



GIVINS / SHAW SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING October 23rd, 2018 6:15 PM – 8:00 PM

MINUTES

Attendees: Kim MacFarlane, Natalie Dennis, Dale McIntosh, Michael Caneloro, Lorraine Trecroce, Alex Musten, Mark Degani, Lara Chatterjee, Fernanda Rojas, Nancy Ribeiro Christodoulou

Staff: Dan Taylor, Adam Smith

Apologies if anyone was missed or for any spelling errors.

1) Review and Approval of Agenda

- a. Motion to accept – Natalie Dennis
 - b. Second the motion – Dale McIntosh
- No other agenda items added.

2) Acceptance of September 19th, 2018 minutes

- a. Motion to accept – Natalie Dennis
- b. Second the motion – Mike Caneloro

3) Principal's Welcome and Update – Dan Taylor

a. Library (closure due to flooding in April, 2018)

- TDSB has exhausted all possibilities so now TDSB has moved on to the design phase
- Book borrowing and the Forest of Reading program still occurring
- Realistically work will not commence before summer of 2019 which means another full year without a library
- Parents discussed looking at ways the library could be modified to work as a functioning space for the school year even if only for some uses ie: Toonie Sale, meetings, modified library/research. Perhaps this means purchasing an area carpet? There is ZERO safety concern in the library so really no reason it can't be used in some fashion
- Action: Dan to confirm what we can do to make the space semi-useable

b. School Safety

- Teachers and parents need to continue to review and emphasize the rules around school ie: no running in the hallways, enter and exit the school in an orderly fashion, stay on the school grounds unless signed out, staying seated in the lunch room, not speaking to strangers in the school yard, entries/exits of the school building etc ..
- Particular attention has been around the entrances to the playground on both the Shaw Street and Givins Street sides. Stakeholders have met to look at whether some sort of barrier could be installed to help remind children of the school yard boundaries. The TDSB will be installing additional fencing / chains at the NE, SE Shaw Street entrances as well as the SW Givins Street (see appendix). The school also recently purchased 6 new 2-way radios to help facilitate better communication.
- Discussion followed around smaller children wandering off school property and the importance of teachers counting students regularly and educating the children about safety. Discussion also addressed the high numbers in the primary grades and the difficulty for teachers to manage approx 30 children at all times. While the school takes this very seriously and the staff has been meeting about this, the system isn't perfect, so the entire



GIVINS / SHAW SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

October 23rd, 2018 6:15 PM – 8:00 PM

community needs to continue to educate and make adjustments to ensure the safest environment possible.

- Note that all of the discussions above have included the school's Safe and Caring Committee. If any parent has suggestions, ideas or interested in learning more, please reach out to Dan Taylor.

c. Sports Update

- A sports update was not given at the meeting due to timing; however, please find below a recap of the upcoming sports teams as well as a report on our fall term.

The next sports teams are: Grade 4/ 5 Girls' Basketball and Grade 6 Girls' Basketball, both of which Barry Martin, parent coach and I will be co-coaching from October 29th until the end of November. The Boys' Volleyball will be coached by Trevor Lightbody, will start next week and run until end of November.

Our Boys' Soccer Team, coached by Trevor Lightbody and our Girls' Soccer Team, coached by Caroline Garcia, Karen Grasman and Brett Mathies (student teacher), all hosted our tournaments here at Givins/Shaw in early October. I believe both the G/S Girls' Soccer Team and G/S Boys' Soccer Team each came in 3rd place in their pool.

As for Cross Country, we had 65 students from grades 1 - 6 compete at Ashbridges Bay on October 3rd where six Junior students moved on to the South Conference Finals. At the South Conference Finals, we had one grade 4 student, moved on to the Cross Country City Championships to be held at Centennial Park.

d. Kindergarten Staffing

- The new Kindergarten teacher is in place. Welcome Alexandra Melanson!
- As a result of adding another kindergarten the school needed another half time teacher to allow for prep time. Welcome Jessica Marrello who will be at Givins Shaw part time each week.

e. Use of devices during recess / lunch while on school property

- Parents expressed worry that children are gaming and using phones during recesses on school property when the time is meant to get fresh air, run around, use their imaginations, play games, stretch their legs etc ..
- Dan has reported that children haven't been noticeably on their devices much less in the school yard and will continue to remind staff and students to encourage device-free recesses and the importance of play time.

f. Technology update

- Adam and Dan provided an update on how technology is being used in the classroom and Adam showed us an example of how he is using google keep. While each teacher is different, the overall sense is that technology is being embraced as a learning tool. 3 classrooms still to outfit with the standard package! For more information please go to www.givinsshaw.com and click on Technology – from there you can learn how you can donate to this campaign (and get a tax receipt!) Thank you to all who have donated already.



GIVINS / SHAW SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING October 23rd, 2018 6:15 PM – 8:00 PM

g. Will the basketball net be replaced?

- Dan confirmed a work order has been submitted

h. PROGRANT Funding / Parent Engagement Funding

- With the ProGrant funding being halted by the current government the proposed parent speaker workshop and screening of Screenagers is currently on hold
- *Action:* Dan will investigate and report back re: accessing the \$500 parent engagement funding that we should receive from the ministry and how we can get it
- Once confirmed Council can decide if we wish to proceed with either of the proposed ideas

4) School Council Welcome and Update

a. Treasurer's Report / 2018-2019 budget

- Only action thus far was around the Community BBQ which was a break-even event as planned

b. Communications

- Reminder that school news is disseminated in many ways: Dan Taylor (emails), Teachers (various ways but may include newsletter, website, emails, through agendas), Class Parent Reps, Website, Twitter, Facebook and if needed, paper copies in the office / home in the backpacks. If you have other ideas on how communication could be improved please share.
- School calendar is on the website as are most forms (www.givinsshaw.com)

c. Fall Fundraising / Volunteer Opportunities

- Pancake Breakfast
- Clothing sales – Complete, orders expected to arrive end of Oct/early Nov
- Holiday Coffee sales
- Proposed Fundraiser (Art Cards) – Jessica Tudos - in progress
- Holiday party / sing-a-long
- Toonie Sale – Jeanie has confirmed interest in leading

Interested in letting Council know you would like to volunteer? If you haven't filled in this google form please do - <https://goo.gl/forms/8lywi9jSo8llKY4M2> Otherwise just send an email to Council at givinsshawcouncil@gmail.com or directly to Kim/Natalie. All are welcome!

d. Executive Elections

- Motion was made to elect Dale McIntosh as Secretary (Natalie approved, Mike seconded)
- Motion was made to elect Mark Degani as Treasurer (Dale approved, Kim seconded)

Meeting concluded; however, some Kindergarten parents met with Dan following the meeting to discuss use of the outdoor play spaces.



GIVINS / SHAW SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING October 23rd, 2018 6:15 PM – 8:00 PM

Reminders:

If you haven't dropped off your **Nutrition Contribution**, please do so immediately! Suggested amount is \$50.00 per child for the year. Note that all children will be served a morning snack despite whether the parents have made their donation or not. Morning snack includes grain, dairy and either a fruit or vegetable – this is great value so please remind your children to take part!

Council Meetings:

- Meetings are held approx. 7 – 8 times per year
- Meetings are typically held in the library or a classroom between 6:15 PM – 8:00 PM
- Childcare is provided in room 6/7
- If you have topics you would like to discuss please send them to the Council email address givinsshawcouncil@gmail.com
- **Next meeting is November 21st**

Items to move to the next meeting that were not addressed:

- e. **Will there be a Minecraft club?**
 - Parents have asked Adam Smith / Dan to report back about planned clubs for 2018 – 2019
- f. **Will there be a grade 5/6 ski trip?**
 - Dan will ask the grade 5 and 6 teachers if this will be happening or possibly Mme Elena or Ms. Grassman who have attended in the past
 - Parents asked if they could organize with a teacher liaison and Dan replied that he will advise

Appendix:

