



Africentric
Alternative
School



School Council Meeting Minutes

OCTOBER 12, 2022

6:30PM - 8:00PM

Agenda

01

- Welcome
- Land Acknowledgement
- What is your favorite season Spring/Fall/winter/Summer? Please put in the chat.
- 1. Principal and School Updates - Mr. Hugh Reynolds
- 2. Parent Open Floor - Questions/Suggestions/Concerns
- 3. Model Schools Updates-Community Support Worker – Colleen Huggins
- 4. Nominations Elections for New Council
- 5. School Council Updates -Maureen B.
- 6. Follow up question from last meeting
- Next Meeting date(s)

General and Roundtable Updates

02

- **Land Acknowledgement**
 - TDSB 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”
- **Terry Fox Fundraising**
 - We raised \$422.00.
- **Curriculum Evening**
 - The turnout was really great. Hopefull you got a sense of some of the things that your child or children will be engaging in in terms of learning for the school year.
- **Music Department**
 - Our steel pan classes are up and running. Ms. Lewis is the one we're working with this year
 - The music department wanted us to be a bit self directive in terms of finding someone who we are comfortable with, and and to engage that person. We used Joy last year for some of our classes, and then I reached out to her. She agreed to support us this year again. The fact that she is an accomplished musician is even a bonus for us.
 - Last year we spoke about getting our children recorded, and that is our aim for this year. So we'll be aiming to do some recording with our students this year
 - We will also take part in African drumming. The instructor that we use last year was Mr. Seyco.
 - Nick Nurse - the music lab is still on
 - He will be donating, His words, were \$50,000 towards the music lab. It will be sent to the school in two installments.
 - The first thing is to get the room um set up, painted the created looking like a music space, and then we will be We'll be purchasing um instruments. We'll make sure that our student voice is hard because we want to reach out to the students as to what they like to see.
 - He was intouch with Apple. Some of the equipment that we might need in the room, might be donated



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- Kindergarten Class

- We started the year without an early childhood educator for our kindergarten class. Last year we had less than fifteen kids. The board policy is that for less than fifteen kids, usually you don't have an ECE, only a teacher. This year we have over twenty-two kids. We have been given the allocation for an ECE. But no one has been assigned as of yet. So in the meantime we're using occasional ECEs as we look to ensuring that our kindergarten program is one of the best that has always been

- **Trips**

- Trips are currently being planned
- Tomorrow, our 7/8 class would be going to Downsview Secondary School all day for a workshop
- November first or grade. One, two, and a grade three, four class will be going to replace

- **Grade 3 - CAT Seven Test**

- It's a test that's only given to the grade 3 students in the Tdsb
- We have students who are recommended or referred for gifted testing through the Tbsp. And we found out that there was a problem because there were some who were under represented in the gifted programs. We decided to ensure that we offer the cat seven test to all students in grade three, and then based on the results of that test. Then it will be able to streamline more in terms of seeing the students who are high achievers. And then those teams were referred to the gifted testing. So it's a more transparent way compared to what we used to do in the past.

- **Big Brothers program**

- Meeting with De Mari Grant, Collen & Mr. Reynolds
- The program is for boys in grade, six to grade eight, and it's going to be during lunch time on a Wednesday. They'll provide food for them
- They'll just have conversations and guidance

- **Early on center**

- They're open from Monday to Thursday, from eight, four to five am to one fifteen Pm
- They provide a variety of activities that promotes a child's development, provides access to resources that support pregnancy, parenting and family well-being events and opportunities to connect with all the families and make new friends.

- **Parents for questions, suggestions, and concerns.**

- For the Jk class. Where are we in the process of finding a suitable ECE teacher.
 - An ECE started this week, and she seems to be doing well in the class with the kids. So we're hoping that until we get that person assigned to the school we can keep this person for consistency, because I don't want to have people coming in and out of the class every day. It's not good for the kids.
- As we look at the kindergarten program, and we look at ensuring that we have representation of us in the school. Um! How? How is that played out in the hiring process, and also for relief?
 - With the relief, you see that it's based on availability. If someone comes a day, and I think it's a good fit. I'll ask them: Are you available for the following days or week? It would not be ethical for them to cancel a job. We usually put the job in the system, and whoever picks up the job, gets it. That's the person who comes in, and in terms of staffing and assigning there's no written rule that says that the staff that works in nephewcentric school have to be from our background. Because our school is a public school within the TDSB, and they have hiring practices that have to be respected. There are Union agreements that have to be respected as well.



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- We're just hoping that those who are making the decision will know that this is an Africentric school, and we need representation. So we're not saying that it has to be, but we want them to be aware that representation matters, and we want to make sure that our students see people who look like them in leadership roles for this school.
- There was a donation from our parents Robert and Tamara to the nutrition program. We want to acknowledge and thank you. We love the support that they had given to the school for that.
- Workshops
 - *Liberation healing* - The voice of therapy conference
- Other school boards have started a tutoring program for the kids. Is it possible that this will start at our school and be a paid program
 - There was some information that I came out at the start of the school year that the ministry will be provided in funding for tutoring within the schools to make up for learning lost
- **New counsel Members**
 - **Co-chairs** : Latoya & Crystal
 - **Secretaries**: Nawah & Norgie
 - **Treasurer**: Robert
 - **Fundraiser committee**: Maureen & Alderich
 - **Voting parents**: Samantha, & Ty
- **Community Resources**
 - Tdsb Hub: it's your one-stop shop for Tdsb and resources.
 - Parents As Partners Conference: The keynote speaker is Randall Ajay. He's a poet, and I heard he's very good. So he's the keynote on Sunday. What I like about this, it is a hybrid conference. So basically there's pre conference sessions that you can go to that basically has different um outdoor experiences.
 - Toronto museums that you can go in for free and the center of excellence for black student achievement will be doing something also on the Saturday and Sunday. So that's open to you and your family. You do have to pre register .They also have transportation from some satellite sites, so it's a great opportunity. It's early in the morning, so the bus leaves at eight, and the tours are eight, forty-five to nine, forty-five on Saturday and Sunday. The conference starts around ten thirty. that's just the keynote in the morning. The afternoon is when the workshops are happening. So if you're running late from your excursion, that's fine. You have enough time, I think. Twelve fifteen is when the afternoon workshop starts, so they give you enough time for lunch and a break before the afternoon sessions. But it's a great opportunity, especially if you haven't done any of the outdoor education places or the museums, or if you have not visited the center of excellence for black student achievement that's in Scarborough . So definitely take advantage of these free um opportunities.
 - School Council Page that has a lot of resources for school councils on school statements of needs by laws.

03

Next Meeting Date

- December 7, 2022
- 6:30pm - 7:30pm