



2016-2017 Wilkinson School Community Council September 26, 2016

Meeting Minutes - Approved

The 2015-2016 Chair, Erin Vaillancourt called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Agenda

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approval of September Agenda2. Approval of June Minutes3. Principal's Update | <ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Committee Updates<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Arts Programming- Movie Night- Direct Donations- Where Do We Need Help? | <ol style="list-style-type: none">5. New Business<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Elections/Curriculum Night- Parent Class Reps- Stop Lights Petition- Cafe Press- 2016/2017 Meeting Dates6. Adjournment of Council Meeting |
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Attendance

Present:

Allan Kelly (Principal)
Erin Vaillancourt (Chair)
Shanna Breslin (Secretary)
Angelina Diassiti
Carmen Doyle
Rob Jefferson
Kris Kearns
Lilian Ling
Safran Lafeer

April Moon
Julia Warrender
Brenda Ohngemach

Paula Kahn
Brigitte Nadeau
Stephanie Lamb
Sinead Healy
Melinda

Regrets:

Dan Dumistrescu (Vice Chair)
Sharon Hennessey
(Treasurer)
Michela Pasquali

Absent:

Manpreet Chana (Dandy Lion)
Raihana Ingar
Yasmin Buhariwala (VP)

1. Approval of September Agenda

- Shanna and Julia approved.

2. Approval of June Minutes

- Kris and Angelina approved.



3. Principal's Update – Allan Kelly

- Welcome old and new Council members!
- Communications: We would like to push people towards a central source for the communication of news and event details instead of sending out this information in a number of different ways. A central source would both cut down on labour and be more environmentally friendly (we are a Gold eco-school working towards Platinum status).
 - *The website (wilkinsonps.org) and email newsletter will be used.*
 - Mr. Kasaval is setting up a notice board outside of the gym for all HPE-related information (sports events, tryouts, practices etc). Students are being encouraged to take responsibility for checking this information and communicating it to parents. Mr. Kasaval also posts regularly to his [website](#).
 - Eventually, our start of year forms package will be available online.
 - Perhaps the staff could use their blogs to notify parents of our email newsletter and website? We signed people up at Kindergarten Night but there are likely families that don't know about these items. > *Allan to speak with teachers.*
 - Allan would also like to streamline the email process between the Council (specifically the communications team) and the administration > *he will speak with Erin, Shanna and Julia about this.*
- EQAO: results and program information are online eqao.com.
 - EQAO is an independent agency that creates and administers assessments to measure Ontario students' achievement in reading, writing and math objectively and in relation to a common provincial standard. The assessments are written by our Grade 3 and 6 students.
 - The results show our scores as well as the 5-year trend. Our most recent results were very good and an improvement over the last report.
 - *Note:* EQAO is only one indicator (of many) of achievement.
 - The school looks at the results in great detail and uses them as a tool (along with other tools) to adjust the curriculum > in what areas are our students struggling and how can we help them to improve?
 - In the past, parents have asked about a homework club - a drop-in help session run by teachers where students can find extra help. Is this a possibility? Extra help is provided by teachers on an individual and class by class basis.



- Safe Schools Committee: will be formed shortly and the first meeting will be in October.
 - Committee meets 2 or 3 times per year (usually during school hours) to do safety audits in and around the school and to make suggestions about what areas need improvement.
 - If you'd like to join the committee, email the Council (council@wilkinsonps.org).
 - The school has a new maintenance team lead this year who is working on a plan for the building and grounds.
 - Is there an update on the replacement of the plywood "fence" along the north side of the property? The Board and city are still working out the logistics as the fence borders residential lots and removing it may be complicated.
- Parking Lot: we'd like to remind parents that the lot is for parking, but should not be used for drop-off or pick-up due to safety concerns.
 - Children have been walking through the lot unattended > it's hard for drivers to see them and easy for accidents to happen. The gate leading from the lot to the yard will be locked.
 - Please use the designated drop-off/pick-up lane that is located on Donlands in front of the school > *a reminder will be sent in a weekly update.*

4. Committee Reports

Committee members provided an update of upcoming and ongoing initiatives.

Arts Programming - April Moon

- The Arts Committee uses a \$3500 budget to bring arts programming into the school.
- We often book through Prologue to the Performing Arts, which is an organization that brings together many different performers and artists. They have been approved by Allan and are used by many TDSB schools > the website includes reviews written by other schools (helpful in vetting programs). They keep a file on us which helps us to book a variety of programs over the course of a number of years.
- The Committee picks programs of different genres and with differing content, taking into account teacher requests and curriculum emphasis.
- Usually JK/SK get one performance at the end of the school year (so they're a little bit more mature). Grades 1-6 get at least two programs.



- Due to their complication and cost, visual arts programs are usually booked every other year by the Council, but are often booked by the school through Visual Arts Ontario.
- This year's programs at a glance (more info will be emailed during the year):
 - Grades 1-3: Shoestring Opera's intro to opera, Hansel and Gretel.
 - Grades 4-6: Dufflebag Theater, interactive Romeo and Juliet.
 - Grades 4-6: Fana Soro, west African culture, dance, music and story telling (French).
 - Grades 1-6: Tribal Vision Dance, First Nations traditions through dance and multimedia story telling.
 - JK/SK and Dandycubs: Emerita Emerencia's puppets and story telling (folktales that focus around being respectful, caring and sharing).
- *Committee to work with Yasmin to figure out dates.*

Movie Night: Erin Vaillancourt

- Movie Night is a community building program, which is mostly attended by the JK to Grade 3 students and their families > usual draw is about 60 kids with 1.5 adults each.
- The Committee has changed vendors to bring in more current movies and is making some changes to bring the cost down and increase enjoyment of the event.
- Do we want to continue running this program?
 - Cons: permits are becoming more expensive, the event is challenging to run and manage and attendance has been down for the last few years.
 - Pros: good community builder, good way to communicate with other parents, a program that the younger kids can participate in.
 - Martin is putting together a financial report for consideration.
 - The Committee would like to try one last push at continuing the program. If you'd like to volunteer to help out at Movie Night, please email the Council (council@wilkinsonps.org).
- Reminder to Parents: please keep an eye on your children. During the last number of Movie Nights there have been a lot of kids running around > it's dangerous and has caused damage to school property.

Direct Donations - Erin Vaillancourt

- Should we run the program again? Yes.
- All money goes directly back to the school to fund programs and school enhancements.
- *Shanna and Julia to send the letter out now and a few times during the year.*



Call For New Members - Erin Vaillancourt

- Need new committee members for: Education, Movie Night, accounting > where else do we need help?
- We have two new members on the Education Committee.
- Paula is stepping down from permits and Julia is taking over.
- *Julia to go through the costs of permits and cancellations > put together and send a document before next meeting.*
- *We ran out of time for this discussion and it will be moved to next month's meeting.*

5. New Business

Stop Lights Petition: Erin Vaillancourt

- A number of parents would like to see the crosswalk changed into a stop light to improve safety for people crossing the street > cars do not respect the crosswalk and regularly fail to stop or fail to remain stopped until people have finished crossing.
- We did a petition online in June, but it needs to be in writing so we have to collect signatures again.
- We have done the research and our petition could be accepted. We have also learned that the city will not change the conditions of the road (e.g. narrow it or put in an island to control traffic).
- This month we've had police monitoring the crosswalk as there's been a shortage of crossing guards > a new crossing guard will be starting soon.
- This is a community initiative which will be supported by the Council.
- *Erin will put together more information for review and we can discuss next month.*

Cafe Press Wilkie Store: Erin Vaillancourt

- We have set up an online store using CafePress for Wilkie merchandise.
- Previously we've had inventory that's lasted a number of years and was expensive to purchase. While CafePress won't make us a ton of money, there's no overhead and we don't have to carry inventory.
- The website charges us a base price for each item sold. We customize the items and mark up the price to make a profit. We'll only be marking up the prices by about \$1-2 to keep the cost down > please keep this in mind when looking at the website.



- We've set up a store with some examples of merchandise to give people an idea of what we could sell > *Council members should give feedback re: what to sell and how much to charge.* <http://www.cafepress.ca/wilkinsonschoo>
- We would like to get it going before the holidays.
- *This will be discussed again at the next meeting once everyone has looked at the site.*

New Fundraisers: Rob Jefferson

- Rob will be submitting proposals for two new events.
- Games Night: families play age appropriate Wii games on a big screen.
 - Open to broadening the scope to possibly include board games but at this point it's for video games (e.g. dancing games).
 - The thought is that Games Night will alternate with Movie Night.
 - How will we manage the fact that kids will have to wait their turns? Dan and Rob are putting together a plan.
 - A prerequisite is that parents come with their kids.
- Fun-draisers: leverage hobbies and talents of parents in a workshop format.
 - Wilkie parents volunteer their time to teach families about something new, maybe over a 2-hour chunk of time (e.g. photography, sewing, knitting)
 - An entrance fee will be charged - a specific charge might be more appropriate than a pay-what-you-can as there are often supplies to be purchased.
- More details to follow.

Harvest Fest: Brenda Ohngemach

- Date is set for October 23rd. Details are in the works.
- This event will be discussed at the next meeting.
- *Julia and Shanna to send out a Save The Date email*

6. Council meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

**The next meeting of the 2016-2017 Council will be held on
Monday, October 17th, 2016 at 6:30pm in Room 3.**