

2016-2017 Wilkinson School Community Council June 5th, 2017

Meeting Minutes - Approved

The 2016-2017 Chair, Angelina Diassiti called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

Agenda

- 1. Approval of June Agenda
- 2. Approval of May Minutes
- 3. Principal's Update

- 4. Committee Updates
 - Fun Fair
 - Arts
 - Financial Update
- 5. New Business
 - Date For Next Meeting
- **6.** Adjournment of Council Meeting
- **7.** AGM

Attendance

Present:

Yasmin Buhariwala (VP)
Manpreet Chana (Dandylion)
Angelina Diassiti (Chair)
Dan Dumitrescu (Vice Chair)
Shanna Breslin (Secretary)
Joel Krentz (Staff)

Lilian Ling April Moon Brenda Ohngemach Julia Warrender

Regrets:

Allan Kelly (Principal)
Carmen Doyle
Sharon Hennessey
Raihana Ingar
Rob Jefferson
Paula Kahn
Kris Kearns
Safran Lafeer (Treasurer)
Michela Pasquali
Erin Vaillancourt

1. Approval of May Agenda

• Shanna and Lillian approved.

2. Approval of April Minutes

• Lillian and Angelina approved.



3. Principal's Update - Yasmin Buhariwala

- On behalf of all the staff, thank you Parent Council for all that you do throughout the year. Fundraising is so important for bringing amazing programs and technology into the school and our communications are excellent.
- We achieved Platinum EcoSchools status! Thank you to the staff, families and especially the students for all of the hard work you put into reaching this goal.
- EQAO is finished.
- Staffing: a new Kindergarten teacher was hired and next year we have 4 full Kindergarten classrooms with 4 ECEs.
- Our volunteer appreciation breakfast is on June 14 at 9am.
- Grade 6 graduation is on Tuesday, June 27th at 1pm. The photo is first, followed by the ceremony and refreshments. It is over by 3pm. > Times have been added to website calendar and post.
- Play Day is Friday, 23rd with a rain date on the last day of school.
- From September 11th to 14th, we'll have student teachers from a university in Japan joining us in the mornings. They will be in pairs observing our teachers.
- Kindergarten students will receive a new type of report card beginning at the end of this
 year and continuing into the future. The teachers will now report using a 4 frames
 system with comments > this combines academics with social behaviour and allows for
 more personalization.
- At Welcome to Kindergarten night, the grandmother of a student told Yasmin that she was very impressed with the open house in May > the student ambassadors were excellent! She also made a direct donation to the school.
- Kindergarten graduation: is there a ceremony this year? We'll do the same thing as last year > no formal ceremony, but individual teachers will decide what they'd like to do within their own classrooms.
- Does Allan have an update on getting Public Health in to do more frequent lice checks?
 No update was given to Yasmin, Shanna to check with Allan.
- Uke Day: June 14th Can parents go and see the concert? If so, what time will it begin? Melanie Doane usually wants volunteers for the day - Yasmin will ask about this.



4. Committee Reports

Committee members provided an update of upcoming and ongoing initiatives.

Fun Fair - April Moon

- Despite the rain, we had a good turnout!
- We were short some volunteers on the day of, but shifted some people around to cover sparse areas.
- All of the receipts are now in and it looks like we reached our fundraising goal and came in under budget!
- Thank you to everyone who helped out and to all of the staff for supporting the event.
- The storage rooms were left very well organized, which was excellent.
- Many of the members of our food committee are now graduating and we would like to figure out how to get more people involved. The group has historically formed a tightknit community and we'd like to bring back that kind of feeling.
- Suggestion to bring back Wilkitchen we did one last year but it was not well attended > let's brainstorm this in September.

Arts Committee - April Moon

- The committee is starting to plan for next year and would like to have the same budget of \$3500 approved.
- We have been sending out more communications with reviews to update the community and get people involved.
- This year we will be doing a visual arts program (it happens every other year), but are not sure which grades will participate.
- We always incorporate at least one French program.
- We will be sending out a survey to staff to get feedback before booking.
- Plan: the committee will meet in July to choose next year's program, book in August and get it approved and paid for in September.

Financial Update - Angelina Diassiti

- We need a new Treasurer in September so we will look for someone else to fill the position when we send out nomination forms.
- We don't have all of this year's numbers to report yet.



- Do we cover the entire actual cost of a program or only the amount that we pledged?
 We pay what we pledged.
- After paying for our remaining technology upgrade pledge, we should have enough money to pay for the arts programming and the lice and internet seminars with about \$5000 left over.
- Teacher Appreciation event: we have money in the budget for it but at the TDSB seminar about Council financials, we were instructed that Council money is not to be spent on events such as this.
 - This year we're considering doing a smaller coffee and dessert event on a PA Day.
 - Comment from Joel: it is always appreciated, but the general feeling is that this kind of thing is really not needed.
 - We will do a coffee and dessert event during the last PA Day of this year and will revisit in the future.
- We have the same feelings about the volunteer appreciation event that it's a very nice thought, but not necessary (especially since a lot of parents can't make it out during school hours)
 - Perhaps we could change the event to snacks at the last Council meeting of the year and invite other volunteers to join. Yasmin will suggest this for next year.

5. New Business

Date For September Meeting - Angelina Diassiti

• September 18? Agreed.

Procedure for Booking Events Such As Seminars - Angelina Diassiti

- The first step is to give possible dates to the Vice Principal so that we can make sure there are no conflicts > not as big a deal with evening events.
- After booking, speak to Julia about a permit if the event is to be held after 6pm.
- Permits are open to the public so we have to keep this in mind we can't book them last minute (need a 4-6 week lead time).
- Lightest months are Sept/Oct and Jan/Feb.
- For events like seminars, volunteers are usually used to set up the chairs etc and clean them up afterwards.



Fall Fest - Brenda Ohngemach

- Should we have the event again next year?
- Yes it's a nice community-building event!
- Ruby L is happy to help get pumpkins.
- Suggested Date: October 14th.

Funding Proposals - Angelina Diassiti

- Looking through the AGM, we didn't fund anything relating to mathematics, health and physical education or music this year.
- Since we won't have a large technology project to fund next year, we'll have more
 money to pledge to other projects. > Joel will communicate this to the other staff and
 will ask them to submit funding proposals in time for our October meeting when the
 budget is set (if possible).

6. Council meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.

7. AGM Began at 7:45pm

• Please see the AGM Report online for details about what the school has done this year.



2016-2017 Wilkinson School Community Council Annual Report - June 5, 2017

Dear Parents and School Community:

The Wilkinson School Community Council (WSCC) had a very busy and rewarding 2016-2017 school year. The Council welcomed both a new Treasurer and new Chair this year, and Council members put a great deal of time and effort into community building and fundraising activities (both continued and new this year) and into improved communications with school families. This report serves as a summary of the Council's accomplishments over the course of this school year, as well as a description of the ways in which our activities fulfilled our mandate.

School councils are advisory organizations that strive to improve student achievement and enhance the accountability of the education system to parents. This is achieved by putting forth recommendations to the Principal of the school and to the school board, as well as by communicating with the school community.

Another important responsibility of the Council is fundraising. Fundraising proceeds are used to fund projects such as technology in the classroom, arts programming and schoolyard enhancements in accordance with school board policies. Please refer to the 2016-2017 budget provided at the end of this report for insight into the finances of the Council. The Year End Financial statement is presented at the final meeting of the current school year.

All Council meetings are open to the public to encourage input from parents and other members of the school community. In order to facilitate increased participation, free childcare is provided.

Meeting minutes and financial records are available for public inspection at the school website: http://wilkinsonps.org/about/council/



2016-2017 WSCC Elected Members

We wish to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the many individuals who volunteered their time to contribute to the success of the Council this year.

The members of the 2016-2017 Wilkinson School Community Council are:

Elected Executive:

Faculty/Staff/Community Representatives:

Angelina Diassiti (Chair)

Dan Dumitrescu (Vice Chair)

Safran Lafeer (Treasurer)

Shanna Breslin (Secretary)

Allan Kelly (Principal)

Yasmin Buhariwala (VP)

Manpreet Chana (Dandylion)

Joel Krentz (Teacher Rep)

Elected Members:

Carmen Doyle Lilian Ling Sharon Hennessey April Moon

Raihana Ingar Brenda Ohngemach
Rob Jefferson Michela Pasquali
Paula Kahn Erin Vaillancourt
Kris Kearns Julia Warrender

This year there are two outgoing elected members:

- Sharon Hennessey has been indispensable as our Treasurer for a number of years. During
 that time she's helped to keep our financials organized and has managed funding for large
 goals such as the replacement of the Kindergarten play structure and the recent schoolwide technology upgrades.
- Paula Kahn has contributed to the Council in countless ways, such as volunteering at
 events like Wilkitchen, leading committees, holding Executive positions, and managing
 and securing all of our event and meeting permits.

Both have served numerous years on the WSCC and their dedication and contributions are greatly appreciated.



2016-2017 WSCC Meetings

The Council held meetings on the following dates:

September 26, 2016 October 17, 2016 November 21, 2016 January 16, 2017 February 13, 2017 April 3, 2017 May 1, 2017 June 5, 2017

What does the WSCC do for the Wilkinson Community?

School councils are governed by **Ontario Regulation 612**, which sets out the purpose, membership and election requirements for school councils. Under section 2(1), the purpose of the school council is "through the active participation of parents, to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents."

School councils are responsible for:

Sharing information with parents and the community, and seeking their input on matters the Council is discussing. Some examples of how this was accomplished during 2016-2017 are:

- Last year the Communications Committee set up a new email distribution system and website which have continued to greatly improve the process by which we keep the school community informed about what's going on at the school and within the neighbourhood.
- During this school year, we were thrilled to see an increased level of participation from school staff members. More teachers contacted the Council (via email) with requests for the distribution of information about school programming and events.
- Communications Committee members were present at Kindergarten registration as well as Welcome to Kindergarten night to subscribe new families to our email distribution list.
- The Communications Committee has also continued to update the school community via our WSCC Facebook page and WSCC Twitter account.
- The Communications Committee completed an updated version of the Parent Handbook, which was launched at the beginning of this school year and now resides on our website.
- The Communications Committee worked with a school parent to bring optional class contact lists to the school this year. We had mixed levels of participation across classrooms, but plan to continue this project in 2017-2018.



- The Communications Committee began a legacy planning documentation program this year in order to capture details related to Council-run events, processes and school committees. The aim is to record information so that our operations can continue from year to year with as little disruption and as easily as possible. This program is a work in progress and will continue over the next number of years.
- The Communications Committee is continually working on ways to reach more Wilkinson families and engage the community.

Providing advice to the Principal and to the school board on issues such as school year calendars, strategies to improve school performance, codes of conduct and dress, curriculum priorities, safe arrival programs, community use of schools and community programs provided at the school, selection criteria for Principals and Board policies that will affect the school. Some examples include:

- The WSCC Executive and Communications Committee continue to work on co-ordinating school year calendars with the school administration.
- The WSCC has provided funding to support curriculum priorities. See below for more information.
- Our Safe School Committee met with Principal Kelly to walk through the facility and campus to ensure proper health and safety measures were in place for students, faculty and staff.

School councils are actively involved in organizing social and fundraising events for the school community. Examples of such activities organized by the WSCC are:

- The annual Sweetheart Bake Sale, Native Learning Garden Clean Up, Fun Fair, monthly Pizza Lunches and Movie Nights.
- The Car Derby fundraiser was in its third year running this year. Not only was this event successful in raising funds for our school but it also ties into the S.T.E.M. curriculum.
- The Fall Events Committee introduced Fall Fest this year, which was a successful and enjoyable community building event. We plan on holding the event again in the fall.
- The Council enrolled in two more shopping fundraisers this year. We are currently enrolled in Mabel's Labels, Amazon.ca, FlipGive and CafePress. Money raised through Amazon.ca funded the addition of a butterfly garden in the Learning Garden.
- This year's Direct Donation campaign raised more money than it ever has in the past.



How Does The WSCC Support Subjects And Learning At Our School?

A very brief overview of Ontario's elementary curriculum is provided below along with the ways that the WSCC has supported the subjects and learning at Wilkinson. (*Note: Information has been derived directly from Toronto District School Board and Ontario's Ministry of Education websites.*)

The Ontario Curriculum: Elementary

The Arts

Education in the arts is essential to students' intellectual, social, physical, and emotional growth and well-being. Experiences in the arts – in dance, drama, music, and visual arts – play a valuable role in helping students to achieve their potential as learners and to participate fully in their community and in society as a whole. (The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8: The Arts)

The WSCC Arts Committee supported this curriculum through the following programs:

- Visions of Turtle Island performed by Tribal Vision Dance: Grades 1 to 6.
 - Stereotypes are met head on in this high energy dancing and singing performance offering an engaging look at First Nations culture, complete with multimedia. The message of interconnectedness is embodied in the finale with a demonstration of the traditional Hoop Dance.
- Dufflebag Theatre performed Romeo and Juliet: Grades 4 to 6.
 - In their hilarious adaptation of the Shakespearean classic of Romeo and Juliet, audience members are invited into the show to play the main parts! Since the troup doesn't shy away from rewriting the classics, performances include new endings to Shakespeare tragedies a sure way to trigger interesting class conversations.
- The Mouse, The Ant and The Antelopes, performed by Emerita Emerencia: JK and SK students as well as some of Wilkinson's future students, the Dandycubs of Dandylion Daycare.
 - Chabelita (a cute hand-puppet) is still shivering from a scary encounter with a mouse. Her auntie (Emerita) tells her own version of *The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse* to calm her. She continues with the story of *The Ant and the Butterfly*, followed by a tale of African antelopes. This performance with audience participation brings forward the message about being humble, and the importance of sharing and respect for what was here before us.



- West African performing arts show by Fana Soro: French programming for Grades 4 to 6
 Core and Extended French students.
 - "Yamo! Yamo!" means "Hello! How're you doing!" in Baoulé (one of the 63 languages in Ivory Coast). Fana Soro is a hereditary master musician of the Senoufo people and his performance shares the soaring melodies, driving rhythms and spirited dances of ancient West Africa performing arts.
- Shoestring Opera's Hansel and Gretel: Grades 1 to 4.
 - Hansel and Gretel live with their single mom next door to a very strange lady who practices night and day on a cello. They fall asleep and wake up to a wild roller-coaster ride through the land of the fairy tale. Hansel shows off some groovy dance moves set to Humperdinck's gorgeous music as Gretel leads them both out of trouble and into a greater understanding of their strange neighbour. The opera is performed by two actor-singers (a soprano and a baritone) and a wicked witch cellist, as well as a pianist.

Wilkinson Music Program

Wilkinson has an enriched music program, including specialties in Band, Strings, ORFF Choir and Ukulele. Wilkinson is also the host of the <u>Doane USchool</u> and "Uke Day" Ukulele Festival.

The WSCC has supported this curriculum by:

• Funding a portion of the Uke program, through the <u>Doane USchool</u>, in order to reduce the program cost for Wilkinson students wishing to participate.

French As A Second Language

By studying a second language, students learn a great deal about interacting effectively with others, because they have to focus closely on what it is they are trying to communicate; what they need others to understand; how their oral or written expression is received and interpreted; and what others are trying to communicate to them. As students learn to exchange information and ideas in another language, they also learn about other ways of thinking, other ways of doing things, and other ways of living – in short, about other people and other cultures. (The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 4-8: French as a Second Language)

The WSCC has supported this curriculum through:

- A West African performing arts show by *Fana Soro:* French programming for Grades 4 to 6 Core and Extended French students.
 - "Yamo! Yamo!" means "Hello! How're you doing!" in Baoulé (one of the 63 languages in Ivory Coast). Fana Soro is a hereditary master musician of the Senoufo people and his performance shares the soaring melodies, driving rhythms and spirited dances of ancient West Africa performing arts.



Health and Physical Education

The knowledge and skills acquired in health education and physical education form an integrated whole that relates to the everyday experiences of students and provides them with the physical literacy and health literacy they need to lead healthy, active lives. (The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8: Health Education & Physical Education)

The WSCC has supported this curriculum through:

• Funding the purchase of new sports team jerseys and t-shirts (in 2015/2016), which are worn by our athletes each year.

Language

Language is the basis for thinking, communicating, and learning. Students need language skills in order to comprehend ideas and information, to interact socially, to inquire into areas of interest and study, and to express themselves clearly and demonstrate their learning. Learning to communicate with clarity and precision, orally, in writing, and through a variety of media, will help students to thrive in the world beyond school. (The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8: Language)

The WSCC has supported this curriculum by:

- Funding the Silver Birch Reading Program for our students.
 - The Council enables students to participate by providing funds for the purchase of the books featured in the program. The Council also contributes funds towards a trip to Harbourfront, where the students attend a day of activities and the book award ceremony (http://forestfestivaloftrees.ca)
- Funding the Visiting Authors program for our students:
 - On January 26th, the grade 5 and 6 students had author Melanie Florence visit with them to discuss some her books and writing. Ms Florence is the author of a number of books with a First Nations and Inuit focus including 'Jordin Tootoo', Righting Canada's Wrongs: Residential Schools' and 'Missing Nimama'. The latter, a picture book about Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women, won the TD Canadian Children's Literature Award for 2016. Ms Florence's presentation focused largely around the terrible legacy of the residential school system in Canada. Her talk was well received and students asked very thoughtful and insightful questions about this shameful past.



- On March 29th, Chad Solomon, a member of the Henvey Inlet, First Nation, did a puppet show for the entire school. The story was based on his graphic novel series (popular with our students), Rabbit and Bear Paws, which is set in 1750's colonized North America and features the comical adventures of two brothers. Using Traditional Native Teachings and humour, the stories are based on The Seven Fires Prophecies and The Seven Grandfathers Teachings. http://rabbitandbearpaws.com.
- On May 15, 2017, Canadian cartoonist and illustrator, Willow Dawson, shared her beautiful 'The Wolf-Birds' with our K-2 students. 'The Wolf-Birds' (Owlkids Books) is a finalist for The 2017 Ontario Library Association Blue Spruce Award, The 2016 TD Canadian Children's Literature Award, The 2016 Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award, and The 2016 Children's Literature Roundtables of Canada Information Book Award. The story illuminates the unique relationship between wolves and ravens in the wild and how their connection helps them survive.

Mathematics

The curriculum recognizes the diversity that exists among students who study mathematics. It is based on the belief that all students can learn mathematics and deserve the opportunity to do so. It recognizes that all students do not necessarily learn mathematics in the same way, using the same resources, and within the same time frames. It supports equity by promoting the active participation of all students and by clearly identifying the knowledge and skills students are expected to demonstrate in every grade. It recognizes different learning styles and sets expectations that call for the use of a variety of instructional and assessment tools and strategies. It aims to challenge all students by including expectations that require them to use higher-order thinking skills and to make connections between related mathematical concepts and between mathematics, other disciplines, and the real world. (The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8: Mathematics)

Science and Technology

Science and technology are closely linked, especially through the skills of scientific inquiry, technological problem solving, and communication. The world as we know it today has been affected in many important ways by science and technology. For example, science has radically altered and expanded our understanding of Earth and space, of the workings of the human mind and body, and of the ways in which living organisms interact; and technology has revolutionized the way we communicate and has made vast changes in our lives through the discovery of new drugs and materials. It is important, therefore, that students see science and technology in this wider context – as endeavours with important consequences for people and other living things – and that they learn to connect their knowledge of science and technology to the world beyond the school. (The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8: Science & Technology)



The WSCC has supported the math, science and technology curriculum through:

- The Scientist in the Schools program for primary grades.
- Field trip subsidies for students to places such as the Science Centre, Toronto Zoo, High Park, and Kortright Centre for the Conservation.
- The provision of funding and volunteer support for the Car Derby fundraiser, which is tied to the new S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program.
- Support of the School's financial request for the purchase of new projection and computer equipment (Smart TVs, iPads and Chromebooks) for each junior classroom. This package enables teachers to display work and lessons, share educational video clips and enables students to share presentations with the class.
 - The support is considered an ongoing initiative and the Council agrees that funding technology is important and needs to be addressed in the annual budget.

Social Studies, History and Geography

In social studies, history, and geography, students develop skills, knowledge and understanding, and attitudes that will serve them both inside and outside the classroom and within their communities and the world as a whole. The focus of teaching and learning in the social studies, history, and geography curriculum is the development of transferable skills that students need in order to acquire and apply knowledge and understanding.

Students apply these skills in a variety of contexts to examine information critically, to assess the significance of events and processes, to develop an understanding of and respect for different points of view, and to reach supportable conclusions and propose solutions to problems. (The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8: Social Studies)

The WSCC has supported this curriculum through:

- Field trip subsidies for junior students to visit the Century Schoolhouse and the AGO.
- Visions of Turtle Island performed by Tribal Vision Dance: Grades 1 to 6.
 - Stereotypes are met head on in this high energy dancing and singing performance offering an engaging look at First Nations culture, complete with multimedia. The message of interconnectedness is embodied in the finale with a demonstration of the traditional Hoop Dance.
- West African performing arts show by Fana Soro: French programming for Grades 4 to 6
 Core and Extended French students.
 - "Yamo! Yamo!" means "Hello! How're you doing!" in Baoulé (one of the 63 languages in Ivory Coast). Fana Soro is a hereditary master musician of the Senoufo people and his performance shares the soaring melodies, driving rhythms and spirited dances of ancient West Africa performing arts.



Aboriginal Studies Across the Curriculum

Students are introduced to the study of Aboriginal peoples' histories, perspectives and experiences across the curriculum in all grade levels. The approach to program delivery is cross-curricular and includes language arts, social studies, the arts, science, as well as other subject areas. Grades 3 and 6 have specific units of study in the social studies curriculum that incorporate a more substantial amount of educational content related to Aboriginal peoples. Aboriginal Studies Across the Curriculum.

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Year End Financials to Date

At the final meeting of the 2016/2017 Council on Monday, September 18, 2017, the Treasurer and/or Chair will present the final financial details for the year ended August 31, 2017.



We are sincerely grateful for the support of the Wilkinson families and school community, which allowed us to bring so many programs and activities to the school. We hope that this report gave you an understanding of what the Council does and how much time and effort goes into our activities. We're thankful for any and all involvement by Wilkinson families, be it attendance at events and Council meetings to volunteering on committees and at events. If you'd like to join the 2017-2018 Wilkinson School Community Council, self-election and nomination forms will be emailed out and included within the Welcome Package sent home with your child(ren) at the beginning of the school year.

Have an amazing and healthy summer!

Wilkinson School Community Council Executive