



2018-2019 Wilkinson School Community Council May 6, 2019

Meeting Minutes - Approved

The 2018-2019 Chair, Angelina Diassiti called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Agenda

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| 1. Approval of May Agenda | 4. Committee Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Lice- Fun Fair: Plastics | 5. New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Student Involvement in Budgeting- Funding Requests- Textile Waste Diversion |
| 2. Approval of April Minutes | | 6. Adjournment of Council Meeting |
| 3. Principal's Update | | |
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Attendance

Present:

Allan Kelly (Principal)
Angelina Diassiti (Chair)
Ben Elling (Treasurer)
Shanna Breslin (Secretary)
Anthea Moreau (Dandy Lion)
Batya Levy (Staff)
Lilian Ling

Elizabeth Manafò
April Moon
Fernanda Perdikaris
Jennifer Stiff
Dayna Tekatch
Julia Warrender
Lisa Zivontsis

Regrets:

Jenny Georgiou (VP)
Stephanie Lamb (Vice Chair)
Elizabeth Dhuey
Rob Jefferson
Brenda Ohngemach
Michela Pasquali

Absent:

Safran Lafeer

1. Approval of May Agenda

- Dayna and Julia approved.

2. Approval of April Minutes

- Angelina and Dayna approved.



3. Principal's Update: Allan Kelly

- This will likely be Allan's last Council meeting. > *Thank you for your support over the years, Allan!*
- Staffing: There was a second rollout of staffing allocations last week > involved guidance, learning opportunities and ESL staff.
 - Our model has not changed > we did not get any additional staff.
 - We are still down 1.5 as compared with this year.
- New Principal: The process to find a replacement is underway.
 - Two members of the Council Executive spoke with the Superintendent > went through the School Statement of Needs (SSON) in great detail.
 - She really liked our document and agreed on all major points. She is trying her best to get us the best fit for next year.
 - Around June 6 she will reach out to us to let us know about the person she has put forward > we will not be given a name, just qualities.
 - Her suggestion then goes to the Board of Trustees for approval.
 - We should get a chance to meet the new person before the end of the year.
 - Allan will work to transition the new Principal during the last week of school.
- This is a busy time of year and we are currently focussing on math initiatives.
- The new soccer nets are going to be installed > since they have to be secured, the City has been in to check for gas lines and underground wires etc.
- Schoolyard Revitalization: A project is underway in partnership with the TDSB to revamp our yard.
 - They are aiming to get it done by the end of 2020.
 - Three Council members are representing the parent community, and between them, they have children in the lower, middle and upper grades. Teachers and school administrators are also on the committee.
 - We had a first brainstorming meeting with a planner/architect to go through our wish list (if money were not an option).
 - The planner will come back with a plan at the second meeting, which is May 9.
 - We have a lot of potential because of the large size of our yard.
 - Repaving was high on the list, as was removing some of the existing asphalt and one of the baseball diamonds. Some other wish list items include outdoor classrooms and learning areas, expanding the Kindergarten playground area, revamping the Learning Garden, and adding yard games (like basketball).



- Once we see a plan, we'll then find out how much money we'll be given. Usually it is not all covered by the TDSB budget, and Parent Councils contribute for smaller add-on items after the main work is done (i.e. games as opposed to repaving). We hope to have an update for the June meeting.
- It is unclear if the plan will be presented to the general community for input.
- This week is Education Week and we also have our Open House. Next week is Welcome to Kindergarten Night.
- Allan will be away from May 13 to June 20th.
- Can we put a read-only link to the morning announcements on our website and in our emails? *Allan will get back to us on this.*
- School Improvement Plan Update: We last discussed this at the November meeting.
 - This year the school had three areas of focus:
 - Student Achievement: The main goal is to raise math confidence and scores by focussing on math fundamentals.
 - Well Being: The main goal is to build staff and student awareness around self regulation and mental health.
 - Equity: The main goal is to provide greater opportunities to students who are learning differently.
 - The school staff worked on incorporating lived experiences into the math program and the programming in general in order to help students make sense of the curriculum by creating references and real-world examples that could be understood by all students. For example, instead of solving math problems about two trains travelling at high speeds, we are working to revolve math problems and concepts around experiences our students can understand, knowing that our students come from diverse backgrounds.
 - Teachers were asked to look at programs and practices in their classrooms and to disrupt them. If something isn't yielding results, how can it be shaken up? How can it be more beneficial for kids? We often teach in a way that's best for us, but how can we adjust it to reach every child in the class, from all backgrounds?
 - Are our students reflected in the work we're doing? Our teachers participated in a number of education programs around this and it involved reaching out to learn about various communities and cultures.
 - How can we include the student lived experiences in the classrooms to make sure that the content speaks to each student? Are more parents more involved when this framework is included in the school?



- We are working to remove barriers and serve the needs of underserved students, make students feel more comfortable in the classroom, and make teachers more comfortable in teaching students from differing cultures and backgrounds.
- It has been challenging and is a work in progress, but seems to be going well.
- We are now working on figuring out how to monitor the impact of the changes that have been made > the staff have been sharing best practices.
- Have parents been involved in giving feedback? Not formally, but an example of something with a positive impact is that one staff member put a welcome sign in Gujarati on the classroom door. The one student in the class who speaks Gujarati saw the sign and got very excited/felt very included.

4. Committee Reports

Committee members provided an update of upcoming and ongoing initiatives.

Lice Checks: Shanna Breslin

- We had our third and final lice check of this school year on April 16th and 17th. In total 475 students were present to be checked.
- Schools that do regular checks eventually see fewer cases of lice because they stay on top of it. The majority of the cases are found at the same time and then treated at once before they can spread. Once families are notified, they continue checking at home to find any new cases. Families also become educated around what to look for and how to treat it.
- We expected that it would take a few years before we really saw a reduction in the number of lice cases, but we actually saw a pretty clear pattern in this one school year.
- Our October check had 16 cases, our January check had 10 and our April check had 4.
- 3 of those 4 cases were repeat customers from January and/or October. This means that most families were not only treating it but treating it completely when they were notified. Great news!
- After the April checks, those three families were contacted by the school in order to offer them support and education in dealing with lice. The Parent Council also purchased a good quality lice comb to be kept at the school and loaned out to families who need it in case that's a barrier in proper treatment (it will of course be sterilized in between uses). And Lice Squad has offered a treatment discount to the families that had recurring cases.
- In terms of funding, we raised enough through our Lice Check Fund to pay for our most expensive lice check and the lice comb.



- The other two checks and our photocopying expenses will be paid for using the Council budget.
- The program was a big success this year and we're hopeful that we'll raise more money through the lice fund next year to keep three checks going per year.
- Did many students opt out of the checks? None.
- **Update:** Overall, about 227 students from 184 families contributed to our Lice Check Fund (some donations were anonymous so this is not an exact count). At a suggested donation of \$5 per child, the contributions covered 288 students or about 58% of our student population (meaning, many families donated more than asked).
- Reminder that our lice check results can be found at <http://wilkinsonps.org/lice-fund/>.

Fun Fair - Single-Use Plastic Alternatives: All

- April has looked into buying bulk reusable containers which we could sell at events.
- She is collecting samples and hopes to bring them to the June meeting.
- We would need to order in bulk at quantities of about 500 units.
- In the past there have been challenges with holding inventory > it sometimes gets damaged or lost when held for periods of time. It may need to be stored somewhere safer than the Council storage room.
- Maybe we could do a pre-order system with payments online. We could sell leftovers at Fall Fest etc.
- What are we doing to keep in line with the school's new single-use plastics policy?
- We currently have stock of things like water and plastic cutlery so we will use up our supplies this year and are looking into new containers etc going forward.
- We will give the water bottles to volunteers (who need water during the day), but will not be selling any. Instead, we'll sell boxed water which can be recycled (more expensive and will not be marked up to make much profit).
- There is no outdoor tap that is workable but there are water stations within the school so we can encourage people to bring their own reusable bottles.
- There are two outdoor taps an Dandyion which we can use.
- Can we get garbage and recycling bins instead of just garbage? We may be able to roll out the recycling bins from the basement > **April and Ms. Levy to look into this.**
- **Ms. Levy will ask the EcoTeam to make signs for the bins, including what goes where.**
- We need many volunteers at this year's Fun Fair and are desperately in need of a few area leads and in need of people to help clean up at the end.



- We also need someone to help supervise the outdoor activities and keep the big things safe (bouncy castles). The castles come with 1 staff member, but we need someone to supervise as well. We also need a supervisor for the Friday night gym set up, clean up, and the gym games (make sure all is safe). An email will be going out shortly.
- *April will provide Ms. Levy with some info to circulate to staff.*

5. New Business

Student Involvement in Budgeting : Julia Warrender

- Dundas PS went to the students with an exercise in participatory budgeting.
- The students were given an amount of money and had to plan (as a group) how to spend it.
- This involves budgeting, the democratic process, decision making, working as a group, planning, etc.
- We make all the decisions for our students, it would be interesting and beneficial to hear their ideas.
- Students would take a poll to find the most popular ideas and come up with a plan to implement them.
- We could start them with a budget of \$1000.
- Perhaps we could let the kids choose Council-funded additions to the School Revitalization Plan.
- *Julia will investigate the process further.*

Funding Request - Stock Tanks and Soil : Sophie Barbier

- Request for the Parent Council to fund the cost of two 2'x2'x6' stock tanks and soil (and some gravel) to go in them.
- These would be used in the gardening program led by Elin Marley (Seedling Stories).
- She will be with us 4 more times before the end of the year (and hopefully next year).
- They will be in addition to the two vegetable beds we currently have.
- It is a one-time cost and Council would fund the entire amount:
 - \$576.30 for both tanks (\$255 each + HST)
 - \$192.10 for soil and gravel delivery
 - \$768.40 total
- The stock tanks would be placed somewhere for this growing season, as well as next year and the fall 2020 > They would likely need to be moved during or after the school yard revitalization which is scheduled to start in fall 2020.



- There is concern that we may be spending the money but they may not fit into the yard revitalization plan.
- A benefit is that we can plant in them now and then move them eventually.
- **Update from Mme. Barbier:** *At the first revitalization meeting, it was recommended that we purchase these stock tanks for growing vegetables while we await the revitalization. These tanks can be relocated after the revitalization. Elin Marley will use the additional garden space in her program now. The tanks would be used to teach gardening, growing food, preparing food we grow, and support healthy eating habits in children.*
 - *This initiative supports our EcoSchools program and our Healthy Eating program with our students.*
 - *It is hoped that the Parent Council will fund Elin's program again next year.*
- We have \$250 towards greening on our budget which we have not used for a number of years. That can go towards it.
- Motion to approve purchasing the stock tanks and soil > but we will wait to hear the yard plan on Thursday before purchasing them. **Motion carried.**

Funding Request - Hooktheory : Batya Levy

- Hooktheory is a web-based app for compositions.
- The Gr. 5 and 6 students are doing a unit on harmony which began with the Orff instruments. We've also been using the Hooktheory website to combine using chords and melody to create composition.
- The website took the whole curriculum concept and expanded on it greatly.
- Each student got their own free account to use. The free version does not allow students to save their work.
- The kids were writing amazing pieces which also played with form, timbre, and different instruments.
- The paid version allows students to save work (to different formats, including tabular), and it gives access to all instruments, new features, multiple voices, and allows for layered compositions.
- The cost to buy a subscription is \$350 US per year. ~ \$500 CAD. Students can possibly pay \$5 to recoup some of the cost. The subscription covers 300 students.
- Each student gets their own account to use for 365 days, as well as lessons in music theory (Hooktheory).
- They can use it from home because it's web-based. At school, an entire class uses it at the same time using the Chromebooks in the Library.



- The Grade 5 and 6 students are using it now but Ms. Levy would like to maximize the 300 student subscription and begin using it for younger grades.
- Student ID's: How can we make sure that the Gr. 6 students don't stay in the system (and count towards our 300) after they graduate if we continue on with the subscription from year to year? We need to make sure that we can delete them and add new students. Is there a way for younger students to retain their login (and projects) from year to year? *Ms. Levy needs to look into this.*
- The app does not replace any part of the curriculum, but instead takes what is learned in class and expands on it.
- We have a focus on inquiry across all subject areas so this fits into that part of the curriculum.
- Can we put this on the school credit card instead of getting bank drafts? Yes. The Council will pay the school as part of the Year-End Transfer.
- *Note: Add this to next year's April agenda so we can renew it before it expires and decide if it will become a yearly funding item.*
- Motion to cover the entire cost. *Motion carried.*
- *Ms. Levy will show us examples of some student work to date in June.*

Textile Waste Diversion: Lilian Ling

- We were looking into a textile recycling fundraiser but many companies that recycle textiles ship much of it overseas.
- TWD is local and keeps 95% of donations within the local economy. Only about 5% gets shipped > mostly shoes which get recycled in Nigeria
- Textiles are reused if they can be (resold). Anything that can't be reused, gets sanitized and used for things like stuffing dog beds, mushroom farms, cat toys etc.
- This is a good fit for our EcoSchools status and is a fundraiser.
- We collect for a month and they pick up, weigh our items, and pay us \$.10 per pound. On average, schools collect about 1600 pounds.
- We can start May 17 and go to June 17. That way, any lost and found that isn't collected at Fun Fair can be donated as well.
- They give us a certificate to show how much carbon we offset by not sending items to landfills.
- Where would we put things? The basement will be used for FF so if we do it there, it will be in the way of the flow. The school will figure this part out.
- Sophie and the EcoTeam will administrate on behalf of the school.



Other

- Can we do a potluck at the June meeting?
- Most people feel that it was too difficult to eat while talking last year. If someone is interested, we can perhaps bring one dessert.

6. Council meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

**The next meeting of the 2018-2019 Council will be held on
Monday, June 3, 2019 at 6:30pm in the Library.**