



CEDAR DRIVE JUNIOR PUBLIC SCHOOL

1st School Council Meeting 2023-2024

Thursday 30th Nov 2023

cedarschoolcouncil@gmail.com

MINUTES

Location: Staffroom (in-person)

Time: 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Present

Non-Voting Members

Laurel Eisenberg and Stacey Lockett (Vice Principals)

Voting Members

Chair - Urooj Fatima Ahsan

Treasurer - Peter Lo

Community Representative - Paul Blackwood (CSW)

Teaching Staff Representative - Luxshu Ambi

Non- Teaching Staff Representative - Derek Yiu

Parents Representative - Marwa Abdelghani, Nisrin Hussein

Parents in Attd. - Aveline Sutton, Bilkis Siddiqui, Hamida Nedjowa Imene, Paul Asika

Absent

Non- Voting Member - Brian Panesar (Acting Principal)

Community Representative - Fachria Maliyar (SW)

Parent Representative – Soad Dandoush

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The regular meeting was called to order by Chair, U. Ahsan at 6:35 p.m., the quorum was met.

2. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement – U. Ahsan, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and read Land Acknowledgement statement. The agenda was presented by Chair U. Ahsan. She shared the points of meeting agenda and gave overview of School Council importance and commitments.

3. Introductions

Introductions of participant were made.

4. Appointment of Chair, Treasurer, Parent Representatives, Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff representatives, Community Representatives

Vice Principal L. Eisenberg has introduced the appointed members of the School Council and welcomed new Chair U. Ahsan and Treasurer P. Lo.

5. Request for Self Nomination of Secretary Role

No parent representative or parents in attendance decided to self nominate (initially a parent has shown interest but later apologies from taking the position, at the end of meeting).

6. Review of Minutes from Last Meeting

Not applicable, will be starting fresh since this is the first School Council meeting. Last meeting was held on May 8th, 2023. The meeting quorum was not met and only Principal's report was presented.

7. Presentation from Community Representative

Paul. B, Community Support Worker has presented the overview of TDSBHub.ca and shared the important resources available for parents / caregivers and community. He also shared TDSB calendar on this website that contains all the details regarding scheduled events, trainings and meetings for the school year, with simple description and registration process.

8. Principal's Report

Vice Principals Laurel Eisenberg and Stacey Lockett presented the report;

- Council bylaws
- TDSB email activations
- School improvement plan focusing 3 main goals:
- Achievement - Math (MLP) & Literacy (Early Reading Intervention Model - ELIT, ERIC, Lexia)
 - *School will have access to teachers specializing in math, to help students increase achievements in math through math workshops.*
 - *Regarding literacy, TDSB early years intervention coach is available for children to work with speech and language pathologist.*
- Joy/Belonging Integrated with Equity - (Student Leadership, Spirit Days, Strides, SIS Talk, TPH Nurse Michelle, Mental Health, Equity Coaches)
 - *Overview of initiatives to provide students opportunities for leadership roles in the school. Grade 5 and 6 are working on lunch bin programs. Some students support conflict resolution (Peace keeper). We have kindergarten leaders and students doing announcements.*
 - *We have a spirit committee established at our school.*
 - *We have re-established a partnership Stride Toronto, Laura from Stride is coming in every Thursday.*
 - *Reignite work on healthy relationships.*
 - *Toronto public health nurse, Michelle, will be supporting us in our building, and working with our students through workshops.*
- Indigenous Education - (Indigenous Ed. Committee, Land Acknowledgement)
 - *Regarding Indigenous education goals and plans. We will go deeper in the land acknowledgement.*
- School council will be contributing to the grade 6 graduations.
- A lot of grants available to provide funds for our school, the council can also apply for funding.

9. Treasurer's Report

Report was presented by treasurer, P. Lo as follows;

- Ministry of Education allocated funds for 2023-2024 for school council is \$819 (1.25 per pupil)
- An additional \$300.70, as of October 31, 2023, available in non-board account with Alterna Savings
- We will be looking for an alternative to Alterna Savings or negotiate the removal of the \$15 monthly service fees charged by Alterna Savings.

10. Items from The Chair

U. Ahsan, Chair presented the School Statement of Needs Section -1. She explained the purpose of the document, sections 1 and 2 and shared the main points from statement of need section -1 regarding;

- Communication
- Safe and Caring Environment
- Parent Engagement and Community
- Curriculum and Technology
- Leadership and Management Skills

11. Forum Open for Discussion

Discussion open for;

- Format of future meetings, virtual / in-person. Parents were split on this topic. Chair Urooj has mentioned an option of live streaming if possible that can entertain the request for both in-person and virtual meeting and attendees.
- Mode of communication preferred by parents. Feedback from parents were the following: letters sent home with children, phone call, WhatsApp, Facebook, email.
- What parents would like from future council meetings. Feedback was the following:
 - *A parent pointed out that making it easier to enter the school (not only front door) for attending the meeting itself motivate parents to attend.*
 - *Have parents and children engaged with the community by offering social and fun events for the family.*
 - *To increase attendance to the council meetings, provide translation services. Many parents are interested in attending council meetings, language barrier limits their involvement. Parent Representatives reflected their interest to volunteer as translator in council meetings.*
 - *Suggestion to review census regarding languages spoken in the community to gather idea what language translators are highly demanded and required.*
 - *Some parents would like to have meetings available during the day, instead of evenings. Suggestion to provide details of council meetings and provide a forum for parents where feedback to council for time of their convenience could be communicated through platforms such as Facebook. Chair mentioned an option of using mentimeter or google forms for survey.*
 - *Parents suggested, council more actively promote meetings through word of mouth, automated message from school was the best way pointed out.*

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting is set for last week of January 2024.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Meeting Notes prepared by P. Lo, Treasurer.

(Signature)

Approved by U. Ahsan, Chair.

(Signature)