



GIVINS / SHAW SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

November 26th, 2019

6:15 PM – 8:00 PM

MINUTES

Attendance: Dale McIntosh, Lorraine Trecroce, Natalie Dennis, Melissa Harold, Samantha Chiu, Lillian Speedie Court, Penny del Moral, Ali Clarey, Dan Taylor, Alison Robb, Max Evans, Trevor Lightbody

Apologies for any misspelling or missed names.

- Review and Approval of Agenda
 - Motion to accept -- Dale McIntosh
 - Second the motion - Natalie Dennis
 - Any other topics to add to the agenda (note and discuss at the end)
- Acceptance of October 30th meeting minutes
 - Motion to accept – Penny del Moral
 - Second the motion – Lillian Speedie Court
- Allocation of Council budget \$ Funds allocated to school
 - Primary – Council agrees to proceed with:
 - i. McMichael Art Gallery Field Trip (124 students – all primary students)
 - Art detection workshop, mix media landscape, explore gallery
 - Cost approximately \$3560 total for admission (of which \$1400 is for transportation)
 - Trip to be planned for June
 - Juniors – Council agrees to proceed with:
 - i. Robotics Program.
 - Currently the school has a robotics program for students in Grades 1 to 3 but scheduling does not allow for Junior students to access the robots. Studies show that STEAM education is more effective if it starts in early childhood. Due to limited exposure to robotics in the Junior grades, this would be an opportunity to extend and enhance the robotics learning and skills developed in the Primary Grades.
 - Total cost for 4 kits \$2205.31 + TDSB discount = \$2095.04
- Music – Preference for Bboyzim and Ruploops. Council agreed to proceed with allocating \$2300 to Ms. Montanera to spend
 - i. Bboyizm: B-boying and B-girling (Breakdancing) was born in the early 1970s with roots in Funk music and contemporary African American culture. B-boy Crazy Smooth and his powerful company of dancers take you on a trip through the evolution of the dance form, featuring an interactive dance battle where the audience picks the winner! \$1212
 - ii. Fana Soro: In this dynamic and interactive performance, Fana Soro, a hereditary master musician of the Senoufo people, shares the musical



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traditions of his home country to showcase the soaring melodies, driving rhythms and spirited dances of ancient West African performing arts. (\$758)

- iii. Ruploops: The Human Radio will take you on a journey of sound exploring anatomy, geography and culture. Let's investigate the brilliant design of our auditory and aural systems that allow us to create and listen to music. Through body percussion and beatboxing, Rup demonstrates and teaches how the human form is indeed a musical instrument. With a mix of hip hop, blues and bhangra, Rup's show tunes into the themes of home, identity, culture, justice, dignity and celebration. (\$965)
- iv. Little Pear Garden Dance Company: In this story exploring the creation of cave paintings along the Silk Road, students follow the Chinese Empire's best painter as he travels and is inspired by the many cultures along the way. This visually stunning performance introduces students to the history of the Silk Road through classic Chinese storytelling and dance, and includes audience participation to learn some basic movements from a number of ethnic dance styles. (\$1171)

- Technology –

- i. Last class received bank of 10 iPads
- ii. Looking at upgrading junior classes to 15 to maintain the 1:2 ratio. This ratio is working
- iii. Some headphone jacks on existing iPads aren't working but are otherwise functional
- iv. When multiple being used at once the network can be slow causing the iPads to be slow
- v. Potential to do an ask to parents for donations – Dale to send out reminder in next Class Rep update
- vi. Mr. Taylor to update website with technology update
- vii. Resource teacher – special education department has received laptops – 15 in her room – working quite well as it is
- viii. Tech items for the library
 - has projector and will get Apple TV – iPads from class will work here

Dale to send reminder to Dan Taylor to use the allocated funds that Council budgeted for technology so that classrooms can benefit from the equipment asap.



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- Principal's Welcome and Update – Dan Taylor
- Progress Reports / Kindergarten Communication of Learning – reports and interviews
 - Very positive feedback overall regarding the receiving of the reports and the process involved in arranging the interview schedule
 - Some staff used on - line forms to arrange interviews while others used different techniques and it seemed to be explained clearly to families
 - Next report period will be in February, 2020
- Construction update
 - External construction now complete
 - Courtyard is complete and open to all grades.
 - Entrance and dismissal now being used in courtyard and able to open this up
 - Going to add winter toys to the area
 - Medal ladel needed for the mud kitchen needed
 - Can sign up to take class out there during the day
 - Internal work on the library / learning commons to be completed over the Nov. 30th weekend
 - Cleaning, organizing, and furniture delivery to come after that
 - Should have the learning commons up and running early in the new year
 - Next project for school upgrade is the floor of the staff room and there has also been an email regarding upgrading the school's HVAC system
 - Details will be shared with the community when they become more detailed
- Internal Space examination
 - Moving the professional materials from the small room in the back of the library to the staff room as part of the staff room revitalization and library repurposing
 - Dumpster being ordered to return to G/S on Dec. 4 and to be gone by Dec. 6 for one more purge of unwanted materials
 - Stage is another place being examined for clearing and repurposing
- Sports
 - Nov. 27 – after school -- Girls' basketball playoff game
 - Nov. 28 – a.m. -- Boys' volleyball tournament in the G/S gym (many thanks to the members of the Toronto Spartan Volleyball League for setting up the nets and supports)



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- Dec. 3 – 1:15 p.m. – Junior Student Ballroom Dancing Recital for G/S' families of our Grade 4, 5, and 6 students in the gym
- Hallway Monitors
 - Grade 5/6 students
 - Have reflective vests – ensure materials outside are in the correct space and ensure people aren't in the hallways during recess etc.
 - Positive overall experience
 - Group may want to start a school newsletter
- ETT Work Action
 - All members of the Elementary Teachers of Toronto are now in phase one of their work action – please see TDSB website for updated information
- Excursions
 - Dec. 18 – 20 – Grade 5 and 6 students going to the Island School
- Possible Information Session for Parents
 - There has been interest expressed by members of the G/S community regarding how additional support for students who need this is accessed via the TDSB
 - Offer was made to arrange a parent information session if the community thought it would be worthwhile
- Work to Rule – ETFO - **SEE APPENDIX 1**

Report from Trevor Lightbody (GS union rep)

Etfo.ca

Teachers in Ontario are fighting for:

+ Keeping our current Kindergarten program, with a teacher and a designated early child educator in every classroom.

+ Smaller class sizes in Grades 4-8 so students get more specialized attention.



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+More special education teachers and teacher positions providing support to english learners, Indigenous students, at risk students and those with special needs.

+Increased support for the successful integration of our students with special needs

This is about our working conditions and the student's learning conditions. Discussions with the government around salary and benefits are just about done, its the other issues the Ford government is ignoring.

The Ford Government:

+Is refusing to commit to the existing current Kindergarten model.

+Is demanding removal of class size protections in Kindergarten and Grade 4-8. resulting in even larger class sizes.

+Is refusing to renew special education funding, resulting in more cuts to frontline staff who support students with special needs.

+Is refusing to work with elementary teachers to deal with the increase in violence found in the classroom.

Notes from the Council meeting:

i. Work action started Nov. 26

- Trevor – union rep for school
- No timeline for next “phase” – end WTR or strike action
- Doesn’t impact day to day for students
- Teachers don’t attend any meetings/training outside of the school day – coming from ministry of education – staff meetings, training from ministry of ed, etc.
- EQAO – can’t prep students for this during work to rule
- Feb – no comments on report card – letter grade only if still work to rule
- Can still meet with parents, committees, student council
- No rules for when to be in the school – sports, filed trips not impacted at this point
- Salary agreed upon – other items still under discussion

• Brightspace Demo

- i. School using for student participation. This will become a portfolio of the child’s work throughout the years
- ii. Parent portal to come by end of year



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- Right to Play
 - i. Partnership is still in tact for 2019 – 2020 so the “play day” in June will still be focused around this
- Adam Smith – expected back in January
- Treasurer’s Report - **SEE APPENDIX 2**
- Fall Fundraising / Community Events
 - i. Pancake Breakfast
 - Raised over \$1000 and with donations was a no cost event
 - Next year make this earlier – potentially in Oct
 - 222 plates served. This was fewer than previous years but because of donations more money was raised
 - Give more advanced notice next year
 - Ensure all who come get 2 pancakes
 - ii. Art cards
 - Raised \$2042 and was a no cost event
 - Easy for teachers to execute
 - Consider including other items next year
 - iii. Coffee sales
 - Order form on website, through parent reps and in backpacks
 - Encourage small businesses to buy to help increase sales
 - iv. Toonie Sale
 - Ask to extend to holiday gathering.
 - Jeanie and Shannon are leading this – Nov. 28 – accepting donations
 - Toonie sale on the 12th – one day event school day / afterschool / early evening.
- Any other business?
 - Daycare holding clothing swap
 - i. Lost and Found – Great jackets – older and younger kids
 - Warning – pick it up or it gets donated to clothing swap
 - ii. Other fundraising suggestions
 - Suggested donation to the school – for early next year.
 - After hours dance as a fundraiser
 - a. Ecohop is done by classroom – younger kids go in smaller groups (i.e. two classes).
 - b. Some Schools do family dance – family in charge of kids
 - iii. Chess Club
 - Ask if the chess club is starting up this year
 - School has a policy to not permit the school to outside groups before 6pm so this will not be starting up with the previous group that held it
 - Teacher/Parent could start a chess School gym permitted after 6pm – money goes to the board



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iv. Stage

- Used as storage when library was out of commission
- Program for juniors – music lessons happening there currently

v. Dec. 6 PA day

- Future meetings
 - None in Dec – will meet again in January
- Adjourn

APPENDIX 1

Dear

Parents and Families,

We have an important new tool for you to use in your school community, and an update to share about our new organizing network!

1. Tell Ford to Reverse the Cuts Now!

Negotiations between Teachers and the Ford government are coming to a head: Elementary teachers begin a work-to-rule on November 26th, and High School teachers may announce job action for next week. Teachers are taking action to:

- Reverse damaging increases to class sizes
- Increase supports that students need to thrive
- Protect our full-day kindergarten model
- Stop inequitable and unfair mandatory e-learning.

Let's send a clear message to Ford and Education Minister Lecce: Parents and families support teachers! Reverse the cuts and settle a fair contract now!



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We're so excited to share this **Solidarity Kit** for use at your school and in your community!



TEACHERS ARE FIGHTING TO REVERSE THE CUTS! Let's Show Our Support!

- 👉 Wear a red felt square! Hand them out to other parents at your kid's school!
- 👉 Sign your school's Pledge Poster to stand with teachers against the cuts!
- 👉 Join teachers on the picket lines, if it comes to that, and bring others in your community with you!
- 👉 Pull together with family and friends to share childcare!

TOGETHER FAMILIES AND WORKERS HAVE THE POWER TO REVERSE THE CUTS TO EDUCATION AND START BUILDING THE SCHOOLS OUR KIDS NEED AND DESERVE! SCHOOL COMMUNITIES FIGHT TOGETHER FOR ALL KIDS!

Ontario Parent Action Network:

We are parents and families from all over the province, coming together to oppose the Ford government's cuts to public education, and to fight for sufficient, equitable funding to build the schools in Ontario that all kids deserve. Join us!

Find resources & connect here: linktr.ee/schoolwalkins



[Download or Order a Kit Now!](#)

The Kit includes:

- **Pledge Poster:** Collect signatures in all the blank spaces of the poster from other parents and non-teaching staff to show our support for teachers! When your poster is full, **take a picture and send it to us at schoolwalkins@gmail.com** and then present the poster to the teachers at your school!
- **Solidarity Flyers:** Hand them out at your school and in your community!
- **Felt Squares:** Wear a red felt square! And hand them out to others at drop off and pick-up at school!



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- **Fact Sheet:** Handy facts and info for talking to parents about the cuts and how we can win.

Visible and loud parent support can make the difference!



2. Introducing the Ontario Parent Action Network

School walk-in organizers are coming together to form the Ontario Parent Action Network: a grassroots coordinated province-wide network to oppose the Ford government's cuts to public education, and to fight for the properly funded, equitable schools in Ontario that all our kids deserve! Together parents have accomplished so much vital work: Walk-ins, letter writing, petitions, outreach days, school council presentations, and more. Let's keep reaching more and more parents and families to build this strong movement for Public Education!

Your continued participation is making a real difference!



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Appendix 2

GIVINS SHAW SCHOOL COUNCIL - TREASURER REPORT
For August 1, 2019 to November 26, 2019

	Gross Inflows	Float Adjustment	Float Adjusted Inflows	Outflows	Net
Events/Fundraising					
Fall BBQ	1,963	-	1,963	(1,838)	125
Miscellaneous/donations	-	-	-	-	-
Pancake breakfast	1,436	(325)	1,111	-	1,111
Art Cards	2,042	-	2,042	-	2,042
Coffee sale	-	-	-	-	-
Toonie sale	-	-	-	-	-
Movie Night	-	-	-	-	-
Eco Hop	-	-	-	-	-
Clothing sale	-	-	-	-	-
Parent social (parent band night)	-	-	-	-	-
Used book sale	-	-	-	-	-
Right to Play	-	-	-	-	-
Fun fair	-	-	-	-	-
Total	5,440	(325)	5,115	(1,838)	3,277
				A	
Expenses		Planned Budget		Year to Date Expenses	Under/ (Over)
Academic Enrichment Total:		10,000			
Other (including Scientists)					
Visiting authors, artists, athletes, performers, key note speakers					
Equipment, programs etc ... that reach the school community					
Division / School wide workshops					
Classroom Funds	3,850				
Classroom Funds - specific to Kindergarten	500				
Sports / recess equipment	1,000				
Technology	12,000				
Eco/outdoor space	500				
Music	1,000				
Library	1,200				
Graduation	500				
Council meetings, police checks, bank fees, staff appreciation, and miscellaneous expenses	1,500			(298)	1,202
	32,050			(298)	1,202
				B	
TOTAL FUNDS RAISED LESS ACTUAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR					2,978
Opening Cash Balance August 1, 2019 (Accrual)					42,795
Closing Cash Balance (Accrual)					45,773
Outstanding cheques					-
Cash Balance per bank					45,773