

GEORGE SYME SCHOOL COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

October 3, 2018, 6:15PM-8:00PM

Meeting Attendees:

Tara Watts (Co-Chair), Will Kopplin (Treasurer), Glenda Baptiste, Phyllis Luong-Scott, Hodan Hassan, Liana Salvador-Watts, Randolph Scott, Quedeze Andersen, Jessica Singh, Cindy Closner (Principal), Barbara Graydon (Vice-Principal), Hugh Hurd (Community Support Worker), Brawnwyn (Support Staff Representative), Family Center Representative.

Agenda Item	Lead(s)	Minutes
Welcome	Tara Watts, Council Co-Chair	Roundtable introductions
Principal's Report	Cindy Closner, Principal Barbara Graydon, Vice-Principal	<p>Realignment (Cindy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funds given for staff are based on projected enrollment numbers. Once actual numbers are known there is an opportunity to realign. George Syme has now been given the opportunity to hire a PM teacher for an English 4-5 class. There will now be two 4-5 classes and a straight 5. The position is now posted. <p>Nutrition Program (Cindy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - George Syme will continue to run 3 nutrition programs and are looking for volunteers, even 1 day/week for an hour would be helpful - Syme Woolner formerly funded the nutrition program but due to funding requirements, abruptly had to stop. More information will be shared once they have fully exited from the program. - Syme Woolner will reimburse any families who have paid in advance. Cindy will act as liaison with this. - Program has been taken over by George Syme staff volunteering time and community volunteers. One person in the kitchen does have their food handling certificate and we are seeking opportunities for other volunteers to become certified - September menu has - Discussion about funding for the program. Funding comes from a grant that is very specific about how money is to be used. It covers food, smallwares and small honorariums for volunteers, but will not cover paid staff. The TDSB does not pay for a cook. Other schools running similar programs may be receiving a different grant, which allows for them to hire paid staff. - What can the School Council do? Purchasing food is okay, but need physical bodies to do the work. Staff at George Syme are committed to ensuring that this program continues to run.

		<p>Fundraising (Cindy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There have been questions from staff about how they can access funds for field trips - Historically field trips were partially funded by the school council - Tara stated that last year teachers would place a request and it would be approved on a case-by-case basis - Will stated that it is hard to commit to provide funding for the whole year, when available funds are contingent on our fundraising successes - Discussion around the need for collaboration between School Council and staff on fundraising committee. Moving forward, perhaps a meeting can be set-up between representatives of these two groups to discuss further. <p>Bricks of Belonging (Barbara)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barbara and Cindy have been going into classrooms to do programming - Each child is given a brick and asked to fill out their strengths - STEM lab now has coding opportunities for students - Extracurricular activities have launched: Right to Play, Soccer, Open Gym, Choir and Cross Country <p>Bus Loading Zone Safety (Brawnwyn)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People are still parking in the bus loading zone - Brainstorm on ideas to discourage parents from doing this or positively reinforce those who are respecting the rules - We could give recognition (i.e. an Eco Club badge?) to students who walk to school - Barbara and Cindy will talk to teachers who are running the Eco Club to see if they can partner on this initiative - Was also suggested that those parked in the loading zone could be given a ticket that tells people where they should park instead. This message could be translated in multiple languages
Council Updates		
Community Support Worker Updates	Hugh Hurd	<p>Somali Heritage Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - October 25th, 2018, 6-8:30pm - Kipling Collegiate, 318 The Westway Etobicoke - Panel Discussion and Marketplace <p>Information hand-out on Roles and Responsibility of School Council</p> <p>CPAC meetings (Cluster Parent Academy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parents from other schools come together to discuss services, workshops and education - Opportunity for CPR and food handling certifications - Transportation will be covered
2018-2019 School	Everyone	Election results:

Council Election		Co-Chairs: Tara Watts & Liana Salvador-Watts Treasurer: Will Kopplin Secretary: Phyllis Luong-Scott Elected Parent Voting Members: Glenda Baptiste Hodan Hassan Randolph Scott Quedeeze Andersen Jessica Singh
Next Meeting: TBD		