

# MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 17, 2023 (6:30 PM – 7:45 PM)



ZION HEIGHTS MS  
**SCHOOL COUNCIL**

## **ATTENDANCE:**

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

**School Parents (in attendance):** Czaee Arora, Celia Elisa, A Monshi, Shadi Matin, SSU, Samantha Hum, Sophia, Sally Lady Nguyen, Julia Cheng,

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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)**  
Meeting called to order @ 6:36 PM  
Good evening and welcome everyone - Happy New Year. We have a lot to cover today and hopefully we’ll get through them.
2. a. Approval of meeting agenda – motion by Phouv, seconded by Mo – **motion carried**  
b. Approval of November 8, meeting minutes – motion by Phouv, seconded by Key – **motion carried**
3. **Student report by Anna Loan and Juno (We did not get notes from the student's report) and notes was taken.**
4. Teacher’s report – (Mr. Dykshoorn)

**Math:** Introduction to algebra concepts, definitions, variables, constants.

**English:** End of the year assessments on the events of 2022, based on actual historical events as well as personal stories that happened.

**Science:** Introduction to floatation and sinking of objects, specifically the idea that volume of an object is the determining factor that predicts the ability to float, not mass. Students are also learning to calculate the buoyant and gravitational force.

**ISS:** Looking at Canada and determining the location of various Native populations of Canada. This information will then be transmitted to a map with exact coordinates to determine various Indigenous populations throughout Canada.

**Art:** Grade 7s have participated in the annual TDSB CREATES arts festival. They have created an installation that can be seen in the front foyer as you look towards the atrium. Schools across the city are participating in this event, and their work will be showcased in a downtown gallery at: Artscape from February 11th - March 1<sup>st</sup>

**French:** There will be a Zion HMS French Speech Arts Festival opportunity for interested students. This is an extra-curricular activity for those students who would like the opportunity to participate and learn more, as well as having a chance to compete at the school final on Friday March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Robotics club:** Originally ran by Ms. Tsoy & Mr. D. 80 students have expressed an interest. Students have been divided into 3 groups. First group is finishing on Jan. 23, and second group of students will be starting after that. Planning to form a Zion team to enter competitions next year. Mr. Le suggested to take an inventory of kits available, and inform if additional supplies required. Parent council willing to help with purchasing of additional kits.

**5. Principal's Report by (Ms. O)**

- Planning for Lunar New Year – Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> in the PM, we will have a Lunar New Year Assembly. There will be a lion dance performance by Northern Legs Southern Fists Kung Fu Club (Toronto).
- Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup> in the AM, all classes participated in a virtual session entitled “National Day of Remembrance and Action on Islamophobia Webinar”. This was offered by TDSB's Equity, Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression Department, which includes the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement, in collaboration with the National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM).
- On Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup> in the AM, our students will join a live streamed theatrical performance of the best-selling book, The Children of Willesden Lane, which tells the story of the power of music and how one teenage refugee held onto her dreams, survived the Holocaust and inspired a generation. Thanks to a wonderful donation from Liberation75 and the Shoah Foundation, we have received a copy of this book for each student at Zion Heights.

Regarding equity related events. Question was raised about the process of selecting and vetting of speakers. Mr. Le shared the TDSB process of having an approved speaker list, and seeing the presentation first before the event.

**6. Financial report – (Eric/Phouv)**

Dec. 5 - Bake Sale \$979.50  
January 12 Pizza Lunch \$\$1,196.02  
Current bank statement not including expenses \$12,765.83

**7. School Council fundraising events and activities**

**COMPLETED**

**a. Holiday Bake Sale**

– Holiday bake sale was a big success – we had lots of food donation from parents that we had to do it over a two day lunch periods. We've raised \$979.50

**b. December Pizza Lunch was cancelled because of the snow storm and was rescheduled to January 12, 2023. We had 344 orders and made a profit of \$1,196.02.**

**c. Teachers and staff appreciation lunch – organized by Key, Jenny and Phouvieng**

It was a huge success – lots of contributions from parents. We collected \$1,645 in donation. We've purchased sushi and Chinese food for the teacher's lunch. \$918.11 was spent and we have \$726.89 remaining which allows us to do another appreciation lunch in May/June.

**UPCOMING FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES**

**a. January Pizza Lunch (Thursday February 2) date has been confirmed by Mr. Le and the flyer will go out January 19 to all parents.**

**b. February Pizza Lunch (Thursday February 23) date has been confirmed – planning in progress.**

**c. Spring Bake Sale (Tentative date – Thursday April 20) not confirmed.**

**8. School Wide Initiative and Enrichment program**

1. Student Wellness/Safe & Caring – no updates

2. Math & Literature contest – 3 math contests scheduled in Spring (one event with 1 contest per Grade).  
Registration details will be sent out.

**9. School needs – for discussion:**

**a. School tent with school logo**

The school tent was request by Ms. O and Mr. Le to represent the school in various school sports competition and to shelter our kids from the rain and hot sun. Phouv presented the layout and mockup of the school tent and motion for a budget of \$3,000 to produce 2 tents. The council agreed on the idea and Key seconded the motion, motion carried.

Key suggested sharing summary of cash position, allocation of funds, and projected income by the financial team to support budget planning for next meeting.

**b. Upgrading the basketball backboard to glass backboard – Mr. Le will look into this item.**

**c. Upgrading the volleyball pole – Mr. Le will ask Ms. Cattell about the volleyball system.**

**10. Concerns:**

1. Music program – retirement announced for Dec. 23. Mr. Caligiuri will be substituting temporarily; and school is looking for a permanent qualified French-music teacher to fill the position
2. Mr. Dykshoorn Robotics Program (see item #4, Teacher’s update)
3. Parent’s concerns about split classes for 2023/2024 - Trustee Li will be invited to this meeting next month to voice & discuss parents’ concerns
4. Any progress on lockers – no update

**11. New Business?**

1. School Council’s Innovation Grant is approved.

The proposal was written by Mo and we have chosen “Food Sovereignty” from the list of topics provided by TDSB. Our focus will be on “Foraging” learning the basic of foraging in our surrounding area.

**12. Motion to adjourn**

Meeting adjourned @ 7:48 PM. Motioned by Phouv Sackda, seconded by Jenny Zeng.

**School council meeting dates:**

Tuesday, February 7, 2023 – 6:30 - 7:30 PM (Virtual)

Tuesday, March 28, 2023 – 6:30 - 7:30 PM (Virtual)

Tuesday, April 18, 2023 – 6:30 - 7:30 PM (Virtual)

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