

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 18, 2023 (6:30 PM – 7:45 PM)
VIRTUAL



ZION HEIGHTS MS
SCHOOL COUNCIL

ATTENDANCE:

School Staff: Principal Le, Ms. O, Mr. Dykshoorn

Elected School Council Members (13 Voting Members): Phouvieng Sackda (Co-Chair), Guang-Ying Mo (Co-Chair), Eric Yao (Treasurer), Key Kasravi, Aarthi Vesva, May Mark, Kiran Asrani, Nina Chau

School Parents (in attendance): Shadi Moghadam, Iris Chai, Michael Wang, Hailey Kwok, Minako Ogawa, Philip Su, Jennifer Nguyen, Carrie, Melody Nguyen, Faye, Kaiyan

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: “We acknowledge we are hosted on the lands of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Wendat. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and the Inuit peoples”.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Co-Chair’s opening remarks – (Phouv)

Good evening everyone, I hope you are all doing well and thank you for joining us tonight. Thank you, Mr. Le for setting up this evening’s meeting.

Opening chat note from Principal Le, Good evening everyone. Welcome to our April ZHMS School Council Meeting. Please sign in using the chat if you have not done so already. Thank you - Mr. Le

2. Approval of meeting agenda – motion by Phouv, seconded by Key – **motion carried** Approval of March 28, meeting minutes – motion by Phouv, seconded by May – **motion carried**

3. Student report by Conner and Anna – Grade 7 students

Intro – Greetings ZHMS Parent Council! My name is Anna and this is Conner. Today, we are here to talk about all of our experiences as students in Zion in April!

- a. In March we had a spring dance to fundraise for our grade 8 graduation.
- b. Downsview Park Trip - All grade 7 students had an opportunity to go to the Outdoor Education Center, at the newly renovated location by the former Downsview airport. We experienced signs of early life in the spring, as well as good physical activity. This was a very enjoyable experience for all students.
- c. ZAC – Zion Activity Council – Bake Sale – fundraise for ZAC initiatives.
- d. At Zion, we’ve been staying active just in time for the spring season, with our Co-Ed volleyball teams as well as the badminton team.
- e. Various clubs are continuing their activities: such as our robotics team, choir, boardgames, and the eco & writing club.
- f. This Thursday, the entire school will participate in a cleanup of the school yard.
- g. Currently, we’re learning about geometry and angles. We also had a project where we had to construct a fully operational garden.
- h. Other students in science classes made copper II sulfate crystals to make a supersaturated solution.
- i. In language classes, we are currently doing presentations on classic literature.
- j. Our badminton team won 14 out of 15 games today. Overall they’ve had a very successful season and the team is going to the finals.

4. Teacher's report – (Mr. Dykshoorn)

- Teachers currently working towards a final summary project that is required by students to exhibit understanding of the years' work
- Students continue to do book reports and presentations are done by almost all classes
- Students in science have made a supersaturated solution, others have made a working garden management. With the nice weather coming more focus on the environment will occur
- Students participated in "eco day" to clean the entire play yard
- Physical education department has done some outstanding work in the volleyball, badminton clubs. All have won their division competition, special thanks to Mr. Gardziejczyk who has committed incredible and untold hours to these teams. Also thanks to Ms. Fernandes and Mr. Nini as well.
- Grade 7 were out on a field trip last week
- Grade 6 students will be going on a field trip in late May – early June to Mono Cliffs
- Clubs continue to meet, such as choir, art club, music clubs, robotics, writing club
- Thank you to parent council for \$500.00 grant for Robotics Club

5. Principal's Report by (Mr. Le / Ms. O)

Health and safety update: Fire alarm replacement is ongoing – 3 additional fire drills and 1 additional lock-down will be scheduled during Term 2. Exterior window and door repairs are ongoing, and classes have been relocated to the library or cafeteria without incident; we will try to book a TPS safety officer to speak to kids before the end of the year; MADD Canada presentation has been postponed to June 1

PROGRAMMING: TDSB outdoor ed – mono cliffs overnight excursion has been approved for Gr.6s, 7s & 8s are still on a waiting list - EQAO test dates will be modified, excursions will be communicated to parents this week May 30 - June 1, and June 5 - 7, all EQAO testing will conclude by June 14

The staffing model was approved – the option of fewer combined grades was presented and approved by the SOE. The student transition process usually takes place in late May and June

Staffing reductions included:

- Less 0.5 VP allocation
- Less 0.5 Special Education resource allocation
- Less 0.5 ESL allocation

TDSB budget resources explaining staffing cuts:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Business-Services/Budgets-and-Financial-Statements/Developing-the-2023-2024-Budget>

Parents raised questions regarding the cuts to the Arts Program, from 150 minutes to 120 minutes per week. 40 minutes for music, 40 minutes for fine arts, and 40 minutes for drama. Parents are concerned that 40 minutes a week isn't enough time for the students to learn how to play the instruments.

- Suggestions were made to have after school music drop in and music club.
- Hiring the right music teacher is imperative for our school.
- As requested by a few parents, Key is willing to pen a letter to the Trustee and the Superintendent for more resources in order to ensure that Zion continues to have a robust music offering.
- Mr. Le to provide the facts around why Arts allocation of time is changing so the letter can be drafted.

Asian Heritage Month Celebration, May 15 – Ms. O, is Co-chairing this event.

This event is virtual, it is pre-recorded and will be stream and broadcast during the assembly.

- Zion will be hosting the event, parents are invited to attend
- The Director is slated to attend (Trustee Li and superintendent Marwa Hamid)
- Mo will attend the event (Phouv is not available to attend)

6. Financial report – (Eric/Phouv)

Current Bank Account statement **\$15,425.67**

Allocations of school funds so far:

- Graduation reception \$600
- School team jerseys (used \$971.60 of budget) \$1,000
- End of Year BBQ for students and staff \$1,500
- School tents \$3,000
- School Club materials from various teachers \$2,800 (itemized details in February 7 Meeting Minutes)

Total allocation \$8,900

Fundraisings raised to date:

- Halloween pizza lunch \$903.98
- School Spirit wear \$670
- Holiday bake sale \$979.50
- January 12, pizza lunch \$1,196.02
- February 2, pizza lunch \$1,248
- March 23, pizza lunch \$1,217.87
- Spring Bake Sale \$689.45
- Cash Sale (pizza and Lion mascot) \$45
- April 27, pizza lunch \$1,155

Approximate total money raised to date \$8,104.82

9. School Council upcoming fundraising events and activities:

- April 27 Pizza lunch (needed more volunteers to sign up)

10. New Business?

- ❖ Graduation reception committee: We usually have the grade 7 parents hosting this event (May step up to be the lead on this event)
- ❖ Zion BBQ committee: This BBQ will be held in June before the end of the school year – date to be determine.
- ❖ Track and Field BBQ: This BBQ is for Ms. Cattell for Track and Field Day on May 11. Flyer has been sent out on how to purchase and volunteer sign up.
- ❖ Food Sovereignty Session – Learning The Basic About Foraging: An information flyer has been sent out with more details and asking parents to register for this event.

11. Motion to adjourn: Meeting adjourned @ 7:45 PM. Motioned by Phouv, seconded by Key

School council meeting dates:

Tuesday, May 9, 2023 – 6:30 - 7:30 PM (In person)