



2019-2020 Wilkinson School Community Council

April 20, 2020

Meeting Minutes - Approved

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

Agenda

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Approval of April Agenda | 4. Committee Updates
- Finance
- Events Discussion | 5. New Business
- Funding Requests |
| 2. Approval of February Minutes | | |
| 3. Principal's Update | | 6. Adjournment of Council Meeting |
-

Attendance

Present:

Kim Jensen (Principal)
Angelina Diassiti (Chair)
Angeli Mehta (Vice Chair)
Sarah Chin (Treasurer)
Shanna Breslin (Secretary)
Kostas Kotsampouikidis (Staff)
Batya Levy (Staff)
David Alexander
Amy Cole
Corey Fruitman
Emmeline Hobbs
Rob Jefferson
Stephanie Lamb

Lilian Ling
April Moon
Brenda Ohngemach
Michela Pasquali
Fernanda Perdikaris
Jennifer Stiff
Julia Warrender
Lisa Zivontsis

Guests:

Deb Shub

Regrets:

Jenny Georgiou (VP)
Champi Sevathiar
Elizabeth Manafò
Shirin Shahrokni

Absent:

Anthea Moreau (Dandy Lion)
Jordan Kanner
Lindsay Reimers
Dayna Tekatch
Michael Ross

1. Approval of April Agenda

- Fernanda and Lilian approved.



2. Approval of February Minutes

- Michela and Lisa approved.

3. Principal's Update: Kim Jensen

- Online Learning: During this time, health and safety have been our priority. We need to remember that there are people in our community who are unable to access online learning. We have about 30+ Wilkinson families still impacted by this.
 - Some families have no devices to share. Some have no devices and no internet. 29,000 families in the TDSB requested to borrow devices for about 52,000 students.
 - The devices from the schools need to be sanitized and adjusted so they can work outside of the TDSB environment and have internet capability. They are distributing them in a way that is not person-to-person contact. For more information about this, please refer to [Trustee Jennifer Story's email here](#).
 - We realize that parents are being asked to invest in their children's learning in a different way than usual and there are learning issues and technical issues, but this is improving. Our teachers are sharing information and virtually meeting with each other regularly in order to collaborate.
 - Question: Is the board planning to roll out a mental health module aside from simply handing out links? Tools for parents to use would be helpful. Home is not always a safe and happy place for all students. We will discuss more tangible resources in our next staff meeting.
 - Comment: It seems that kids enjoy seeing their classmates, even if they cannot interact. Seeing faces like we're doing now helps them to feel connected and helps with anxiety. Offering video conferencing in small chunks may be helpful. Not every teacher is comfortable yet with all of the online learning tools and may not yet be able to implement this, but they are building their skills and figuring out what they can do and how they can do it.
 - At Creative Preschool, families can sign up with teachers and do a show and share for small groups over Zoom. It has been very well received. It's more of a social check-in. Some kids are not able to navigate Zoom play dates and having a teacher lead a small group discussion is very helpful.
 - Comment: Zoom is blocked when using TDSB logins. We have asked that it be allowed but have not heard back.
 - The Council coordinates class contact lists at the beginning of the year. Some kids have been writing letters to each other - perhaps we can encourage families to do



this using the contact lists? Could the teachers suggest this or could Council? *The Communications team will look at sending out a note on this.*

- Report Cards: We do not yet know what they will look like. The focus is on feedback.
- Staffing Model: Next year's model has been approved. We do not yet know who is teaching what, but have 28 teachers approved, which is the same as this year.
 - As of now, we are expecting 507 students next year.
 - Kindergarten: 4 teachers, Grades 1-3: 8 teachers, there is a Grade 3/4 split, English Grades 4-6: 3 teachers, and Extended French: 5 teachers. We also have 4 prep teachers (music, HPE, drama, dance), 1/2 librarian, 1 junior behavioural class, and a special education resource.
 - The Grade 3/4 split class is mandated by the board. We work backwards from there to determine the make-up of our other classes, based on caps and student needs. There are some other split classes now. If more students register before September, things might have to be reorganized.
 - We aim to set up classes that work for who our students are and how they learn.
 - There are some Dandyion students who are out of the Wilkinson catchment area. They can continue at the school in the English stream, but have been offered French placements at other nearby schools.
- We are also working to blend our physical education program with the new OPAL outdoor education program.

4. Committee Reports

Committee members provided an update of upcoming and ongoing initiatives.

Finance: Sarah Chin and Angelina Diassiti

- Sadly, we are finished fundraising for this year and have just over \$20K in the bank account right now.
- *If you have expenses that you have not yet been reimbursed for, please [let us know](#).*
- We're still trying to figure out what we owe the school for various programs this year (e.g. Scientists in the School). The maximum amount we would owe is \$11,300, but this includes things like graduation that may not happen.
- This amount does *not* include the amount earmarked for the OPAL shed purchase in the fall ($\$6,100/2 = \$3,050$), which will come out of the 2020/2021 budget.
- Conservatively, we have about \$9,000 on hand and like to start the new school year with \$5,000 (to be safe).



- We like to reserve \$4000 for arts programming because it is booked over the summer and events happen in the fall before much of our fundraising has taken place.
- We usually have an influx from Pizza Lunch registration early in the year, but may need to give credits for this year's Term 2 registration.
- April will transfer the eco pouches to Mme. Barbier.

Events Discussion: All

- **Wood Car Derby:** We sold cars and registered people for the Derby but did not get to hold the event because of COVID-19. How do we handle this?
 - We have everything for the event ready to go and will plan to hold it early next year. Registrations will roll over. We will also offer refunds to those that need them (Grade 6 students and anyone else).
 - We have to be very careful in tracking funds that are rolled over to make sure that we don't accidentally spend more money than we have.
 - We have people who collected sponsorship money. Do we tell them to hang on to it (they may not want to)? Should they return it to sponsors? There is also the contest portion: the person who collected the most sponsorship money was to win Raptors tickets.
 - We feel uncomfortable asking people to give us the money this year. It makes more sense to hold on to it, even if cheques are involved that can no longer be cashed.
 - *Rob and April will investigate whether we can get a refund for the tickets* (the sports season was cancelled).
- **Pizza Lunch:** We completed Term 2 registration but are not able to have the remaining lunches because of COVID-19. How do we handle this? Give people a credit for next year? Ask if people want to donate the amount? What about Grade 6 students?
 - We have a list of which students registered for Term 2. The only way to give refunds is with cheques, but with about 250 students registered, we cannot process that many cheques and people would have to pick them up in person when the school is open.
 - Our bank account does not allow for us to send e-transfers (only to receive them). They are quite strict and we do not believe they would make an exception.
 - If the school reopens in June, we could have three lunches that month. We could offer people credits for Term 1 registration next year and only refund those that do not want to (or cannot) participate next year. The refund amount would be quite small as it's only for 2 or 3 lunches.



- Could we contact Papa John's to see if they might offer people credit instead of us refunding people? People could order their own pizzas using the money they already paid. That way we don't have to give credits or refunds and are supporting the business. *We will look into this.*
- **Fun Fair:** We are not able to run Fun Fair this year because even if the school reopens, everything has to be booked now and the situation is too uncertain to do that. Large group gatherings may not be allowed even if the school is open in June.
 - The event funds most of our activities for the year. How do we handle this?
 - We have lots of notes and have been keeping track of how the event runs. We started planning it in January and are now busy cancelling rentals and suppliers and trying to make sure they are not charging us (we don't have any signed contracts).
 - April can be around to support Lisa and the event next year, if needed. She can help to organize the storage room. We own a lot of infrastructure > she can go over this in person with someone when able. Thank you April!
 - One of Lisa's events from the fall has been moved to June, which means that help will be very much needed for the event next year (please consider this)!
 - Could we do the event earlier, in the fall? We would have to organize it over the summer and things are really uncertain now > it is too risky to plan for that.
 - Maybe we can work to make Fall Fest a little bit more robust as a start of the year celebration (if we are able to run that event).
 - *The communications team will put together a notice that Fun Fair is not happening this year.*
- **Textile Recycling:** We were going to run this program in April/May.
 - Maybe we can aim to run it in the fall as people are cleaning out their closets now but organizations are not taking donations. Perhaps it can be combined with Fall Fest somehow?
 - Lilian heads the fundraiser and her daughter is graduating. *Shanna supported Lilian last year and will take it over, but would like a helper.* The EcoTeam usually moves bags from the front hall to the stage area, but occasional tidying is needed and on the day of pick-up, another adult should come to help load the van. [Let us know](#) if you are interested.
 - *The communications team will communicate the date change to the community.*
- **Arts:** We are getting a credit for one of our arts programs that was missed this year. the cheque was not cashed yet, but we imagine that is their plan.
- **Movie Night:** We are going to be asked to renew our movie night license for next year



(\$300). They have not offered a credit for this year for the portion that we can't use. They offered us access for our teachers to use the license with students.

- We don't want to let Movie Night go - it's a nice community building event. Concern: people sit close together and there are at least 3 events in the fall.
- Can we ask about suspending the membership, knowing that we might not be able to use it in the fall? *Brenda will investigate.*
- Would we consider doing a Netflix party now instead of Movie Night? You can invite people to watch a movie with you online and people can comment in a message stream as they watch. Only one person needs to have a Netflix account to do this. It might be fun in lieu of Movie Night.

5. New Business

Funding Requests: All

- **Shade Structure Grant:** We have applied for a shade structure grant from the Canadian Dermatology Association (CDA). They are awarding \$34,000 total across the country, up to a maximum of \$18,000 for a single project.
 - The TDSB will be building our structure: wood posts with a solid wood roof and possible log seating.
 - We would like to purchase a 10x20 structure which costs about \$14,500 (permit included) so that it is large enough for many uses (e.g., as an outdoor classroom).
 - In the event that we secure the grant but do not receive enough funding, we would like the Council to provide \$2,000 to purchase either the 10x20 or a 10x10, which costs about \$7,000.
 - To clarify, the funding for the shade structure is separate from the schoolyard revitalization project that is ongoing with the TDSB (but currently on pause). However, the structure has been added to that plan and the TDSB will be building the structure.
 - We were supposed to hear if we were given the grant at the beginning of April but have not yet heard anything. They were also to announce recipients on their website and social media and neither source has updated information.
 - It is unclear if the grant is still being provided. We are contacting them to find out.
 - We will table this until we have more information and can take a vote via email if needed.



- *Update: The CDA confirmed that due to COVID-19 and an overwhelming number of applicants, there has been a delay in finalizing their selections. They hope to announce the grant recipients over the next few weeks.*
- **Garden Funding:** Eric Malcomson has been sponsoring the Learning Garden clean-up for the last 4 years, providing equipment, bags, time and disposal. Excluding time, the value of this is about \$120 annually.
 - Crystal Basi of Green Thumbelina would like to co-sponsor the event this year and add new plants (some from her own stock and some new mature ones). It is a one-time cost of \$300.
 - This would likely require us to do the garden clean-up first, which we cannot do at present. Should we give her the go-ahead to do it when she's able? Community gardens are closed now and we don't want her to get a ticket if she starts working on it (it could also leave Council exposed, legally speaking).
 - The Greening and Grounds budget is \$200 annually and has not been used for a few years because of Eric Malcomson's sponsorship. We would use that to cover most of this cost and are voting on the \$100 difference.
 - Motion to give her the go-ahead when gardens are open. *Motion Carried. Michela has let them know.*

Other

- We have the AGM in June and the new Council forms in October. Do graduating people need to send in their regrets or be available to vote in September? You can send in regrets as a courtesy, but it is not necessary (those that graduate will not be counted in quorum). Angelina is planning to attend in September, and anyone else is welcome to come to say goodbye and transition people if you'd like.
- Would the school consider doing more of a commencement ceremony in the fall instead of the usual graduation? The board is working on giving direction on this, particularly for Grade 12s. We have been thinking about what we might be able to do but are awaiting direction from the board.
- It was a great idea to meet virtually! We are planning another meeting in May.

6. Council meeting adjourned at 7:55pm

**The next meeting of the 2019-2020 Council will be held on
Monday, May 25th, 2020 at 6:30pm.**