school budget initiative.

<p>Givins/Shaw Technology Action Plan 2016 - 2017</p>	<p>Cost</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the school's wi-fi access is adequate for all classrooms, the office and the gymnasium – we have contacted Tony Venneri from the TDSB's I.T. department to come and examine our current wi-fi infrastructure – we think that we would need to purchase at least two other wi-fi access points which cost \$452 per unit <p>G/S Technology Action Plan 2016-17</p>	<p>\$452 x 2 = \$904</p> <p>Cost</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that each teacher has a working, currently upgraded, lap top computer (reconfigured HP Elitebook = \$324 per unit) 	<p>\$324 x 21 = \$6804</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a cart of 30 lap top computers to be stored in the library in order for our junior students to be able to use them for research, STEM initiatives, and other projects (reconfigured HP Elitebook = \$324 per unit) 	<p>30 x 324 = \$9720</p> <p>Price of cart = \$1957</p>

Appendix C

Proposed Budget 2016 – 2017		
Area	Possible Use of Funds	Allocation
Academic Enrichment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visiting authors • Visiting artists/athletes/performers • Visiting scientists • Visiting Presentations (e.g., musical group, anti-bullying, etc) • Classroom / School wide workshops (eg. Logics Academy) *Teacher/Parent committee to convene	\$7,000.00
Classroom Funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focused more on “grade” initiatives / field trips with the direction that these funds should go towards buses if possible/needed and if not then towards a class specific trip/initiative. *Funds can be requested by emailing Council	\$5000.00 (approx \$300 per class/ \$15 per person)
Sports/Recess Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updating recess and sports equipment • Team uniforms, team equipment 	\$1000.00
Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the technology plan presented by the school on October 17th 2016 	\$22,000
Eco / Outdoor Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plants, trees, mulch, fencing • Additional scooter and bicycle racks? 	\$500.00
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment upgrades 	\$500.00
Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Festival of Trees tickets / transportation 	\$1000.00
Graduation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplement / reimburse parents if required for decorations, yearbook, cake *Note for 2016 – 2017 there will be two celebrations possibly (Grade 5 and Grade 6)	\$500.00
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • URL domain name 	\$200.00
Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council meetings • Teacher appreciation lunch • School Council hosted events (eg. Morning Meet ups, candy canes at the Holiday party) 	\$3000.00

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police checks • Bank fees <p>*Note that the school budget will cover the cost of childcare for meetings and the permit for the Fun Fair</p>	
Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the Nutrition program / budget 	TBC

- Not included at this time are funds to support re-decorating / renovations in the library