



## 2019-2020 Wilkinson School Community Council September 9, 2019

### Meeting Minutes - Approved

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

### Agenda

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| <b>1.</b> Approval of September Agenda | <b>4.</b> Committee Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Finance</li><li>- Fall Fest</li><li>- Arts</li><li>- Pizza Lunch</li></ul> | <b>5.</b> New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- SSON &amp; AGM</li><li>- Funding Requests</li><li>- Meeting Dates</li><li>- Political Involvement</li></ul> |
| <b>2.</b> Approval of June Minutes     |  | <b>6.</b> Adjournment of Council Meeting   |
| <b>3.</b> Principal's Update           |  |  |
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### Attendance

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#### Present:

Kim Jensen (Principal)  
Jenny Georgiou (VP)  
Angelina Diassiti (Chair)  
Stephanie Lamb (Vice Chair)  
--- (Treasurer)  
Shanna Breslin (Secretary)  
Batya Levy (Staff)  
Sophie Barbier (Staff)  
Rob Jefferson  
Safran Lafeer  
Elizabeth Manafò  
Brenda Ohngemach  
Michela Pasquali  
Fernanda Perdikaris  
Jennifer Stiff

Dayna Tekatch  
Julia Warrender  
Lisa Zivontsis

#### Guests:

Jordan Kanner  
Farah Ganpaul  
Emmeline Hobbs  
Tom Frimis  
Jill Davidson  
Champi Serathiar  
Sarah Chin  
Shirin Shahrokni  
David Alexander  
Janet Kuyrenhoven  
Jennifer Paterson  
Norah Shaughnessy  
Lindsay Reimers

#### Regrets:

April Moon  
Lilian Ling

#### Absent:

Elizabeth Dhuey  
Anthea Moreau (Dandy Lion)

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## 1. Approval of September Agenda

- Dayna and Steph approved.

## 2. Approval of June Minutes

- Dayna and Steph approved.

## 3. Principal's Update: Kim Jensen

- I am so excited to be part of the Wilkinson community!
- I have been an educator for 27 years and have been Administration for 18.
- I've spent most of my time in middle school, and my strengths are science, math, and special education.
- I believe strongly in collaboration and am passionate about the whole school community working together as partners.
- I reviewed the School Statement of Needs and will be addressing the points listed. I would also like to ensure parent and student representation around the School Improvement Plan, starting with a student assembly this week.
- We will be sending a letter out soon to parents regarding class size, which is always an issue.
  - We are over the cap in JK/SK by two or three students per class (cap is 26 student average, hard cap of 29).
  - Classes will likely be reorganized in the coming weeks in order to create an additional class of 15 with no ECE.
  - We are also well below the caps in the Grade 3/4 split (13 students) and in the Grade 4 class (14 students). As of now, we are not reorganizing those rooms, but will communicate information as it becomes available.
  - Our next student count is on Sept 13th and reorganization will commence after the 16h.
  - Class size is driven by registration and projected numbers in the spring and is mandated by the Board. We had an additional 5 or 6 students register in August.
  - The large French classes will likely not be changed.
- Curriculum Night is on Sept. 19th.
- Track and Field is scheduled for Sept 27th this year in the hopes of better weather.



- Mr. Krentz left Wilkinson for a VP position > he left a vacancy in the library and a half gym position.
  - Currently, the half gym position is being filled by temporary staff. The library position is being filled by Ms. Zafred in the mornings and a temporary staff member in the afternoons. We are searching for 2 full time staff.

#### 4. Committee Reports

Committee members provided an update of upcoming and ongoing initiatives.

##### Finance: Angelina Diassitti

- Presented a draft of our budget for this year.
- We have some annual expenses that are funded each year and some new programs that we fund for usually one year at a time based on funding requests that are submitted.
- Annual Expenses:
  - Scientists in the School, Visiting Authors, Silver Birch, Performing Arts, Field Trip Subsidies, Yearbook, Graduation, Emergency Fund, and Greening Initiatives > have been recurring for a good ten years.
  - Scientists in the School > run by the TDSB. Booked by teachers and funded by Council. Often the school pays up front and we pledge a budgeted amount for programs like this.
- New Funding:
  - Technology stays on our budget even though we don't have annual expenses in this category. In the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years we spent \$37K upgrading the school's technology based on recommendations made by the school > there have been no tech expenses since but we know there will be upgrades in the future.
  - Last year we funded 2 weeks of [JungleSport](#), which was our largest expense last year. It was a treetop trekking/ropes course apparatus that was set up in the gym for all grades.
  - We brought in a local [garden educator](#) in the Fall and Spring.
  - We funded a subscription to the Hooktheory app as part of the music curriculum > renewal will be discussed in April.
  - [Moving EDGEducation](#) has been in the last two years. An instructor leads a creative movement class which incorporates curriculum (last year was numeracy).
- The last two sections show the amount we spent on running Council events and the gross income from those events (subtract the expenses to find the profit).



- If everything stays the same this year, we will spend about \$5000 more than we raise. However, we are starting out with \$24K in the bank from last year so there should be room for new programs.
- What is Wilkitchen? It's a community baking night that's meant to be a community building event as opposed to a fundraiser. We always have one right before Fun Fair where some of the food sold at the event is made. Often we also have one in the winter > last year it was before the Sweetheart Bake Sale in February.
- What is the [Car Derby](#)? An exciting fundraiser during which kids design and build wooden cars which are raced along a huge custom track.

#### **Fall Fest: Brenda Ohngemach**

- Fall Fest this year is planned for Saturday, Oct. 26 from 1 to 3pm > permit pending.
- Community building event> free costume swap, buy pumpkins, apple cider, bake sale, local vendor tables. Meet other families in the Wilkinson community.
- The budget for this event will need to be increased.
- Comment from Admin: We have a volunteer list in our school database which is outdated. In order to volunteer in the school, parents will need to get police background checks and be added to the list. This applies to all events that happen during school hours and involve direct contact with students, including Bake Sale, Pizza Lunch, and lice checks. We can also partner parents with teachers looking for help in classrooms.
- *Please email [Vice Principal Georgiou](#) to add yourself to the list.*
- You'll then get a form from the school's office and submit it back to the office with \$20 (certified cheque or money order).
- Comment for New People: what we really need the most is volunteers for our events during the year. Whatever time people can give for anything is a great help. Last year we really felt the pressure of not having enough adult volunteers to help at events > your time is incredibly valuable to us.

#### **Arts: Stephanie Lamb**

- We have an annual budget amount of \$4000 for performing arts.
- We bring performers into the school so the kids can enjoy a relaxed performance in their own environment.
- We aim for one performance for JK/SK, two for Grades 1-3, two for Grades 4-6, and one that is bilingual. Every other year we program visual arts (it is a huge cost). This



program is for students in Grades 4 and 5 to ensure that every student in the school benefits once during their time at Wilkinson.

- The visual arts program is through inner city angels > mapping my carbon footprint. It involves science and eco-justice. Two artists will be in for three full days. Each student will take home an item and a big display piece will be created for the school.
- There is a 3/4 split and a 5/6 > how can we engage the 3's and 6's while the others are in the program. *Arts team to speak with the Admin.*
- Last year we also approved a presentation by D.O Gibson > HOLLA (anti-bullying performance, using rap and video > 1 hour).
- This program is separate from the arts budget and will cost \$600 + HST. It is a single performance for Grades 1-6.
- Comment: This was in my child's school last year and was a huge success. Will it be okay for the whole age range? He does a good job of tailoring it.
- We also approved his Canadian Black History performance > it was not listed on his website but *the Arts Committee will look into it.*

### **Pizza Lunch: Michela Pasquali**

- The program is for Grades 1-6 and involves ten pizza lunches.
- it takes place in the lunch rooms > 2 sessions, one for younger and one for older kids.
- We use Papa John's pizza and Terra Cotta cookies. Kids are asked to bring in reusable water bottles > the students voted to get rid of juice boxes because of the waste.
- We have about 10-12 volunteers coming out each month and the kids really look forward to it.
- This will be Michela's last year but the committee is set to take over next year!
- We do not do JK/SK as they eat in their classrooms and the logistics are beyond our capacity.
- Last year we started doing online registration (along with in-person), which was very popular. This year will be online only.
- Curious about the choice to use Papa: Pizza Pizza got complaints from kids (lots wasted). The location became difficult to deal with (they don't make much money from the program and so do not provide great service). They raised their prices. We decided to try Papa John's > they provide great service, the kids seem to like it more, it's more cost-effective.
- Specifically, there are some past issues with the corporation: We need a Halal supplier



and there are not many companies to choose from. The former head of the US organization is no longer with the company. We are working with a local franchise owner who has been incredible in terms of service.

- Do they have a point system? We're using Pizza Pizza still for movie night for that reason. *Michela will look into this and get back to Brenda.*
- Question about online registration: It's a diverse community and some people may not have access to a credit card. Our online registration is done via e-transfer. Last year families could print their own forms and submit cash > last year about 2/3 signed up online. *We will look into the process.* Note: The school is moving toward online payment and forms as well.

## 5. New Business

### School Statement of Needs Approval: All

- This document is filled out by the Council each year and it outlines what we want in an administrator should the school need a new Vice Principal or Principal.
- It was updated extensively last year during the search for Principal Jensen and was circulated to Council members ahead of the meeting.
- Motion to approve the document. *Motion carried.*

### AGM Report Approval: All

- Our Annual General Meeting is held in June every year. It involves a report which outlines our activities over the year.
- The report is available on the [Council page of our website](#) and was circulated to Council members before this meeting.
- Motion to approve the document. *Motion carried.*
- How do people join the Council? A nomination form is distributed each September. It includes information about the Council and what's expected of members. Interested parents and guardians fill out and submit the form. We are allowed a membership equal to 5% of our student population (25 people this year). If we get more forms than we have spots, we need to have an election at Curriculum Night. Otherwise, all are members. If there are spots available, parents can join at any time during the year by expressing interest at a Council meeting.



### **Funding Request: Junglesport**

- [JungleSport](#) is a ropes course/treetop trekking apparatus that is set up in the gym and used by all grades. The kids all wear safety gear > very safe program.
- It was very well received by students and staff.
- We did 9 days last year but could go to 5 days this year.
- Last year we had 2 full HPE teachers who could run the program all day. This year we have 1.5 teachers available. JungleSport also provides staff but we may not have the staff internally to run the program.
- Is this something we'd rather do every other year because of the cost? What if we get a tech proposal in January?
- *The Admin will check in with Mr. Kasaval on this and we will revisit in October.*

### **Funding Request: Garden Educator**

- Last year we funded Elin Marley of Seedling Stories to come in for garden education.
- She is a local educator who visited a few times in the fall and a number of times in the spring > each class got two visits.
- We would like to bring her back this year for 16 visits (an increase over last year). The cost is \$4240, and per day she sees 4 classes.
- The kids planted seeds last year and we would like to have her in to continue and harvest with the kids > Council purchased planting tanks that she filled.
- Not all activities are in the garden > e.g. design a seed packet.
- Her lessons involve all grades. Curriculum links: life cycles, language and writing, biodiversity and the food system, mapping, math, planning, where does food come from, plant parts.
- This year we would start earlier (last year was October) in the hopes of getting more time outside with more possibilities for planting and harvesting lessons. The aim is to give each class a chance to do that > sometimes scheduling and weather make this a challenge. Teachers have input about which lessons they would like to do as well.
- Now that she has been here for a year, she has an idea of what grows and has started planting > the program will only get stronger as time goes on.
- Teachers sign-up for their spots and are encouraged to max out their opportunities.
- Sophie has only heard positive feedback from last year's program.



- Last year we spent less than budgeted because she came in fewer times as a result of us booking late.
- We would like more visits in the spring so perhaps booking more visits overall doesn't really add more to the program > if we start earlier this year, we should have good outdoor weather to accommodate the extra visits. We are now also an OPAL school which will get our teachers more involved in this type of programming.
- Motion to approve 16 days: *Motion carried.*
- How do funding requests work? In order for Council to approve funds, interested parties are asked to submit the funding request form [available on our website](#).
  - We try to circulate it ahead of the meeting with the agenda.
  - At meetings we discuss and ask questions. If we have enough info, we vote on the spot. If there are unresolved questions, we table it for the next month.
  - Programs need to be with a TDSB approved vendor, have curriculum connections, and be safe for students.
- When we host an event after school hours, we need to rent the space in the school and pay for this via a permit.
  - It is a long and tedious process so anything that we can do to get our dates in at once and to Jennifer helps this process.
  - We have difficulty on Fridays as another group rents the school. We get priority, but Friday night permits should go in as early as possible to make this easier.
  - We pay less when we buy in bulk (group permits together).
  - This year there is no longer Priority School status so our permits may be more expensive. *Jennifer to investigate.*
  - Derby date is the Friday of Family Day (Feb 21). We can't apply until the new insurance comes in November.

### **Meeting Dates Approval: All**

- The proposed dates are:
  - October 7
  - November 4
  - January 13
  - February 3 (snow date March 2)
  - April 6
  - May 4
  - June 1





- Typically we don't meet in December because the requirement is minimum five meetings per year. December and March are such busy months that the meetings are never well-attended so we usually avoid these months.
- Motion to approve the meeting dates. *Motion carried.*

#### **Eco Products: All**

- The EcoTeam ran a contest last year to design a logo about single-use plastics.
- We are researching product options and have come up with reusable silicone pouches (snack bags).
- It will not be a money-maker. It would cost roughly \$3000 up front for 500 bags. We would sell 2 bags for \$12 or \$15. It is quite pricey.
- The proposal is in the works.
- The EcoTeam will manage the sales etc.
- We would like to send out a survey to see if there is interest before committing?

#### **Textile Recycling Fundraiser**

- The [textile recycling program](#) sent in our certificate: we collected 1,750 pounds of textiles and resulted in a reduction of carbon dioxide equal to 7,159 pounds. We also raised \$175.
- We collected textiles and Textile Waste Diversion collected them and paid us based on weight. They resell what they can and reuse everything else for things like pet beds.
- The plan is to do it again in the spring

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

**The first meeting of the new 2019-2020 Council will be held on  
Monday, October 7th, 2019 at 6:30pm in the Library.**