



2020-2021 Wilkinson School Community Council October 26, 2020

Meeting Minutes - Approved

The 2020-2021 Co-Chair, Angeli Mehta called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

Agenda

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| 1. Approval of October Agenda | 4. Committee Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Elect Executive- Budget Approval- SSON Approval | 5. New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Virtual Halloween- Priorities |
| 2. Approval of September Minutes | | 6. Adjournment of Council Meeting |
| 3. Principal's Update | | |
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Attendance

Present:

Kim Jensen (Principal)
Lisa Zivontsis (Co-Chair)
Angeli Mehta (Co-Chair)
Julia Warrender (Treasurer)
Shanna Breslin (Secretary)
Lindsay Matheson (Staff)
Amy Cole
Rob Jefferson
Stephanie Lamb
Brenda Ohngemach
Fernanda Perdikaris
Lindsay Reimers

Norah Shaughnessy
Deborah Shub
Jennifer Stiff
Chantal Sweeting
Dayna Tekatch
Rose Ullah
Erin Vaillancourt
Ryan Wozniak

Guests:

Ron Harry
Miriam Zemell-Bloom
Angelina Diassiti

Regrets:

Clyre Lyndley (VP)
Anthea Moreau (Dandy Lion)

Absent:

1. Approval of October Agenda

- Erin and Lisa approved.



2. Approval of September Minutes

- Fernanda and Jennifer approved.

3. Principal's Update: Kim Jensen

- We're doing well with the health pass and getting into the school much faster.
- Students are coming ready for time outdoors – thank you!
- Outdoor Education: Has been extended from just Kindergarten to Grades 1 and 2 students as well. It's being taught by Ms. Matheson and Mr. Kasaval.
- Technology: We gave out about 100 Chromebooks in the spring to facilitate at-home learning. We got 17 back.
 - To replace the loaned computers, we've purchased 50 new ones using the school budget and will likely buy 25-30 more.
- Curriculum Night: For in-person students, a virtual event will be held on November 5
 - Kim will speak to everyone and then families attend sessions for individual classrooms. Each teacher will run two sessions to ensure everyone attend.
 - The purpose of the event is to give families general information about programming and the classroom – it's not a time to ask questions about specific students.
- Boilers: Our new system is now online and is being monitored and calibrated. We moved from water to steam.
 - We're now getting the kinks worked out, which is why some rooms felt very hot last week. Windows are going to stay open in all classrooms for air circulation.
- Reorganization: We had several changes. We closed a Grade 1 class, pushing most primaries to the cap. We lost an Extended French teacher and gained a junior English teacher.
 - We're given a certain number of primary, junior and French teachers and we need to work within those constraints to balance our classes.
 - Our French classes are now close to the cap > we're over by 1 in Grade 6 in order to keep all of those students together.
- The forms package was sent by the TDSB, please fill them out if you haven't already.
- Photo Day: Is usually around this time, but we can't bring in photographers yet.
- As per Toronto Public Health (TPH) guidelines, we'll begin using our cloak rooms for boots and coats etc.
 - Kids should bring indoor shoes to school, but please keep personal items to a minimum. Currently, we have almost nothing in the lost and found!



- Halloween: We're adhering to TPH rules and are not doing a parade, assembly or allowing the sharing of food. Students are welcome to wear costumes.
- Is the onus on parents to make sure The TPH Back to School Confirmation Form is submitted after an absence? We can't demand that people share doctor's notes or negative tests, so the form is a way for us to ensure kids are coming back healthy. When kids are home for a week, they're asked to submit the form.

4. Committee Reports

Committee members provided an update of upcoming and ongoing initiatives.

Executive Elections: All

- Treasurer – Julia Warrender
- Secretary – Shanna Breslin
- Co-Chairs - Lisa Zivontsis and Angeli Mehta
- Motion to approve the new executive. *Motion carried.*
- There's a lot of interest in organizing new events and fundraising initiatives. This year, we'd like to focus on community building and bringing people together.
- A committee would help to sort through ideas. Instead of resurrecting the fundraising committee, let's create a new events committee to capture both fundraisers and community builders. If interested, contact Rob or council@wilkinsonps.org
- It would be great if we could survey our parent community more often, perhaps before the next SSON is due. It's important to get input from all voices, including parents who aren't able to attend meetings.

Finance Update and Budget Approval: Julia Warrender

- We've committed to funding several programs annually. We fund other projects based on new funding requests submitted each year.
- Annual Expenses: Scientists in the School, Visiting Authors, Silver Birch books, Performing Arts, Ukulele, Field Trip Subsidies, Lice Checks, Yearbook, Graduation, Emergency Fund, Council Operations, and Greening Initiatives.
- This year, based on what we might be able to run, our total expenses are projected to be \$12,305 + \$3000 for an OPAL storage shed (\$15,305).
- Projected Income: Currently only direct donations and online shopping referrals.
- Opening Bank Balance: \$20,000, which leaves us with just over \$6,000 to spend this year > we need to be flexible as things may change.



- Technically, we aren't supposed to hold on to money year over year unless we have specific goals in mind, so our position may not be as bleak as we think.
- We need some money to pay for early events next year (if we're able to run any).
- Program Ideas:
 - Authors and illustrators are doing virtual visits.
 - Can we do holiday fundraisers? We can in terms of timing but can't tie them to any religious holidays.
 - Why don't we sell food (e.g., chocolate almonds and cookie dough)? Because we promote healthy eating, we're only allowed to sell unhealthy items at so many events (e.g., pizza lunch). Maybe we can look into healthy snack companies.
 - Perhaps we could sell almonds or cookie dough this year since our other programs aren't running. We should keep it nut free and can't sell door-to-door.
 - Spirit Wear: In the past, we purchased inventory and it took about 5 years to sell it. Last year, we purchased silicone pouches and have ¾ left. Maybe we could manage this through pre-orders. Because we don't want to spend money on inventory that might not sell, we set up a [CafePress store](#) a few years ago.
 - It's been a hard year for a lot of people so we should keep equity in mind. In the past, we've told staff that items would be donated when needed and perhaps given through a raffle so as not to single children out. We could do small things like a toque or socks that are cheaper.
 - Last year the staff suggested purchasing arts supplies to help our own teachers with visual arts programming.
 - There are a lot of ideas > these should fall under the new events committee.
- The Ministry provides Parent Engagement and Outreach [grants](#) yearly to councils. Normally, we deduct the amount from our year-end transfer. How can we apply for last year's amount? It was already done automatically.
- Staff Ideas: The teachers have ideas for items to make the year as successful as possible. There will be four categories: Kindergarten, primaries, juniors and virtual students (e.g., a set of good quality shovels for kindies).
 - The staff will do this as a group to ensure as many kids as possible are serviced.
 - Perhaps council or community members have connections for some items.
 - Reminder: We have to use TDSB-approved vendors, even with connections.
 - Since we're going to rely heavily on direct donations this year, we could target our campaigns to specific items.



- A funding request will be submitted > we need an estimate of cost.
- Motion to approve the 2020-2021 budget. *Motion carried.*

Approval of School Statement of Needs (SSON): All

- This document is submitted to our superintendent by the Council each year, and it outlines our school's needs should a new principal be hired.
- It was circulated ahead of the meeting and needs to be submitted by the 31st.
- Motion to approve the document. *Motion carried.*

5. New Business

Virtual Halloween and Coffee: Angeli Mehta

- In our Monday email, we invited families to post photos of their pumpkins and/or kids in costume to our Facebook and Twitter feeds as a way to connect people. Anyone not on social media can email us photos to be posted.
- We talked about hosting virtual coffees or meet and greets. Should we form a small committee to plan and execute on this? If interested, email council@wilkinsonps.org
 - Timing: A week or two after curriculum night.
 - We will segment the participants into manageable groups, possibly by grade, because many people on one call will be chaotic.
 - Lisa demoed Wonder, an app in which participants move avatars around a virtual room to join small group conversations. Many different conversations can happen at once, and people can gravitate to topics that interest them.
 - We should try it with a small group beforehand so we can determine the best way to use it.
 - We used to host parent-teacher coffee mornings and people walked in and out and we didn't get a lot of engagement. Maybe for this year we should have class reps to facilitate chats within classrooms. It could connect new and existing families. We could break it down by grade, class, or topic.

6. Council meeting adjourned at 8:06pm

**The next meeting of the 2020-2021 Council will be held on
Monday, November 30th, 2020 at 6:30pm via Zoom.**