

Gateway PS School Council  
Meeting Minutes  
January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Location: Staff Room & Zoom

Council Members:

- Amanda Skinner, Naureen Khan, Syeda Sameera, Mohamed Abu Hatab, Marwa Abdallah, Ledia, Nazerah Shaikh, Mimouna, Menelik, Iffat Farid, Ali, Aqeela, Faiza

School Representatives

- Ms. Farahmand, Ms. Castellon

1. Approval Of Agenda.
2. The meeting was called to order by the Chair and Co-Chair at 5:30. Due to the unfortunate event of *Hold and Secure* same day at school, some members expressed challenges attending in-person. With agreement between attendees, SC chair and co-chair, vice principals and community support worker, to have a hybrid meeting. The cochair sent out the link to members via email and the same link was shared with the community group. The late start was due to technical issues setting up a zoom link.
3. Co-chair took attendance of those present in person and online.
4. The Chair read the Land Acknowledgement.
5. Minutes from previous meeting (November 21, 2022) were not read by majority agreement as our secretary was not yet logged on to the meeting. With the agreement of attendees, co-chair moved to the next item on the agenda.
6. The Treasurer gave the financial update:
  - At the beginning of the school year, the school council had \$1,497 and 28 cents. We had several fundraising activities from October until now. The first one being the Literacy night, then we had the snacks sale. In this we sold snacks and refreshments. We had this for a week after which we had the book fair, here we sold the books and stationery. The total proceeds of the sale are \$1,433 and 55 cents. This amount when added to our previous puts us at \$2,930 and 83 cents. That's the School Council account financial update.
  - The treasurer announced that the parent innovation grant application which was done by Community support worker, community rep, the treasurer and co-chair was successfully accepted. The school Council as a result was awarded the grant by the TDSB for \$1500.
7. Principal's Report given by Ms. Farahmand and Ms. Castellon as designate of the school principal reviewed the School Improvement Plan (SIP).
  - Indigenous education - connecting with UIEC to educate staff and potentially interested parents in the community via lunch and learns, workshops etc. And school admins are still working on ways to support the goals.
  - Student achievement
    - Literacy: Volunteer reading program (VRP) returning to work with Grade one. Costco reading program returning to work with Grade two.
    - Goal: to bridge the gap for students to reach exit grade level.
    - Some members had more questions about the support for special education, IEP and ESL. Vice-principals explained that there is no one intervention textbook used because programs like Empower are expensive and require a number of students with the same learning disability and other requirements. However, instead school follows an approach to increase the capacity of teachers who can

implement strategies in the classrooms. When asked about the number/amount of teachers/capacity in relation to the number of kids with learning disabilities, it was explained that the spectrum of IEPs is wide and that school admins did not have the numbers prepared for that meeting.

- Math: it was explained also that two specialty individuals will come in to support staff in training and implementing focused plans to get students up to grade level. It was explained that usually schools are assigned one teacher of that kind, but our school was assigned two.
- EQAO: When asked about the time frame of when to expect result of the measures school has taken to improve kids achievement in Math, it was explained that it is hard to put a time frame or when to expect the improvement due to several factors.
- New resources were ordered and have been delivered for teachers to use in class. They are in the library for teachers to access. That includes new phonics sets for early readers grades K-3, STEAM sets for grades 3-6.

8. Teacher report: due to the absence of teachers' reps, vice principals gave updates on teachers report.

- The Girls Basketball team brought home a banner to gateway for the first time in almost 11 years.
- 1000 pounds of food was collected for Flemington Park food bank by the student council's superheroes against hunger day.
- The book fair was a huge success, and there will hopefully be another one in the spring.
- There will be a school spirit and pajama day on February 14, 2023.
- There will be a family Skating Day at the arena on February 28, 2023.

9. Community Support Worker's report given by Yetunde.

- Chai and chat will be reconvening Monday, January 23, 2023.
- Community support worker, treasurer and co-chair have been working on a workshop about vaping and cannabis. Community support worker was able to arrange a meeting that put together co-chair, treasurer and CSW with a representative from YMCA who is provided by TPH to arrange the workshop.
- CSW explained that based on the meeting with YMCA rep for Cannabis and vaping workshops, they suggested a dual workshop one for parents in the evening which may include an educational package for parents, and another one for students grade six and five which will be arranged in collaboration with school admins.
- It was suggested also to see if there are similar educational resources that target a younger age, but this needs to be discussed with YMCA and TPH.

10. Co-chair went through Old Business:

- Co-chair explained the process of submitting the Bylaws which included a first voting meeting for approving the amendment of SC members to be 15 members instead of 12. When approved the template was submitted on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022. TDSB set up a deadline to submit the merged version of both TDSB template and previous Bylaws. For which the Co-Chair called for another voting meeting. SC members were given a two weeks period to review both documents send template and the previous bylaws) then sent availability check on doodle for the voting meeting. An email was sent to voting members with the date and time the majority chose. The Community support worker was the principal designate in that meeting. Voting approved the

merging of the two documents. (Attendees: 13, approving: 13, absent: 2). Co-chair submitted the final version of the Bylaws - Submitted to on Monday, January 16th, 2023, and that a copy was sent out to all school council members. And a copy will be uploaded on the SC webpage as a public document.

- The School Safety committee is being formed and needs parent volunteers to come forward to join. Co-chair will send an email to collect names.
- Co-chair gave an update on Mediation that a restorative specialist assigned to the mediation reached out to her and the chair. They had a meeting and the restoration specialist suggested they would speak with the principal to attend SC meeting but she did not attend the meeting. So the issue has been adjourned to next meeting and a follow up with the principal in this regard is needed.
- Co-Chair explained that VRP is starting this week at our school. More Volunteers means more kids helped. Interested parties need a police check and can contact Co-Chair Via email for more information or fill in the application at school office directly.
- Co-chair followed up on some parent initiatives:
  - Nothing to report for the school wide reading “contest.” And it is not to be continued.
  - Coding club: Vice-Principal explained that Mr. Hames started a coding club. Interested students can join. It’s online, there are new activities to complete weekly for grades 1-6. Staff is also looking to set up a student lead tutoring program.

#### 11. Co-Chair moved to New Business:

- Co-chair raised the issue that school council webpage has not been updated for years, and the names of school council chair and cochair have not been updated at least for the past 3years. Cochair- asked an access to the webpage to upload all SC matter (agenda, minutes, bylaws) as all are public documents and need to be open to the whole community. Ms. Castellon and Ms. Farahmand are looking into the matter and will update the co-chair.
- Co-chair announced that a subcommittee will be created for School Council Initiative Grant to arrange for the event and it needs volunteers. Co-chair will send out an email opening the door for volunteers to arrange the event.
- Co-chair asked school vice principal about the Literacy Fund from Indigo. Vice principals confirmed that application was submitted January 15, 2023, and school community will be updated when accepted.
- Co-chair asked if there are any other questions regarding Special education and ESL in this regard as it was discussed during principal report. A few questions were asked and they are to be carried over to the next meeting.
- A school council member suggested Kindergarten Orientation for parents of speech delayed/special needs kids. There are currently members of the community that are slipping through the cracks. For certain speech delays there are very few resources available due to many factors. Parents are left frustrated and isolated. Ms. Farahmand and Ms. Castellon shared that there are many resources available to parents through the school, and parents should come into the office to discuss the matter if they are interested. VPs will look into adding a package to kindergarten orientation with some of the skills the children will need day to day in class and some of the resources available to parents through the school. There was also the question of an online bulletin board for parents to access with the different resources the school has at its disposal. Some possible actions could be holding a clinic, but it has to go through certain applications to be approved.

- The meeting passed its due time, the co-chair suggested a motion to decide whether to carry on or end the meeting. Attendees preferred to carry on because some events are time sensitive such as the Valentine Fundraising.
- Valentine Fundraiser: a school council member suggested a valentine Fundraising: Candy-grams! School Council will ask for volunteers to be available during recesses and lunch to collect information and money from children wishing to send a candy-gram to other students or staff members. Volunteers will also assemble a lollipop onto a piece of card stock with the information for delivery. On valentine's day the lollipops will be delivered to the classrooms and handed out. Co-Chair will send out an invitation to volunteers for the fundraising.
- Grandparents Day - will be in May.
- Kindergarten open day- will be in May. Kindergarten registration will be February 13,14, 15, 2023.

12. The meeting ended at 7:00pm.

13. Next meetings:

- Monday, February 13, 2023
- Monday, May 8, 2023
- Monday, June 12, 2023