

Thorncliffe Park Public School

IN PERSON COUNCIL MEETING

MOMs (Feb 28, 2024)

MODE OF MEETING: In Person TIME: 9:15AM

ATTENDANCE

Co Chair: Anjum Fatima, **Secretary:** Saleem Khan

Council Members: Uzma Iffat Karim, Nahid Akhter, Nosheen Khan and Shazia .

School Team:

Principal: Christine Harvey Kerr, **Vice Principals:** Chris Fabbri and Siobhan Alexander

Number of attendees: 35

Discussions and Decisions:

- **Washrooms cleanliness and door locks**
- The school has implemented specific practices to ensure cleanliness which was appreciated by the parents.
- A number of issues in the washrooms have been addressed, but there is still some work pending. It was mentioned that the work order for the remaining items will be received soon.

Report Card Overview:

- A descriptive presentation was presented by the principal. The link to the presentation is on the school website.
 - The Co-Chair recommended parents to review the presentation for a better understanding of the report card.
- **Principal Report:**
 - **Attendance:**
 - The school allocates 300 minutes for learning each day for a total of 1340 students.
 - The attendance report for the first reporting period indicates that 320 students have problematic attendance, with 15 days or more recorded as absent.
 - Throughout an academic year, a student experiences 180 days of learning, and attendance plays a crucial role in influencing student performance on standardized assessments such as EQAO.
 - Door 5 at the back and Door 12 are open until 9am to save their learning time. Attendance is submitted at 8:55 am.
 - Families have challenges with elevators but we do have to remember the missing 15 minutes of learning which add up with each day.

- **Video Recording or Photography** is not allowed on school premises, and we should be mindful of everyone's privacy. Parents are advised that if someone takes pictures, they should be informed that it is not allowed.

- **PALs – Program Activity Leaders:**
 - Toronto Public Health Nurses offer training opportunities to 30 Grade 4 students to organize games for younger students in Grades 1, 2, and 3. This program aims to foster leadership skills through modeling, fair play, inclusion, and conflict resolution.
 - The school has six teachers who work with students for 4 to 6 hours, collaborating with student leaders to create a more inclusive learning environment.
 - In response to a parent inquiry about how special needs students are included in the leadership program to enhance their educational and social learning skills, it was emphasized that efforts are made to involve all students. The importance of encouraging special needs students to collaborate with their peers in class was highlighted.
 - The principal mentioned that the school provides other leadership opportunities, including participation in the student council and eco team, emphasizing the school's commitment to valuing student voices.

- **Placement of permanent Vice Principal:** We have placement of permanent vice principal, Ms. Siobhan Alexander. Parents and the School Council welcomed her to the school.

- **Highlight of learning;** we received grants for STEM learning of Science and Math; learning of art skills that source of learning.

- **Celebration of Black History Month:** This month we are celebrating Black History Month by displaying artifacts and postcards in classes.

- **Grade 5 student work:** Besides extra-curricular activities, students are supported with art work such as making videos. Grade 5 students made a video with the character and made the story online on Youtube. Parents appreciated student work.

Extra-curricular activities.

- Extra-curricular is important for students and schools take it seriously.
- School volleyball team won the conference semi-final, and now competes in the final. Teachers did a good job providing training to the students.
- School started Ball Hockey for grade 3 to 5, Skipping for grade 2, Board Games for grade 1, Yoga for grade 3, and badminton for grade 4 and 5.

- **Concerns:**

- **Lunch time** The Principal cleared that the duration of the lunch time has not changed. Outdoor recess is also a part of lunch which is important for socialization.
- Parents suggested that the school arrange reading and writing sessions for parents/caregivers to improve academic success.
- Principal introduced mentimeter on menti.com for feedback/vote on areas of interest of attendees for literacy and Maths sessions.
- **Safety committee:** School has received one parent nomination for the school safety committee and we want more parents to join this committee.

PIAC Event:

Anjum Fatima and Nahid Akhter shared their experience of attending the PIAC conference, which was very informative and networking oriented. Upon interaction with other councils and PIAC representatives, we have to set our goals in making this school community more empowered , sustainable and ensure it is aligned with PIAC vision.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks.