

# MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday November 8, 2022 (6:30 PM – 7:30 PM)



ZION HEIGHTS MS  
**SCHOOL COUNCIL**

## **ATTENDANCE:**

**Elected School Council Members (13 Voting Members):** Phouvieng Sackda (Co-Chair), Eric Yao (Treasurer), Key Kasravi, Jenny Zeng, Aarthi Visva, Kiran Asrani, May Mark, Fay Wang, Nina Chau, Kalan Chung

**School Parents (in attendance):** Jennifer Nguyen, Hailey Kwok, Susan Tsin, Minako Ogawa, Amir Monshi, Antora Khan, Shadi Moghadam, Hangqing Shi, Nina Chau, Julie Higgs, Dyhyaana S, Walter Zhang

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**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”.

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## **AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Co-Chair’s opening remarks – **(Phouv)**  
Good evening and welcome everyone - thank you for joining us this evening. I hope all is well with everyone. We have a lot to cover and hopefully we’ll get through them.
2. a. Approval of meeting agenda – motion by Phouv, seconded by Key – **motion carried**  
b. Approval of October 13th, meeting minutes – motion by Phouv, seconded by Key – **motion carried**
3. Student report by D & J

### **Things happening in Oct.**

- House Leagues
- Halloween Activities
- The soccer team/cross country did really good
- Spirit week

### **Student feedback (if possible) – points to discuss**

- Really great, Zion has a really good foundation of learning
- Really enjoy the pumpkin carving and being able to stay in one classroom
- Opportunities to involve yourself in the school community
- Better than last year (an improvement from previous ways of learning)
- Looking forward to...More initiatives/school events & Cultural weeks more spirit week

### **4. Teacher’s report – (Vice Principal, Ms. O.)**

- Character trait of the week: Empathy
- Teams and clubs are running smoothly this week
  - **Extracurriculars:** House league soccer, Girls basketball - upcoming tournament, Volleyball team tryouts – boys 7/8,
  - **Clubs:** Choir, Band, Art Club, Board Games Club, Future Cities, Robotics, Rainbow club, Eco Club, Writing Club, Zion Activity Council – Student Council

**Question:** Where can parents find out the clubs and teams information and schedule?

A: <https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/zionheights/Extracurricular-Activities-Calendar>

**Question:** Can students start their own club at Zion? If yes, what procedure do they have to follow?

A: Yes. Students should first talk to their homeroom teacher, and fill up a club initiative form (from SAC?)

## 5. Principal's report – (Mr. Le)

### Health & Safety/Plant

- Caretakers were away from the site on Friday and Monday and the VP/P were responsible for opening and closing the school for staff; no issues were reported during this time.

### Program

- Progress Report Cards will be sent home on Tuesday, Nov. 15
- Parent / Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday Nov. 18th evening and Friday Nov. 19th in the morning; Nov. 19 is a PA day for students
- Parent-teacher conferences – in person, telephone option for parents
- Staffing - 61 HR teacher Ms. Lee Kew will be on leave for the remainder of the year, Ms. Wang has stepped in to cover

### Ongoing

- Backpack policy – our review of our current backpack policy is ongoing and will comprise of the following ZHMS school council consultation – awaiting feedback
- Staff Meeting consultation – tote bags for gym clothes and/or chromebooks preferred over backpacks
- ZAC consultation – tote bags are preferred over heavy backpacks
- Homeroom consultation – awaiting feedback from all classes

### Admin feedback from Mr. Le/Ms. O

- Staff and students have provided feedback regarding our outdated backpack policy
- Most students have adapted to our rotary timetable and are able to manage only going to their lockers during assigned times
- Accommodations are still being made for students that requires them
- Teachers are allowing students to go to their lockers when the need arises
- Admin will review feedback from school council as well as staff and students and communicate an updated policy to families and students.

## ***Zion Heights Middle School – Backpack Policy (To be reviewed and revised)***

*Zion Heights instituted a “No Backpack” policy as part of the Code of Conduct and Safe and Caring Schools Policy. Students are not allowed to carry backpacks, purses, or bags to class or lunch. They must be left in the locker between 8:50 - and 3:05.*

***BAGS OR KNAPSACKS ARE TO BE STORED IN LOCKERS AT ALL TIMES***

### ***This policy is in effect for a number of important reasons:***

- *Safety, as items that should not be at school can be concealed.*
- *Security, as we are trying to reduce the risk of theft.*
- *Safety, as it is easier to identify student trespassers to the school.*
- *Safety, as they can cause problems as students move through the hallways and enter classes.*
- *Organization, as students must learn to organize their books and binders.*
- *Safety, as the additional weight is unhealthy for developing bones.*

*Students may carry a cloth gym bag on gym days only.*

*Procedure for students:*

- *Students must arrive to school by 8:45 and proceed to their locker.*
- *They take the books needed for the morning and return to their locker before lunch and put them away. At the end of lunch, they take the books needed for the afternoon classes.*
- *This safety rule will be strictly enforced throughout the year.*

*We ask parents to cooperate with us and encourage good organizational skills.*

6. Financial report – (Eric/Phouv)
  - **Balance as of the end of September 2022 was \$8900**
  - Approximate profits from two fundraising events
    - Spirit wear sale: 134 items sold and \$673 profit
    - Pizza lunch: 348 slices of pizza ordered and \$900
  - Total = \$1573**
  
7. School Council fundraising events and activities
  1. Zion Heights Spirit Wear (completed) (Phouv)
  2. Pizza lunch fundraiser (Phouv)
    - Halloween Pizza Lunch (completed)
  3. UPCOMING FUNDRAISER
    - a. November Pizza Lunch (Tentative date – Friday November 25)
    - b. December Pizza Lunch (Tentative date – Friday December 16)
    - c. Holiday Bake Sale (Tentative date – Monday December 5)
  
8. Class Parent Program (CPP) – (Christine/Phouv)
  - only 9 out of 18 classes have a class parent
  - for classes that have a class parent., less than half the parents have contacted the Parent rep.

**Suggestion:**

  - Class parents should. contact Christine Tom for support
  - Christine should be informed of the status of the Class Parent Program
  
9. Parents are concerned with the school's homework policy.
 

**Mr. Le:**

  - 10-minute rule: teachers should add 10 minutes of homework for each grade a student completes, starting with the first grade
  - Teachers should coordinate when assigning HW

Parents raised concerns about the condition of the lockers – broken and many are very rusty

  - Key is working with Mr. Le to expedite for new lockers

Meeting ran out of time and was adjourn at number 10

10. School Wide Initiative and Enrichment program
  1. Student Wellness/Safe & Caring (Mo/Sugy/Aarthi)
  2. Math & Literature contest (Jenny)
  
11. School needs – for discussion:
  - a. School tent with school logo
  - b. Upgrading the basketball backboard to glass backboard
  - c. Upgrading the volleyball pole
  
12. New Business
  - Teacher's and staff appreciation (Pizza lunch in December?) (Key/Phouv)
  
13. Motion to adjourn

**Motion to adjourn:** Phouv Sackda, seconded by Key Kasravi.