



McKEE ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Parents of McKee Public School

<http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/mckee/Parent-Council>

35 Church Avenue, Toronto, ON M2N 6X6

September 27, 2023

Meeting Minutes: September 27, 2023

Location	Virtual Meeting: Zoom Conference	
Time:	6:00PM – 7:30PM	
Meeting Chairs	Melisa Ash and Maria Speare	
Attendees		
Melisa Ash (Co-chair)	Maria Speare (Co-chair)	Jeanette Lang
Laurel Poon	Josephine Chuk (Co-treasurer)	Hayley Buckler (Co-secretary)
Atefeh Javadian (Co-secretary)	Joanne Raven (Teacher)	Nicole Wu (MAL)
Fidan Naghiyeva (MAL)	Reem Dabbour	Laurie Soto Maya
Afshin Azarimatin	Ye-Kai Wang	Ali Nazem
Zhongmei Yang	Fred Tam	Karen Tse
June Oh	Kateryna Kononenko	Julia Kuo
Sugumar Shanmugam	Jennifer Nguyen	Vincent (Mingzhe) Qian
Reza Mahdavi	Michael Vieira	Karl Lee



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#	Topic	Owner
1	<p>Opening Remarks/Chairs' Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Land acknowledgement• Welcome and thank you for attending• Motion to approve the minutes for June 14, 2023: Atefeh Javadian; seconded by Josephine Chuk <p>Role of parent council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent council is for the betterment of the school• Executive roles:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– <i>Chair/Co-Chairs</i>: arrange for council meetings; prepare agendas for council meetings; chair council meetings; ensure that minutes of council meetings are recorded and maintained; facilitate conflict resolution; communicate with the principal on behalf of the council; consult with senior board staff and trustees as required on behalf of the council; act as joint signing officer; chair, or their representative, sits on school committees, not limited to but including: School Budget Committee; School Improvement Plan Committee; School Staffing Committee; and School Safety Committee.	Melisa Ash, Maria Speare



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– <i>Secretary</i>: complete records of all meetings in a timely manner; assist the chair in the distribution of minutes to all council members and make them available to the parent body; responsible for upkeep of all council social media and communications to the parent body; (e.g., blog, twitter, email, newsletters etc.)– <i>Treasurer</i>: act as custodian of the funds of the council; handle receipt and disbursement of council monies; keep proper records of all financial transactions; arrange for verification of the council’s financial records in June of each year; act as a joint signing officer; prepare annual Public School Accounting Board (PSAB) report– <i>Member at large</i>: voting member who is expected to attend all council meetings during the school year• Executive members are expected to attend meetings, be a link between the school community and the council, follow the by-laws and guidelines, encourage others to participate, and participate in school events	
2	<p>Principal’s report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome to the first meeting of this year’s council. I look forward to working with many of you over the course of the year. The main purpose of this Council is to act as an advisory group to the Principal. The Principal and Vice Principal are not voting	Jeanette Lang & Laurel Poon



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members, but will participate fully in discussions and answer questions as best as we can. It is this strong partnership that has allowed our school to continue to thrive and excel. Thank you for the many returning members.

- A little about myself (17th year as a Principal and before that 4.5 years as VP). Married 29 years, 3 kids. My youngest just entered 2nd year Queens University. My middle child is in the IVEY Engineering program and is scheduled to graduate in April and my oldest has graduated and has a permanent position at PMH working in Cancer research. I am a proud mom of 3 TDSB graduates.
- Introduction of Ms. Poon, who will also say a few words:
 - Laurel Poon has been VP at McKee for seven months
 - Phenomenal community and staff and kids
 - Former teacher in mainly middle schools
 - Masters in education in progress
- Introduction of Joanna Raven, teacher representative:
 - Teacher for 17 years
 - Crisis text responder for kids help phone
 - Working on her masters



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Election

- Business of assigning roles of new Executive and members at large – Incumbent executive members took a few minutes to explain what their roles and responsibilities were for those who have expressed an interest.

Executive roles for 2023-24:

Secretaries: Hayley Buckler and Atefeh Javadian

Treasurers: Josephine Chuk and Reza Mahdavi

Chairs:

- There were three people interested in the chair position: Melisa Ash, Maria Speare, and Nicole Wu
- Voting was done by sending votes via direct message to Jeanette Lang and Lauren Poon; everyone except those two attendees had a vote
- Melisa Ash and Maria Speare voted in as co-chairs
- Nicole Wu to take on a leadership role as School Parents Involvement Advisor

School Parents Involvement Advisor:

- Nicole Wu



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Members at large (16) for 2023-24:

- Mike Vieira
- Fidan Naghiyeva
- Zoe/Karl Lee
- Reem Dabbour
- Elham Afshar
- Julia Kuo
- June Oh
- Ali Nazem
- Nicole Chu
- Laurie Soto-Maya
- Kateryna Kononenko
- Trang Phan
- Dareen Charafeddine
- Rana Kamil Farah
- Mars Ma
- Vincent Qian



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Update on various topics of interest related to the school

NeighbourLink food drives

- Lily Su (Community Engagement Coordinator with NeighbourLink — Food Drive opportunity – Council decided on two food drives: one before Christmas, and one before the summer break
- This year the number of families NeighbourLink serves on a monthly basis has increased to 130+ including single parents, seniors, and persons with disabilities across 18 buildings in Willowdale.

Reorganization

- No reorganization necessary this year; 26 homerooms

Curriculum night and BBQ

- Curriculum Night is planned for Wednesday, October 4. This evening is a combination of our Curriculum presentations and welcome back BBQ. Teachers will deliver two separate presentations — the first at 5:00 p.m., followed by the 2nd at 5:30 p.m.
- Families will have an opportunity to enjoy a hot dog/hamburger, chips and a drink during the times they are not attending the curriculum presentations. More information will be coming home shortly.



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- tickets to go home Wed Oct 4 – ESL teachers and special ed teachers will be available

Extracurriculars (Laurel Poon)

- We have a number of extracurriculars that happen at McKee annually
- some of the ones that are currently running are: Cross country, Boys Soccer, Girls Borden ball
- There will be more to come during the school year, but it's a large number that I will not list now.

Cross-country (Laurel Poon)

- 3 tryouts this week and next followed by 2 practices per week once the team has been chosen. The Cross-country practices happen Tuesday mornings at 8:10 - 8:30 a.m. with Mr. Priolo and Mrs. Weir.
- Qualifying meet on Oct 5 at Earl Bales for grades 2-5.
- North Conference meet on Oct 18
- City finals will be Oct 25th, 2023 @ Centennial Park in Etobicoke.

Boys soccer (Laurel Poon)

- Gr. 4 and 5 boys soccer tryouts are happening this week. Practices will happen on Tuesday and Wednesday at 11:30-12:00 p.m.



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Borden ball (Laurel Poon)

- Our first tournament will be held at Arbour Glen on October 3rd.
- Mr. Tim Barker and Mr. Michael Morris will be taking our girls Borden ball team there.
- Practices are at lunch

Terry Fox day

- This year the Terry Fox run will be held on Thursday, September 28th with all students beginning with an assembly to share the purpose and story of Terry Fox.
- All students will participate in a run/walk organized at various times throughout the day.
- An online, cashless link to help raise funds for cancer research has been sent out with donations welcome up to Friday, October 6th.
- Cash donations are also welcomed in the form of a toonie or other forms of cash. Every little bit helps!

Orange Shirt Day

- Assembly on Sept 29th to ensure students understand the meaning behind this day.
- Students are encouraged to wear something orange on Friday, September 29 to



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recognize this day where we discuss how “Every Child Matters.”

Orange shirt day

- The story of Phyllis Webstad, a residential school survivor, is shared to help build awareness and educate our students about the history of Indigenous peoples as part of our Calls to Action mandate.

Student voice

- We have had student voice on the PA each morning...including our virtual class this morning.

Photo Day (Laurel Poon)

- Edge Imaging Wednesday, October 4th

Parents and Caregivers as Partners Conference - October 21 & 22, 2023

- Register Now!
- Join us at our annual Parents and Caregivers as Partners Conference. Parents, guardians, caregivers, and staff are invited to participate in a weekend of learning, connection, and engagement and to learn strategies to support your child throughout the year.



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- We have partnered with the TDSB’s Outdoor Education team, the City of Toronto, and numerous other community partners to bring a unique in-person experience to the conference.
- Attendees may engage in experiential in-person learning by choosing from 20 locations across the city.
- The in-person sessions are scheduled between 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday.
- Transportation from central sites will be available to all venues, leaving the location at 1:00 p.m. and returning at 3:30 p.m.
- Dr. Gholneskar (Gholdy) Muhammad, an Associate Professor of Literacy, Language, and Culture will open the virtual conference on Saturday, October 21, 2023, with a dynamic keynote on Unearthing Joy in Learning.
- Sarah Baldeo, an accomplished Neuroscientist, Technologist, corporate Strategist, and a successful Entrepreneur, will challenge our views and assumptions on artificial intelligence in education on Sunday, October 22, 2023.
- Visit www.parentsaspartners.ca to register and for more information

Open communication

- Part of a teacher’s responsibility is maintaining open communication with parents.
- Parents should be receiving information about how to communicate best with their



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	<p>child's teacher.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We believe that you are your child's first and best teacher and we rely on your support and feedback to ensure your child is getting the best education.• No secret that you receive several emails from me.• Newsletter is available to parents online• No hard copies will be sent home.• Our website will also be a valuable resource to families.• The design of a school website is up and running with a link to our SAC: http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/mckee/	
3	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monthly financials for June and July• Service provider has changed (no longer PACE)• Ended last school year at around \$13,000, with outflow of \$6,000 or so to pay for the McKee expenses that council decided on at the June 2023 meeting• Around \$7,000 in our account to start this year	Josephine Chuk
4	<p>Closing remarks</p>	Melisa Ash/



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Next SAC Meetings (we'll start with hybrid meetings and see how things go):<ul style="list-style-type: none">– November 22 (hybrid — come in person if you can!)– January 24– February 28– April 24– June 12• Council to send out reminders to and poll MALs for attendance prior to each meeting• Minutes will be sent out to whole school community and posted online	Maria Speare
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