



## 2017-2018 Wilkinson School Community Council February 5, 2018

### Meeting Minutes - Approved

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The 2017-2018 Chair, Angelina Diassiti called the meeting to order at 6:34 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>- Car Derby Committee</li><li>- Sweetheart Bake Sale</li><li>- Fun Fair</li></ul> | <b>5.</b> New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Vote: New Member</li><li>- Movies At Lunch</li><li>- Lice Check Results</li><li>- Treasurer's update</li><li>- <b>6.</b> Adjournment of Council Meeting</li></ul> |
| <b>2.</b> Approval of November Minutes |   |  |
| <b>3.</b> Principal's Update           |   |  |
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### Attendance

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#### Present:

Allan Kelly (Principal)  
Angelina Diassiti (Chair)  
Ben Elling (Treasurer)  
Joel Krentz (Staff)  
Jennifer Fenrich  
Rob Jefferson  
Stephanie Lamb  
Lilian Ling  
April Moon  
Brenda Ohngemach  
Michela Pasquali  
Julia Warrender

#### Guests:

Fernanda Perdikaris  
Miriam Zemell-Bloom

#### Regrets:

Shanna Breslin (Secretary)  
Kris Kearns  
April Moon

#### Absent:

Dan Dumitrescu (Vice Chair)  
Anthea Moreau (Dandy Lion)  
Jenny Georgiou (VP)  
Neng Chu Wu  
Chris Danells  
Safran Lafeer  
Erin Vaillancourt  
Raihana Ingar

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### 1. Approval of February Agenda

- Steph and Michela approved.



## 2. Approval of January Minutes

- Michela and Lilian approved.

## 3. Principal's Update – Allan Kelly

- The new Fire system is up and running. The digital PA system that has been installed works great. It includes new sounds for the bells and the bell times are programmable (vs manually previously). The clocks are all synchronized throughout the school.
- Question: Now that the work is done, will the Boys' Dressing Room (Parent Council storage room) be cleared of construction materials? > Within a few weeks.
- The Safe Schools Committee will have its first meeting on March the 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am > email invite / agenda to come.
- Despite numerous reminders, staff waving parents away and the handing out of TDSB parking tickets, parents continue to use the school parking lot for drop off and pick up, posing a danger to students.
  - Suggestion: better signage. A stronger message from the Principal will also be added to the next Monday update and will be posted on the website.
- Question: Teachers ask the students to use the washroom during recess, but lunchroom supervisors ask them not to go during the lunch hour. Solution? > This was addressed at the last staff meeting and a process / plan is coming together.

## 4. Committee Reports

Committee members provided an update of upcoming and ongoing initiatives.

### Sweetheart Bake Sale: Lilian Ling

- Everything is in place and volunteers have come through.
- Some supplies (non-perishable items intended for sale) previously stored in the school can't be located at the moment. After the PA system materials have been removed, they may turn up.
- No additional support for the event is needed.

### Wood Car Derby: Angelina Diassiti / Rob Jefferson

- There's a lot of excitement around the Derby and registration numbers go up slightly each year. Could we create a committee around Rob to assist with planning before the event and with wrap-up afterwards? *No Council members have come forward at this time, we will send out a general call at a later time.*



- Arrangements need to be made for inspecting the track and carrying out necessary maintenance during the week of February 19<sup>th</sup> > **Rob to co-ordinate with school admin.**
- On the night of the Derby, we need teachers/staff to help with crowd control. Rob requested some help setting up the sound system / microphone.
- Comment: The gym speakers seem out of sync. At the Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> Movie Night, the front speakers were quiet while the back speakers were really loud.
  - The school never uses these speakers, not sure how they work. Craig Kasaval may be able to help us figure this out. **Movie Night committee to reach out to Craig before the April 13<sup>th</sup> event.**
- Is there a plan for displaying the trophies and winning cars after the event? The display cabinet previously available has been discarded. Perhaps in the Makers' Wall in the Library? In light of the current disarray in the Council storage room and since Rob can't easily get in the school to retrieve cars and certificates stored, he will take these home after the event for easy access.

#### **Fun Fair Committee – Angelina Diassiti (Notes from April Moon)**

- The date for Fun Fair is set on May 12<sup>th</sup> 2018
- Pizza Lunch is on May 11<sup>th</sup> – presents no conflict.
- The permits for Thursday and Friday nights have not come through yet, but are in the system and should come through soon.
- The Sat May 12<sup>th</sup> permit is not in yet but we should have priority over all other events, so we can advertise the date and start planning > **Allan to follow up on this.**
- April has communicated the date to the event leads and is starting to see where the needs are for this year.
- **Council members and all parents are invited to reach out to April if they can contribute time – there are tasks of all sizes and any help is greatly appreciated.**

## **5. New Business**

#### **Vote in New Member: Angelina Diassiti**

- Council members voted in Fernanda Domingues-Perdikaris as a Council member. Welcome Fernanda!



### **Movies At Lunch: Miriam Zemell-Bloom (Guest)**

#### Background:

- There has been a growing concern among some parents around movies being shown in the lunchroom during lunch.
- The concern is around the frequency with which movies are being shown as many parents try to limit screen time, and also the content being watched.
- On Jan 22 there was an indoor recess and Home Alone was shown. One parent spoke to a few Council members about being quite upset because he did not take his children to the Home Alone Movie Night at the school specifically because he didn't want them watching that movie and then it was shown for an hour during lunch.

#### Tonight's Discussion:

- Concerns around showing movies/shows in the primary lunchroom:
  - My husband and I consciously limit both screen time and the content of what my daughter watches.
  - We do not want to increase her screen time.
  - We do not want children to learn to eat in front of a screen. This is not a lesson that should be taught in school.
  - It is not appropriate for a school to use movies as a form of behaviour modification or as a substitute for adequate supervision. If there is a problem, let's work to find good, healthy solutions and not just throw movies at it.
  - The content of the movies being shown is not suitable for children, in our view.
  - When she is older, we would watch some of these movies with her and talk her through the rude behaviour, bad language, mean behaviour, violence, frightening and disturbing content.
  - Unsupervised viewing: these movies are not being shown as part of a media studies lesson, examining stereotypes, gratuitous violence, social themes, etc.
  - The students have no choice but to remain in that room to eat their lunch. They are a captive audience.
  - My daughter is coming home hungry, with most of her lunch uneaten and tells us that she can't concentrate on eating because there's a movie playing.
- Ideas for solutions:
  - Install sound absorbing materials in the lunchroom.
  - Have enough staff, including the presence of the Principal.



- What are the TDSB guidelines or rules for:
  - What kind of content is appropriate for different age groups to be watched unsupervised at school?
  - How much screen time is appropriate in light of increasing knowledge about the negative effects of screen time?
- The movies my 6-yr-old daughter has mentioned seeing in the lunchroom:
  - **Home Alone** - for older children at best, and contains rude talk and slapstick violence.
  - **Scooby Doo** - The website commonsensemedia.org describes Scooby Doo as "too scary for most kids" and is rated for ages 10 and up.
  - **Finding Nemo** – my daughter found it scary and disturbing
- Question: Can we use the technology that Parent Council has paid for to project better content in the lunchroom? (E.g. "How it's made" and other amusing yet instructional shows.)
  - There is no Smart TV in the lunchroom, but we can roll one of the two spare ones in.
- Movies are only shown during indoor recess [from noon to 12:30, not during the lunch portion (11:30 to noon)] to keep students occupied and a variety of card and board games are also available to them. Lunchtime supervisors are aware of this rule, but perhaps a supply / newer supervisor was in charge on the day discussed.
  - Comment: On Pizza lunch days when the majority of students eat in the gym (under parent volunteer supervision) the Pizza Lunch committee has noticed movies playing in the junior lunchroom (where only a small number of students remain).
  - There is no plan to stop showing movies during indoor recess. Parents who are uncomfortable with this practice can make alternate arrangements for their children during the lunch hour. If lunch rooms become overcrowded, the school will ask parents who are at home during the day to take their children home for lunch. Having two lunchrooms for our students is a rarity in the TDSB.
- ***Ben has offered to help screen the movies currently available in the lunchroom to sort through content that could be unsuitable.***



### **Lice Check Results: Angelina Diassiti (Notes sent in by Shanna Breslin)**

- On January 29 and 30 we ran Council-funded lice checks through Lice Squad. The Lice Squad staff were friendly, discreet and respectful – for example they took girls with head coverings to be checked in a private room with female teachers/adults present.
- In total 450 students were checked over the 1.5 day period (the rest of the students were absent) > got through as many classes as possible on Day 1, finished the remaining classes on Day 2 as well as any kids who were absent on Day 1.

When doing lice checks:

- 5-10 cases is average
- 10-20 cases is a lot
- 40-50 cases is HUGE and indicates a big infestation
- Cases are usually confined to two or three classrooms.
- Schools that do regular lice checks have fewer cases as they're found before they spread and parents get used to checking regularly at home as part of their routine.
- While these numbers seem low, we have to remember that lice spreads quickly and easily so two untreated cases in a classroom quickly multiply.
- The purpose of doing regular checks is to be proactive > we want to find as many cases as possible in the early stages so that they can all be treated at once, before they have a chance to spread.

We found 19 cases in total:

- 10 active cases > lice and/or eggs
- 9 presumed inactive cases > empty egg casings
- Empty egg casings are important as they indicate that the child had lice, it's possible that one or two viable eggs still remain in the hair, and most importantly, they attract lice.
- Cases of lice are not considered fully treated until everything has been removed from the hair.
- Individual letters explaining the findings and suggesting treatment options were sent home with all 19 students.
- In classrooms with live cases, letters were also sent home to the rest of the students in the room alerting them that lice was found and that children's heads should be checked carefully over the next few weeks so that any new cases can be found and treated before they spread.
- A success story: students who received letters on Day 1 were treated that night. Those



who came back to school the next day were re-checked by Lice Squad and nothing was found, indicating that parents are taking it seriously.

- The process relies on the classroom teachers to dispatch the letters. One of the rooms with active lice cases found on Tuesday did not get those letters until Friday. It would be best not to wait, as infestation can spread.
- Has the daycare been informed? They have their own checks and process in place.

#### Follow-Up:

- On Feb. 13 re-checks will be done on the 19 students (or as many as are at school that day) and are included in the cost:
  - Any students who do not get treated after the initial checks will be prompted again to take action.
  - It takes 7-10 days both for lice eggs to hatch and for babies to mature. If kids were treated after the first checks, anything that was accidentally missed during treatments will be easier to find when it moves on to the next life cycle stage.
  - By re-checking we're making sure that treatments were done and were effective.
- We are interested in moving forward with tri-annual checks. It is a considerable cost: to relieve the financial burden on Council, we would like to ask all parents to contribute \$5 per student towards it.
- Comment: we need to ensure the wording reflects that this is not mandatory – would not want to exclude students who aren't able to afford this. We will revisit this and vote on further plans at a later time.

#### Cost:

- As mentioned when this program was proposed, the cost of doing lice checks is \$2 + HST (\$2.26) per child. This check for 450 students totalled \$1017.
- We would like to bring checks in 3 times per year for a maximum estimated cost of \$3400 (if 500 students are checked all 3 times, which is unlikely).
- This is too much for Council to fund yearly, but if we asked families for contribution of \$5 per student per year, that would offset the cost significantly > 500 x \$5 (\$2500), leaving \$900 for Council.
- Many families feel that this is an important initiative and have said that they would be willing to contribute \$20-\$40 for their family per year in order to make the program possible > this would make a huge difference in supporting the program.



**Treasurer Update: Ben Elling**

- The financial reconciliation is complete for all transactions to date this school year.
- Each event lead received a report on the income generated by their fundraiser(s), but as expenses are not finalized, net income for each fundraiser can't yet be projected.

**6. Council meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.**

**The next meeting of the 2017-2018 Council will be held on  
Monday, April 9th, 2018 at 6:30pm in the Library.**