



2020-2021 Wilkinson School Community Council

May 10, 2021

Meeting Minutes - Approved

The 2020-2021 Co-Chair, Lisa Zivontsis called the meeting to order at 6:48 pm.

Agenda

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| 1. Approval of May Agenda | 5. New Business | - Virtual Wilkitchen |
| 2. Approval of March Minutes | - New Member | - Trivia Night |
| 3. Principal's Update | - Indigenous Agriculture | - Council Partnerships |
| 4. Committee Updates | - Funding Requests | - Brainstorming Next Year |
| | - Book Fair | 6. Adjournment of Council Meeting |
| | - Science Feedback | |
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Attendance

Present:

Lisa Zivontsis (Co-Chair)
Angeli Mehta (Co-Chair)
Vince Chan (Treasurer)
Shanna Breslin (Secretary)
Anthea Moreau (Dandylion)
Amy Cole
Stephanie Lamb
Brenda Ohngemach
Fernanda Perdikaris
Lindsay Reimers
Shirin Shahrokni
Norah Shaughnessy

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

Guests:

Elizabeth Martin
Julia Warrender
Farah Ganpaul
Christina Dimitrov

Regrets:

Absent:

Kim Jensen (Principal)
Rob Jefferson

1. Approval of May Agenda

- Norah and Stephanie approved.



2. Approval of March Minutes

- Vince and Brenda approved.

3. Principal's Update: Kim Jensen

- No update this month.

4. Committee Reports

Committee members provided an update of upcoming and ongoing initiatives. We did not have any committee updates this month.

Indigenous Agriculture Project: Elizabeth Martin

- We are working to combine the education and greening committees to create a curriculum connection to indigenous agriculture.
- We are going to plant some medicinal plants and sister crops (corn squash beans) and donate all or part of the harvest to indigenous groups that we are connecting with > also in touch with them about methods and how to.
- Crystal (of Green Thumbelina) has donated plants – we hope to plant next week. There can't be a congregation of people, but we can come at different times.
- How did the garden initiatives link to the curriculum in the past? Do we have a contact?
 - In the past, the garden was often organized by parents. More recently, Mme. Barbier has been caring for it > ***Beth and Mme. Have been in contact and will speak further about this.***
 - We've had the garden educator Elin Marley in over the last two years, working with all of our classes.
- There is money available for gardening grants, but they often ask for a business number. We don't have an HST number and are not a business. Would a POR number work? ***Beth will investigate how to apply.***
- Where is the key to the hose? Dandyllion has one. The daycare would be happy to help maintain the garden over the summer if programs run and will provide the key.

5. New Business

Elect New Member: Lisa Zivontsis

- Shirin Shahrokni would like to rejoin the Council. Welcome back!



Funding Request – Library Expansion: Dayna Tekatch

- Our new committee has been brainstorming funding ideas involving anti-racism, anti-oppression, equity, and inclusion initiatives.
- We came up with a list about 10 different things we'd like to do and are starting by enhancing the anti-racism book collection in our library. We have one of the most extensive collections in the TDSB, thanks to our former librarian, Joel Krentz.
- Since we haven't had a librarian in several months, we'd like to supplement the books we have to keep things current.
- The overarching theme is "I Belong", ensuring that every student at the school feels valuable, represented, and like they matter.
- The books we chose (14 to start) are from 2019-2021, which will help us avoid duplicating what we already have in our collection. We are using an independent bookstore, which has good pricing > \$321.75 (including tax and shipping).
- In the future, it might be nice to have parents suggest titles and serve as occasional classroom readers. We would love to have students submit reviews for our newsletter.
- Question: was this previously funded? If not, do we have money to fund it?
 - This project did not exist before, although Mr. Krentz spent a lot of time curating a diverse library collection so that all kids felt represented. Those books often came from Scholastic.
 - We are hopeful that we'll have a librarian next year who will take this over. The plan is to help turn our library back into a hub, with visiting authors and literary programs. We would like to continue what Mr. Krentz started.
 - We still owe the school our year-end transfer from last year and have most of the numbers now.
 - Being conservative, we expect to end the year with about \$13,000 in our account.
- Motion to approve the purchase of the first 14 books. *Motion carried.*

Funding Request – Webinar: Dayna Tekatch

- A funding request was submitted for a webinar called "It's Bigger Than Hip-Hop" about the history of hip-hop culture and its contribution to education, racial justice, and liberation.
- It's been challenging to get information and turns out that the program is tailored to parents, caregivers and middle schoolers. It's not actually appropriate for our students.
- We don't feel that a program for just our adults is a good fit right now because parents and teachers are exhausted, but we will look into different options.



Funding Request – Graduation Lawn Signs and Hoodies: Erin Vaillancourt and Julia Warrender

- As we are only able to have a virtual graduation with little fanfare, we would like to use any excess funds from the graduation budget towards lawn signs for the families of graduates > typically, the Council budgets \$1000 for the in-school celebration.
- students without a lawn can use the sign in a window or on a balcony without the stand.
- This would be a one-time request as it's been a particularly challenging year.
- Details: 16"x24" 4mm white coroplast signs, 1 colour print, no bleed, single sided, vertical flutes, no stakes: 80 @ \$4.75 ea. = \$380.00
Pantone Colour Match (Red 485): \$40.00
Shipping: \$58.00
HST: \$62.14
Total: \$540.14
- ***Update: There are 74 grads (including virtual). The revised total should be \$507.94.***
- What will the signs have on them? The Wilki logo (red crest) "Class of 2020 - 2021 Graduating Grade 6 Class"
- In order to approve this, we need to know how much will be spent on graduation awards as that is the only other cost associated with the event.
- It was suggested to make the signs generic so they can be reused, how can we go about collecting them after graduation? Many people will want to keep them, so we will not expect them back.
- We are trying to get a local realtor to sponsor these > ***Lindsay has offered to do this!***
- Thank you, Lindsay! The funding request is no longer needed.
- ***Update: The school will distribute these with the other graduation materials via contactless pick-up.***
- We are also planning to do grad hoodies > Kim had mentioned covering the difference through the school budget.
- The plan is to do pay what you can, with a suggested donation over the cost so that there might be some extra to help kids who cannot afford to purchase them.
- We were going to do School Cash Online but they no longer accept Interac. Could we support e-transfer through the Council for those that do not have credit cards?
- The Council would write a cheque to reimburse the group for the payments that come through the Council account.
- ***Update: Pricing is being decided, but the school will cover the difference. Kim will set this up in School Cash Online and send out the details. Any families who cannot pay by credit card, will contact her directly to arrange payment.***



- The signs will be the same as the hoodies in terms of design.
- *Erin will send the final artwork to council@wilkinsonps.org so that we have a record of what was done and how our brand has been used.*

Spring Book Fair: Shanna Breslin

- During our spring book fair, 147 books were purchased. In total, between the fall and spring book fairs, 316 books were purchased, earning \$628.82 worth of rewards for the school. We now have \$4,185.01 in rewards in our Scholastic account.
- Is there the opportunity to use these funds for the new library books? Scholastic will not have the titles on our list, and they only have soft cover. We will use our funding.
- *Update: The rewards amounts have been communicated to the school, and the staff will ensure the rewards are used to benefit as many students as possible*

Scientists in School Feedback: Shanna Breslin

- We ran seven Scientist in School virtual workshops in March and April. We had 108 students registered.
- Of the 17 families that provided feedback, only one said that they didn't think the program was worth doing again (no details were provided). The other feedback was overwhelmingly positive.
- I sat in on the one my daughter did and thought it was great. The presenter was friendly and engaging and the workshop moved at a good pace. My daughter (Grade 4) really loved it and was totally into it.
- One note is that we had two workshops scheduled for March Break which had to be pushed to April Break. The second one had a poor turnout, even with a reminder the day before. It was likely a combination of things > did other people notice this? Each workshop should have had 15 participants.
- During the virtual Wilkitchen events the same week, the session for older kids had 7/18 participants show up. It may have to do with the desire to keep younger kids engaged > parents might be more relaxed in terms of entertaining the older ones.
- Often with events and conferences, free admission results in poor turnout > in the future, either we can accept that, or we might consider charging a nominal fee because we're paying for the program and want people to attend.
- *Shanna has contacted Scientists in School to find out if they have any attendance records; unfortunately, they do not.*



Virtual Wilkitchen: Lisa Zivontsis

- We ran two sessions over April break. The session for the younger group was really well attended (15/18) but the older session had several no-shows (7/18).
- The workshops were tailored to the age of the participants and I thought the level of difficulty was great. The sessions were engaging and went well.
- Informal feedback from some Council members > our kids enjoyed it.

Trivia Night: Brenda Ohngemach

- The provider is not TDSB approved. Other schools have used them, and they can provide letters of reference. Can we host this event if they are not TDSB approved?
- We should wait for Kim's approval on this as there are some concerns.
- *Update: Kim is okay with the event moving forward. Brenda will look into booking it.*

Partnering with Other Councils: Angeli Mehta

- A lot of other councils have been collaborating on events and activities and we've recently started to explore this.
- When events are virtual, it is easy for our communities to come together > co-hosting would allow us to share costs and resources and offer more content and opportunities.
- If anyone is interested in taking on the initiative, or has contacts, that would be useful.
- Beth and Crystal are looking into collaborating with Wandering Spirit > A great start.

Brainstorming Possibilities for Next Year: Angeli Mehta

- We have no idea what the next year brings in terms of events and gatherings, but we are open to new ideas and should start brainstorming for next year.
- We'll likely have to reconfigure our events and programs > What are our favourite events from prior years and what might they look like in the future? What worked and didn't work? What new events can we create? Can we partner with other schools?
- Let's think about these things and come up with some ideas.

Other

- Dandy Lion has a lot of lost and found items and is interested in donating what they can and finding out about the textile recycling program we partnered with last year.
- Shanna and Lilian organized the fundraiser last year through Textile Waste Diversion. Unfortunately, we have been unable to get in touch with them this year and their online presence is no longer > they may not have survived COVID.



- Shanna has reached out to several other companies (e.g., Clothesline and OFCP). They are accepting items in their donation bins but are not currently doing pick-ups.
- Lisa recently took items to the Salvation Army > they will resell and recycle, but do not give a financial incentive.
- Anthea is looking into the City of Markham since they have textile recycling bins throughout the city.
- *Next year (when things open back up), we will work to partner with Dandylion on this kind of initiative.*

- The TDSB recognizes an extensive list of days of significance and heritage/themed months. For example, May is Asian Heritage, Jewish Heritage, Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention, and Speech and Hearing month.
- We don't typically mark these days in our newsletter, but the TDSB has a published list of days that should be considered when planning events etc.
- It might be time to acknowledge these days. For example, Eid is coming up.
- We realize a concern is that if we mark one occasion, we must ensure that we mark them all. It will be a learning process.
- *The Communications Committee will investigate the best way to incorporate these days into our communications.*

6. Council meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

**The last meeting of the school year will be held on
Monday, June 7 at 6:30pm via Zoom.
That meeting will also be our AGM.**