

Minutes of the Thorncliffe Park Public School (TPPS) Council Meeting (January 31, 2024)

Mode of meeting: Virtual
Time: 5:30 PM

Attendees

- **Council Members:** Saida Sadath, Anjum Fatima, Anjum Sultana, Uzma Iffat Karim, Sijal Sarfraz, Sumaira Afeef Khalil, Jan Andiwal, Nosheen Khan, Nahid Akhter, Shazia Javaid, Rizwan Haider and Saleem Khan
- **School Team:** Christine Harvey Kerr and Chris Fabbri
- **Number of attendees:** 28

Discussions and Decisions

- **School Budget Update**
 - School has a total budget \$1500 on November 1, 2023, out of which \$240 was spent on first school council meeting, leaving a remaining balance of \$1260.
 - While the council did not receive the innovation grant fund, it is anticipated that the school council funds will be utilized for various events and educational workshops for parents/caregivers.
- **Washrooms cleanliness and door locks**
 - Cleanliness in washrooms is crucial for both staff and students.
 - There have been reported washroom issues on the second floor. The school has implemented specific practices to ensure cleanliness. Grades 4 and 5 teachers use sign-in and sign-out protocols to establish students' accountability and washroom passes for all classes.
 - The school has seen increased support from student leadership.
 - While washroom work orders have not all been resolved, trustees and the superintendent have assured their support, and the school expects to have work orders completed soon.
- **Academic growth**
 - The principal shared last year's EQAO results with 48% in reading, 40% in writing, and 32% in math for levels 3 and 4. The school is actively working to improve these scores, with a particular focus on significant improvement in math and reading. However, results based on the school report card are slightly above the EQAO scores.
 - The school has a literacy committee led by teachers, dedicated to working on curriculum enhancements. Teachers participate in regular professional learning on literacy and mathematics.
 - Trustee Rachel Chernos Lin, Ward 11, has planned virtual sessions for parents and caregivers of kindergarten to Grade 8 students. These sessions aim to provide a better understanding of their children's learning and how to assist at home.

- **Recess time during the cold climate conditions**
 - Regarding extreme weather conditions, all schools adhere to the TDSB policy. During such conditions, children do not go for recess.
 - In accordance with the TDSB policy, if the temperature indicates -28°C or lower, children will remain indoors. If the temperature falls within the range of -20°C to -28°C, recess may be shortened to 10 minutes, and lunch recess may be 20 minutes, depending on local conditions.
- **Report Card Overview**
 - Digital (for virtual classes) and hard copies of the report cards will be shared with all parents/caregivers.
 - Four pages of report card be used. The report card will be slightly amended to include one language mark, which will combine the marks for reading, writing, oral communication, and media.
- **Mental Health challenges**
 - All school teachers take the mental health and well-being seriously.
 - The Toronto Public Health Nurse will train 20 students in each grade 3 and grade 4 on self-efficacy, problem-solving, and conflict resolution. These students will provide leadership in conflict resolution.
- **Class Communication**
 - Principal shared the different ways that teachers communicate learning in the classroom (BrightSpace, Google Classroom, Monthly newsletter, email updates).
 - Parent can reach out to the teacher to inquire about how ongoing classroom learning is shared and how to take insight into their child's learning progress.
- **Student excursion and Extra-curricular Activities**
 - The school encourages student to participate in various excursions.
 - We recently sent around 460 students to a hockey game at University of Toronto.
 - Students have access to a variety of extra-curricular activities, including Ball Hockey, Yoga, Dodgeball, Eco Club, Skipping, Math Club, Speed Stacking and Volleyball.
- **School Bulletin Board**
 - A council member informed that the bulletin board outside the school is blurry and not visible.
 - A suggestion was made to replace it with an electronic board to improve visibility for the community regarding events and to assist the school council in posting meeting agendas.
 - The principal mentioned that the school does not have control over installing a new board, and the decision lies with the board. However, we can explore this issue further in the future.

- **Health and safety committee**
 - Every school is required to form a Health and Safety Committee comprising the principal, a teacher, a non-teaching staff member, and parents. TPPS has established the committee, and parents/caregivers are invited to join if they wish to contribute.
 - The goal is to review and update the school's code of conduct and bullying prevention plans.
- **PIAC Event**
 - All parents are encouraged to attend the PIAC event scheduled for February 3, 2024, as it provides an opportunity for families to network with the school.
- **Parent Volunteers**
 - Parent volunteers are needed for the snack program.
 - We have lunch supervisors from the Board and also appreciate parent volunteers.
 - Teachers also welcome volunteers to read with children.
- **Next School Council Meeting**
 - The next council meeting will take place in person on February 28, 2024, at 9:15 am.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

