



2019-2020 Wilkinson School Community Council November 4, 2019

Meeting Minutes - Approved

The 2019-2020 Chair, Angelina Diassiti, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Agenda

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|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| 1. Approval of November Agenda | 4. Committee Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Executive Committee- Lice Checks- Communications- Fall Fest | 5. New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Action Committee Newsletter- Eco-Pouch Sales- Funding Request |
| 2. Approval of October Minutes | | 6. Adjournment of Council Meeting |
| 3. Principal's Update | | |
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Attendance

Present:

Kim Jensen (Principal)
Jenny Georgiou (VP)
Angelina Diassiti (Chair)
Angeli Mehta (Vice Chair)
Sarah Chin (Treasurer)
Shanna Breslin (Secretary)
Batya Levy (Staff)
Sophie Barbier (Staff)
Anthea Moreau (Dandylion)
David Alexander
Amy Cole
Corey Fruitman
Stephanie Lamb

Lilian Ling
Michela Pasquali
Fernanda Perdikaris
April Moon
Brenda Ohngemach
Lindsay Reimers
Shirin Shahrokni
Jennifer Stiff
Dayna Tekatch
Julia Warrender
Lisa Zivontsis

Guests:

Deborah Shub

Regrets:

Elizabeth Manafò
Emmeline Hobbs
Rob Jefferson

Absent:

Jordan Kanner
Michael Ross
Champi Sevathiar



1. Approval of November Agenda

- Julia and Stephanie approved.

2. Approval of October Minutes

- Fernanda and Stephanie approved.

3. Principal's Update: Kim Jensen

- Progress reports go home next Tuesday with teacher interviews at the end of the week.
- We encourage you to really read the first side of the progress report. The Learning Skills and Work Habits section is the foundation of learning > the skills are very important.
- We appreciated everyone coming out to enjoy the Halloween parade.
- On Oct 15 we had a PA day and the staff participated in compliance training (with the rest of the board). Training topics included things such as procedures for handling anaphylaxis, duty to report abuse, etc.
- We also discussed our School Improvement Plan.
 - The three main goals for all Ontario schools are achievement, equity, and well being. The staff work on the ways in which we can deepen our ability to support students in these three areas.
 - Is there anything specific to share around the SIP? Can Council somehow support any initiatives? Math continues to be a focus, especially for primaries (math language). The Kindies are starting off in the zones of regulation area. The juniors are working on a safety campaign - how to enter and exit the building, create a nice consistent traffic flow, help the kids to help each other and themselves by taking responsibility for their own person.
 - The teaching for all areas is done in little chunks and the staff meet monthly to work on this.
- Island School Trip: Grades 5 and 6 (the trip takes place every two years).
 - The information packages went home > Students are encouraged to attend.
 - Students attend for 2.5 days each (overnight) - Nov 25-27 and Nov 27-29 > students have been split into two groups and organized based on the number of beds.
 - Dates are chosen by the Island School.



- We were not able to give more notice about the trip because there were several background issues to finalize. For example, we were told that we would be paired with another school but our numbers were too high > we had to see which school would be going when. we also had to figure out what work action might mean for the trip. It took time to get the package together once the dates were finalized.
- There will be an info session on Thursday, Nov 7 for parents and students to learn about the trip.
- Note that the price has gone up from two years ago to \$150 > includes transportation, meals, accommodations, ferry tickets, etc. There used to be a set price for all students. Now there is a sliding scale of fees based on a school learning index.
- We missed the opportunity to send details of the information session out via email and it is now very short notice. The admin will send out a note to make sure parents see this as they may miss it on the forms.
- There was an incident at the last pizza lunch. Has it been discussed at a Council meeting before? No. The schoolyard was cleared in what many students described as a sort of lockdown > there has been a lot of talk among the students, but no communication from the school to the parents. What happened and how was student comfort addressed.
 - Details cannot be shared as it might indicate a specific child. The students were moved from outside to inside during lunch. The Principal went into classrooms to calm kids and a speech was made in the gym about changing the plan for the day.
 - Some kids were seen crying. It would have been nice for a communication to have gone home telling parents that there was an incident and everything was okay.
 - We understand the concern but could not communicate without pointing out a specific child. Staff were put in motion quickly to calm kids and ensure they were safe. Because it was pizza lunch, there were extra kids there at lunch which may have made things seem more chaotic.
- Can we add a link to the morning announcements to our website? Yes. *Update: It is up on our [Links and Resources page](#).*
 - If you are running an event or activity and would like to include a reminder in the announcements, please send it to the council email (council@wilkinsonps.org).



4. Committee Reports

Committee members provided an update of upcoming and ongoing initiatives.

Executive Committee: Angelina Diassiti

- We have two new members of the Executive Committee:
- Vice Chair: Angeli Mehta
- Treasurer: Sarah Chin
- Motion to formally vote in this year's four Executive members. *Motion carried.*

Lice Checks: Shanna Breslin

- We had our first set of lice checks in October and had really good results.
- We were able to check 480 out of 503 students.
- We had four cases, which is in line with where we finished off last year.
- We did three checks last year and found fewer cases with each check > Reminder: The results of all of our checks are available on the [Lice Check Fund page](#) of our website, as is information about lice, treatments, and doing checks at home.
- All four cases were junior students > many people think that it's mostly Kindergarten students who get lice, but it is often in the upper grades and happens in all age groups.
- About 10 days after the checks, Lice Squad comes back to re-check the students who had cases during the checks. They will also check any kids who discovered cases after the checks.
- Recheck results: 3 of the 4 students were present and checked. Two of the students had been treated and one case had progressed. That family was called by the school for support and education. We are really trying to stay on top of cases to prevent them from spreading.
- Our lice fund raised \$1365 this year, which is \$75 less than last year > 196 students donated, which is about 30 fewer students than last year.
- Because some families gave more than the suggested amount, the donations will cover 273 students.
- This year's lice fund will cover the first check and half of the second check. We will be doing a third check this year > the next two are in Feb and May.
- We are looking for new members on the lice check committee. Daytime availability is necessary for 2.5 hour shifts during checks. We do not check heads, but make sure that classes arrive and get checked, tally the number of students checked, and fill out and distribute lice letters. Please email the Council if interested (council@wilkinsonps.org).



Communications: Shanna Breslin

- We have updated the Parent Handbook that we revised a few years ago.
 - It will be put on our website soon on the [Forms and Letters page](#) (the old version is there now) > an email will go out announcing this.
 - For parents who have not subscribed to our mailing list, how do they find it? It is on our website along with all of our information and events. How many parents are signed up for our distribution list? Over 700 > most families at the school.
 - Recently Principal Jensen pointed to our distribution list in one of her direct emails and a few new people signed up > *please point people to our website so they can use the sign-up form and find other information at the same time.*
- Welcome to our new committee member, Amy! Amy's responsibilities will include email and social media communications for Fun Fair.
- We've been using an app called Hootsuite to manage the large number of Fun Fair Facebook and Twitter sponsorship thank yous and it's felt that the job cannot be done without the app.
- Previously we had access to the app through Julia's work, but she paid for it out of pocket last year. Going forward, we'll need to purchase the app if we want to continue thanking people on social media.
- The cost is about \$50 US per year.
- It is only used for Fun Fair > *it will be built into the Fun Fair budget.*

Fall Fest: Brenda Ohngemach

- It was a really nice event!
- We sold all but 4 pumpkins (they were then used in classrooms).
- The kids really enjoyed playing in the pumpkin boxes. They were given to the Outdoor Education program.
- The event grossed \$1300, net was \$600 > it is primarily a community building event, not a fundraiser.
- If you have suggestions for how to improve the event, please email the Council (council@wilkinsonps.org).



5. New Business

Action Committee Newsletter: Shirin Shahrokni

- We have set up an external newsletter which has been advertised in the Monday Update emails over the last few weeks > we have 25 subscribers so far.
- The purpose of the newsletter is to publicize events, rallies, environmental events, etc. > events and activities that are not being organized/sponsored by the school or Council.
- It is meant to be informative > does not ask for participation. The real objective is to inform the community of the events that parents are directly concerned with.
- Subscribers will grow as more events take place.
- The subscription link is also on our [Links and Resources](#) page. Thanks for taking it on!

Eco Product Sales: April Moon

- The silicone pouches have not arrived yet but have been ordered. We did add a "Name" line beside the logo as suggested.
- We tested sales at Fall Fest > took orders for about 20.
- We are in communication with the EcoTeam to take on sales. We would like to plan to sell them at the winter concert.
- Orders are taken in advance and the pouches will be delivered to classrooms.
- We can also sell during parent-teacher interviews next week.
- It also makes sense to sell them where we sell food at events so that people can use them as containers if they forget to bring one > if we sell out, we can order more.
- Where did we settle on pricing? \$8 for one or two for \$13. The cost was just around \$5 each. The pricing assumes that if we do not sell out, the Council does not have a lot of excess to cover. If we make a profit, the EcoTeam will spend it on projects/initiatives
- A separate idea: one of our Eco Staff members works at Frankland and purchased a Terra Cycle box to recycle candy wrappers around Halloween.
 - We would purchase a box, fill it with wrappers and send it back in for recycling.
 - Comment: Terra Cycle has boxes for multi-use items, for example art supplies, all kitchen waste that cannot be recycled and is not organic, and a general waste box for mixed items > *can we look into the options before purchasing this specific one to get the most bang for our buck?*
- A parent is also trying to get one of the big city waste containers (e.g. found on sidewalks) for the Strathmore corner to cut down on the trash in the yard > our yard is high-traffic with community members and lots of outside permits. Our custodians are doing the best job possible to tackle the issue.



- Comment: The items at the front of the school in the fenced in yard are part of our outdoor education classroom > it is not garbage.
- Maybe we can add signs so people understand this? We will send a blurb in the Monday Update as well.

Funding Request - OPAL Storage: Jenny Georgiou

- We need to purchase a storage container for the loose parts associated with the OPAL program, which began this year.
- The container needs to be large and durable to protect the equipment.
- Total cost is \$6100 for one large unit. The unit measure 8'x10' with roll-up barn doors (like the back of a large delivery truck).
- One large or two small units are recommended for schools with populations over 450. It's better to buy one large and find a good space for it > rather than having to encroach on another space if we buy a small container and add a second one.
- It is very expensive > have we compared prices with other retailers? The TDSB requires us to go through approved vendors. If the Council buys it, can we buy from a non-approved vendor? The TDSB ensures that products are safe, durable, and are the most cost-effective. OPAL has been around for a while so these have been researched > a quick online search shows that this price is comparable to other vendors.
- Shelving within it costs extra.
- Some schools use it as an art opportunity > a mural project (great idea).
- We are working in conjunction with the schoolyard revitalization committee so it will not be purchased until we have an understanding of where it will fit in.
- That meeting is coming up and we would like to make sure that it will not be funded as part of the project before we commit funds.
- Should we defer this until January when we have more information?
- If the Council pays for it, we may get it faster than if we wait for the schoolyard meeting (don't want to wait a year or longer as we are now putting the program into place).
- We are expecting the November meeting to be informative. The idea is not opposed, but we would like to know what the TDSB is committing before we decide where to commit funds. Let's talk about this in January when we have more of an idea.
- The container will be purchased, it's just a question of how



- Are we allowed to advertise specific items in our direct donations campaign? No, the campaign cannot be for specific projects. We can time it around an announcement about schoolyard revitalization though.
- What is the overarching vision of the revitalization plan? Nothing has been finalized yet. A list of dream items were discussed and the TDSB will now let us know how much money there is to spend and which projects make the most sense. On the list are resurfacing the yard, making a single baseball diamond, basketball nets, expanding the grass, expanding the Kindy area, an outdoor classroom, improving the ball court, and cutting off external access for community members during school hours. The play structures will not be touched.
- The project is being done at other schools as well.
- More information will be communicated once it's available.

Recording Concerts: All

- Can we have the concerts recorded so that people don't block each other's view and we can all sit back and enjoy the music? The gym is very crowded and it's hard to see over people filming and standing in the aisles.
- We would have to have all participants sign waivers.
- Even in professional circles, people still video anyway. It can't really be stopped.
- Perhaps we could make this a project for high school/Ryerson students.
- It is doable, we just have to figure out the consent piece if it is being distributed.
- We would need to add announcements to stop people from recording. Put up signs.
- Could we give an opportunity to parents to take photos at the end? It would be a logistical nightmare.
- It will be easier to ask people not to film if we provide a taped version. It should be offered as a free download.
- Could we add a checkbox to the permission form to allow kids to be filmed? Many kids do not return them. If one says no, how do we get around that? Maybe we just tell people that it's being done and do not ask for signatures.
- Last year we did e-programs instead of printed versions. Is that okay? Yes.

6. Council meeting adjourned at 7:50pm

**The next meeting of the 2019-2020 Council will be held on
Monday, January 13th, 2020 at 6:30pm in the Library.**