



2017-2018 Wilkinson School Community Council

April 9, 2018

Meeting Minutes - Approved

The 2017-2018 Chair, Angelina Diassiti called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

Agenda

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| 1. Approval of April Agenda | 5. Committee Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Greening & Grounds- Derby- Communications- Fun Fair | 7. Treasurer's Update |
| 2. Approval of February Minutes | | 8. Chair's Update |
| 3. Principal's Update | | 9. Adjournment of Council Meeting |
| 4. Campaign to Fix the Education Funding Formula | 6. New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">- School Lunch Program | |
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Attendance

Present:

Allan Kelly (Principal)
Jenny Georgiou (VP)
Angelina Diassiti (Chair)
Ben Elling (Treasurer)
Shanna Breslin (Secretary)
Rob Jefferson
Safran Lafeer
Stephanie Lamb
Lilian Ling
Michela Pasquali
Fernanda Perdikaris
Julia Warrender

Guests:

Miriam Zemell-Bloom
Susan Jim (Staff)

Regrets:

April Moon
Brenda Ohngemach
Jennifer Fenrich
Dan Dumitrescu (Vice Chair)

Absent:

Joel Krentz (Staff)
Anthea Moreau (Dandy Lion)
Kris Kearns
Neng Chu Wu
Chris Danells
Erin Vaillancourt
Raihana Ingar

1. Approval of April Agenda

- Steph and Julia approved.



2. Approval of February Minutes

- Julia and Fernanda approved.

3. Principal's Update: Allan Kelly

- Staffing: The process is almost complete.
 - We will be posting 2.5 positions for September.
 - We do have some staff leaving: one (possibly two staff) retiring, one leaving the school and one teacher going on sabbatical.
- Island School Trips: We have three trips going out in June > staff will send a video clip to parents to tell them what to expect.
 - It is a compulsory 2-night trip for Gr. 5/6 students which takes place every two years at the Island Natural Science School on Centre Island > spoken very highly of.
 - There is a lot of info on the [TDSB website](#) and we will *send a link in the newsletter*.
- Parking Lot: We have new parking signs for the parking lot to help with student safety!

4. Campaign To Fix Education Funding Formula: Susan Jim

- The Elementary Teachers of Toronto are spearheading a [campaign](#) leading up to the provincial elections and Collective Bargaining in 2019 demanding that the provincial government make education funding a priority by fixing the funding formula.
- The provincial government controls the finances of all school boards in Ontario and requires all boards to operate within the limits of a funding formula. The current funding formula was created 20 years ago and is in need of revision.
- Some of the [issues](#):
 - Per pupil funding does not meet expectations and Ontario spends \$612 less per elementary students than per secondary student.
 - Resources for special needs students are lacking
 - Class sizes in Kindergarten and Grades 4-8 are too big
 - Full day Kindergarten costs aren't covered
 - Health and safety and infrastructure needs aren't being met
 - ESL funding isn't guaranteed and program funding for vulnerable students has never been enough
 - Basic programs and services are treated like funding "frills"
 - There hasn't been a comprehensive funding formula review since 2002 and nothing came of that review.



- Read more about the funding formula and the issues in [this report](#) and about the ETFO's plan for improving elementary education in Ontario at this [website](#).
- Teachers are now getting parents involved in the campaign by first collecting signatures on a petition, and then taking the signatures (together) to MPPs and MPP candidates to get a commitment from each of them to fix the funding formula.
- Teachers will be outside before and after school to get petitions signed so they can be presented at Queen's Park.
- In preparation for this, the ETT Political Action Committee is holding a hands-on training session on Friday, April 20th from 8:45am to 3:00pm to teach people how to approach MPPs. More information can be found [here](#).
- The hope is that change will happen so our schools can get what they need.
- *We will communicate this in a newsletter.*

5. Committee Reports

Committee members provided an update of upcoming and ongoing initiatives.

Greening and Grounds: Michela Pasquali

- Learning Garden Cleanup: Saturday, April 28th.
- Mme. Barbier is organizing the Seedlings in the Classroom program but there is some question about where the funding has been coming from > school or Council.
- In the past both have paid for it.
- *We will have to check our records and confirm going forward* > we do have the money in the Greening Committee's budget so the Council could pay for this.
- This year the school has paid for Seedlings in the Classroom.

Derby: Rob Jefferson

- The Derby was a big success this year! Thank you to the volunteers, especially those on the Parent Council who were instrumental in making the event a success.
- We had t-shirts for the winners but were not able to give them out on the night of > *the school will hand those out. Rob to let them know where the shirts are.*
- Winning cars: They will be displayed at the school for a little while before being returned to their owners so everyone can see the amazing creations.
- A parent who works for the Globe and Mail is interested in renting the track for a fundraiser at the Globe over the summer. How do we feel about this?
- From the school's perspective, there are no issues, but what if they damage it? We would have to stipulate something in a contract about damage and replacement.
- It took a LOT of work to build that track (it was completely custom) and if anything were to happen, it would be extremely disappointing.



- Because the track is irreplaceable, we feel uncomfortable lending it out, but we could refer her to some Cub Scout troops who have tracks that are not custom and might be able to rent theirs.

Communications: Julia Warrender

- The Wilkinson School Community Council publishes a website, a weekly parent update, ad hoc emails as necessary, and maintains presences on Twitter and Facebook. As of late, there has been an increasing number of requests from parents and members of the community to include what may constitute advertisements to the community.
- The TDSB policy on advertising sent home with students is clear, but when it comes to messages sent directly to parents electronically, individual councils are left to develop their own policies (See p.21 in this document).

To ensure a consistent approach as we field inquiries moving forward, we propose the following:

- Newsletters & Website
 - For sponsorships (e.g., donated coffee for the Learning Garden clean-up) a thank-you to the sponsor with a hyperlink to the homepage of the donor's website.
 - A copy of these notices is generally also published to the council website.
 - No additional promotions, special offers, etc. will be promoted **by Council** on these channels.
- Facebook & Twitter
 - For donations (e.g., businesses sponsoring a station at Fun Fair or donating a prize to the silent auction), public thanks with tags to the donor's social media pages and/or website.
 - No additional promotions, special offers, etc. will be promoted **by Council** on these channels.
 - If a parent or member of the broader local community wishes to promote an event or offer that is relevant (e.g., 10% off for Wilkinson families, or seasonal camps for children), they are invited to post it to our FB page or @mention us on Twitter. The posting will be published (FB) or retweeted (Twitter) as long as it is in accordance with the TDSB sponsorship guidelines. See the link posted above.
- Question: would this policy apply to non-profits as well? Yes, the policy applies to all companies, but if we are directly involved in a fundraising campaign with a non-profit, we will continue to promote it as we have been.
- Comment: the TDSB vets companies that come in to provide programs and advertising companies that are not vetted could open liability issues.
- Motion to approve the policy. *All are agreed and the motion is carried.*



Fun Fair: Angelina Diassiti (Notes from April Moon)

- The date for Fun Fair is set on May 12th 2018.
- We are always looking for new items and experiences for the auction > can include things from your place of business or something new and unique.
- We will not be doing a separate auction for the staff this year.
- We are in need of help with the areas below. If you're interested, please let April know or [email the Council](#) address:
 - freeze some of the 200 freezies and deliver to FF on the day of the event > *Julia and Shanna can*
 - Manage the grocery list spreadsheet > does not involve shopping, is done from home and is finished by Thursday, May 10th.
 - 4 people to accept a grocery list and shop for items (money to be reimbursed)
 - Help managing the outdoor games > is Dan the lead for this?
 - 1 person to support Brenda with Volunteer management
 - 2 people to manage the gym games on the day of (Jenn will set up the night before but can not be there on the day of)
 - 1 or 2 people to sell Dream Basket tickets the day of. A team will collect, package and set up the Dream Baskets but will not be there the day of

6. New Business

Improvement of School Lunchroom Program: Miriam Zemell-Bloom

- I would like to discuss the quality of the lunch program and the supervision and gather information in order to formulate a plan for improvement.
- Noise level in the lunch room > can we address this with noise absorbing materials?
 - We asked the maintenance team about the sound absorbing panels and because the ceiling is very low and the rooms are so full, the materials would not make much difference. With our programs and scheduling, we are not able to accommodate staggered lunches.
 - Can we switch kids around to keep things quieter? Recently, we have been moving around certain groups of kids within the lunch room to see if this makes a difference.
 - We also try to accommodate by having kids eat near the office if they need extra time or a quiet place.



- How many students are in each room and what is the supervision ratio?
 - There is no set ratio but we have two supervisors per room and can get a list of the number of kids per room from the office. Keep in mind that this list fluctuates from day to day so it will serve as an estimate.
 - Some school boards don't even have lunch time supervisors.
 - We can't use volunteers because we need supervisors who are accountable and will show up each day and have found that this is not the case with volunteers.
- If there is parent interest, we might want to get a group together to create a petition and take this on. Where do we begin?
 - It would begin with the school Trustee > it has to go above the school level as it has already been brought forward many times at the school level (some school circumstances are truly dismal).
 - It's the Board that allocates our number of supervisors and makes the policies around the program and they do need to hear about our unhappiness.
 - The Ministry has not acknowledged the situation that working parents cannot take children home during the day so the lunch program has not been factored into the current funding formula (this relates to the funding formula discussed earlier).
- It would be interesting if we could get an MPP to visit a number of local schools to get a feel for what goes on.
- *We will circulate a note in the next Monday update to see if parents are interested in taking on this issue. Miriam will be the point of contact.*

7. Treasurer's Update: Ben Elling

- Question: Are we able to fund the sewing program that was discussed in January?
 - Unfortunately we can't afford to do it now, but are hoping to bring it in next year. The cost is around \$7,500.
 - We all love the idea but don't have enough money now to commit for next year.
 - We will revisit it after the FF numbers come in and figure out when we might be able to do it > doing it for only the older students is not a popular option.
- Profits from our events as calculated so far:
 - Derby: Raised \$4,334
 - Movie Nights: Raised \$865
 - Pizza Lunches: Raised \$6,000
 - Bake Sale: Raised \$1,375



8. Chair's Update: Angelina Diassiti

- Graduation Festivities: last year, and in many years past, a group of parents threw a party (separate from the school festivities). A parent has stepped forward to lead the committee > has the school heard of any other parents interested in taking the lead on this so we can get them in touch? No, we have not heard of anything.
 - These parties are not sanctioned by the school so permits cannot be booked by the school or Council because of liability.
- There are two staff retiring: We would like to do something meaningful for them and are looking for ideas: donations of books in someone's name, a painting or huge card signed by tons of people, a classroom plaque dedication or bench. We will try to coordinate with the admin.
- Safe Schools Meeting: We discussed cleanliness issues due to poor maintenance in the school. Since the meeting, things have improved, but if there are specific complaints, please write letters to Mr. Kelly.
- Council Storage Room and BBQ: Can Admin please come to check out the storage room with the FF team on Friday to do an inventory.
 - There is a BBQ in the storage room that we need to get rid of but it is too heavy for us > *send Admin an email to remind them to have it removed.*
 - Suggestion to look into renting FF BBQs from Stevenson's rental so we don't have to store anything. M&M's Meats will also come in and do everything but give a cut of what they make > the food is a huge draw for our Fun Fair, but it's good to know these things so we'll keep this in mind.
- DVD Player/ Extra Tables: does the school have extra folding tables? There are 4 or 5 in the teacher's closet.
- We need to make sure there is a DVD player with a remote that has numbers on it for Movie Night. We should have one in the school > *Admin to find it.*

9. Council meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

The next meeting of the 2017-2018 Council will be held on Monday, May 7th, 2018 at 6:30pm in the Library.