



## 2016-2017 Wilkinson School Community Council January 16, 2017

### Meeting Minutes - Approved

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The 2016-2017 Chair, Angelina Diassiti called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm.

### Agenda

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| <b>1.</b> Approval of January Agenda   | <b>4.</b> Committee Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Technology</li><li>- EcoTeam</li><li>- Wood Car Derby</li><li>- Fun Fair</li></ul> | <b>5.</b> New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Babysitting</li><li>- Class Contact Lists</li><li>- New Treasurer</li><li>- Guest Presentation</li></ul> |
| <b>2.</b> Approval of November Minutes |  | <b>6.</b> Adjournment of Council Meeting  |
| <b>3.</b> Principal's Update           |  |   |
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### Attendance

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#### Present:

Allan Kelly (Principal)  
Yasmin Buhariwala (VP)  
Angelina Diassiti (Chair)  
Dan Dumistrescu (Vice Chair)  
Shanna Breslin (Secretary)  
Manpreet Chana (Dandylion)  
Joel Krentz (Staff)  
Rob Jefferson  
Lilian Ling  
April Moon

Brenda Ohngemach  
Michela Pasquali  
Julia Warrender

Guests:  
Megan Evans  
Ingrid Little  
Sacha Bozabalian  
Annahid Dashtgard

#### Regrets:

Carmen Doyle (Treasurer)  
Sharon Hennessey  
Erin Vaillancourt  
Paula Kahn

#### Absent:

Kris Kearns  
Raihana Ingar  
Safran Lafeer

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### 1. Approval of January Agenda

- April and Julia approved.



## 2. Approval of November Minutes

- Rob and Lilian approved.

## 3. Principal's Update – Allan Kelly

- Seminar: A few years ago we had a seminar for parents on Internet Safety - are we interested in having it again? The content will be current > Yes, there is interest.
- Facilities: We are installing soccer posts to create soccer field.
  - Basketball: Years ago the nets and rims were taken down because of noise complaints from the neighbourhood. We are looking at putting them back up during the school week (when the weather allows) and taking them down over weekends.
  - Painting: Many areas of the school have been repainted, including a new mural in the gym > the new paint looks great!
- PA system: The new system has been promised before the end of the school year.

## 4. Committee Reports

Committee members provided an update of upcoming and ongoing initiatives.

### Technology - Sacha Bozabalian

- The school has a staff IT committee which works to manage the school IT budget and decides what to spend it on.
- Thank you Wilkinson families for the large amount of funding we've received. It has been a huge support to the students and to their learning!
- How has that money been spent?
  - Chromebooks for junior classes - 2 charging carts of 30 laptops which can be rolled into any of the classes on the 3rd floor.
    - We're looking to add to that number as they're used every day.
  - All primary classes have 5 iPads with charging carts.
  - Smart TVs in all classrooms - 15 have been installed. Each one is attached to a dedicated Chromebook.
    - Smart TVs are used as projection systems (for both teacher and student presentations) with additional functionality: internet connectivity, TDSB virtual library access, Google Apps for education, Google forms and surveys.
    - The TVs are connected by HDMI cables to the computers but we'd like to have them connected wirelessly so that each student can connect and present easily.



- We're the first school to do this, which is why there's a delay in getting wireless connectivity.
- TVs will be installed in the other 15 rooms > we're aiming to finish in the spring.
- As we're a pilot school for wireless connectivity, we're hoping to get some money from the Board for this > we have 14 routers now and are looking to add 7 more.
- The plan for this year is to purchase 70 more Chromebooks (some to go in Special Education and primary classes) and some iPads for the junior students (3rd floor) to allow the students to work on STEM projects that are not compatible with Chromebooks. The additional 15 Smart TVs will be installed as well.
- Thank you IT committee - we can see the difference the tech has made already!
- Question: Is there support for printing documents and managing timelines for doing this work at home? Not everyone has printers at home so printing assignments can be a challenge.
  - Students can submit work using Google docs instead of printing. Perhaps there's a communication issue - *Allan will discuss with staff and come up with a plan for how to get parents up to speed around how technology has changed homework and assignment expectations. Students should submit online and teachers will be responsible for choosing to read online or print themselves.*
- Does the IT committee want to set up a booth at Fun Fair to show parents what's changed and what the kids have been working on? *April to discuss with IT committee.*

#### **EcoTeam - Sacha Bozabalian**

- We are currently a Gold Ecoschool and are applying for Platinum status, which is the highest (few schools have it).
- This entails a lot of work and support on the part of the school, families and the community.
- This year the EcoTeam has some new initiatives:
  - To convert part of the Learning Garden into a butterfly garden.
  - To reward committed EcoTeam members with an eco-related educational field trip to thank them for all of their hard work.
  - To include robotics and solar projects.



- All of these projects aim to inspire kids to take an active role in environmental activism.
- To do this we need about \$500 in funding from Council > *Mr. Bozabalian to submit a written proposal for consideration at next month's meeting.*
- The school has an eco-audit coming up which requires an online portfolio - it will be submitted to Council to be passed on to the community.

### **Wood Car Derby - Rob Jefferson**

- The Derby is coming up on Feb. 24 from about 5pm - 9pm (including registration).
- This year we've added a car cut-out night so that families that don't have the appropriate tools can spend some time at the Toronto Tool Library using their tools and getting help from staff there > Council funded with a request for donations from participants.
- Derby registration and car purchase is from Jan 24-26 - *please email the Council if you are available to help from 8:15am to 9am. April will be stationed at Dandylion.*
- We're hoping to lower the cost of the event by getting some prize donations > *please email the Council if you have any leads (prizes are often sporting events etc).*
- Would it make sense to combine Derby registration with pizza lunch sign-up? It would be easier for both the registrants and volunteers. *Let's try it!*

### **Fun Fair - April Moon**

- The organization has begun!
- The event will be on May 6 this year so that it doesn't coincide with the Ramadan fast.
- *If anyone would like to help organize an area (big or small chunks), please let April know and she can match you with an appropriate committee.*

## **5. New Business**

### **Babysitting: Process and Cost - April Moon**

- There are often questions about our babysitting policy, which was drafted by the Council a number of years ago > we want to clarify what it is.
- A high school student babysitter is booked first for \$15/hour.
- If we need more sitters (i.e. more than 4 kids), a Grade 7-8 student will be booked as well for \$10/hour. They get trained by the high school student.
- The main challenge is that we never know exactly how many kids will arrive > so it's important for people to email us if babysitting is needed.



- We have a list of babysitters that we've been using for a while and they're often the kids that volunteer for our events as well.
- Council feels that it's important to provide babysitting at all meetings and events so that everyone can attend them.

#### **Class Contact Lists: Angelina Diassiti and Megan Evans**

- We would like to allow parents to opt-in to class contact lists so that they can contact each other > many parents are not in the school very often and would like a way to contact other parents. At this point it's very difficult to do.
- The idea is to have interested families submit their contact information to be compiled into a class contact list. The list would then be distributed among all of the participants within each class. The participants are then free to contact each other for whatever reason they choose (social plans, birthday parties, homework questions, carpools etc.)
- Contact information would include student name, parent(s) name(s), email address and phone number (parents can choose to provide one or both).
- As we don't want to create work for teachers, we would use parent volunteers (one per classroom) to collect the contact information, compile a list and distribute it. Management of the list would be the only responsibility for the volunteer.
- The sign-up form will make it clear that participating is optional; that no school, Board or Council communications will be sent via the class lists; and that the communications sent to participants will not be monitored or regulated in any way by the school > the parents themselves are responsible for regulation and rule setting if needed.
- The contact lists are a way for parents to connect and to build more of a sense of community.
- Concern: People may be excluded if they don't have any easy way to be contacted (email, language barrier for phone).
- Guest Comment: At our last two schools, this existed and it was done at the beginning of the year and made clear that this was a parent-run initiative. People chose what contact info they wanted to provide. It was hugely successful and much appreciated.
- ***Council will move forward with this.***

#### **New Treasurer: Angelina Diassiti**

- Council is now without a Treasurer. As no one has expressed interest, we will send out a note to the community.



- Details:
  - The Treasurer does **not** need to be an accountant.
  - The time commitment isn't huge, but it is a big responsibility.
  - This is a volunteer position on the WSCC.
- Job Description:
  - Writing cheques to make payments
  - Tracking the Council budget; money spent and money committed
  - Reporting to the Council monthly and to the TDSB yearly (help is available for this reporting)
- *Angelina will process invoices for now.*

#### **Guest Presentation: Annahid Dashtgard**

- Annahid is working on organizing a welcome event for the new First Nations School of Toronto.
  - The school will take on about 134 students this year with a capacity of about 600 and is located in the former Eastern Commerce Collegiate.
  - The school is having an open house on Feb 2 at 7:30 to meet the teachers and learn what the school is about > community is welcome to attend.
  - The school is K-8 but will go to Grade 12 eventually.
- There has been an increase in racist/intolerant incidents within the city since Trump was elected > is there a way to offer support to the Muslim community, invite the community to share and report incidents in order to protect each other?
- We recognize that we have a very diverse community and would like to make sure that we include support for everyone as opposed to one group > we can put out a message that includes all forms of intolerance and give an invitation to a mechanism for reporting incidents.
- We should reach out the community to see what kind of support is wanted before sending out any messages. *Annahid to draft something and work with Allan on this.*

#### **6. Council meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.**

**The next meeting of the 2016-2017 Council will be held on  
Monday, February 13th, 2017 at 6:30pm in Room 3.**