

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023 (6:30 PM – 7:45 PM)



ZION HEIGHTS MS
SCHOOL COUNCIL

ATTENDANCE:

School Staff: Principal Le, Ms. O, Mr. Bell (Special guest Trustee James Li)

Elected School Council Members (13 Voting Members): Phouvieng Sackda (Co-Chair), Guang-Ying Mo (Co-Chair) Eric Yao (Treasurer), Key Kasravi, May Mark, Nina Chau, Kalan Chung, Dickson Liu

School Parents (in attendance): Antora, Shadi Moghadam, Jenny Gensaya, Jennifer Nguyen, Ahi Xiong, Shuling Zhao

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: “We acknowledge we are hosted on the lands of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Wendat. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and the Inuit peoples”.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Co-Chair’s opening remarks – **(Phouv)**
Meeting called to order @ 6:30 PM
Good evening and welcome everyone. Thank you Principal Le, for setting up our monthly meeting. We have invited our trustee James Li to join us for this evening. Good to see you again James, thank you for taking the time out of your busy day to join us – we appreciate you coming to this meeting. The topic of conversation that needs your engagement is: Parents are concerns with split classes for next school year – we will get into more details later. James, you don’t have to say anything at this moment. I will reintroduce you, when we get to “message from our Trustee”. That being said – let’s jump right into the first item on our agenda.
2. a. Approval of meeting agenda – motion by Phouv, seconded by Key – **motion carried**
b. Approval of January 8, meeting minutes – motion by Phouv, seconded by Key – **motion carried**
3. **Student report by Ameliya and Jessica from class 6-3 –**

Here are some student highlights from the last few months...On Friday, Feb 3. we had a school assembly and watched a Lion Dance to celebrate Lunar New Year. It was very well put together. I liked it because it made a lot of people smile. It was really cool because the performers gave students a chance to put on a lion costume and dance around.

Last month we had a presentation by cyber security expert Paul Davis. I liked how the presenter explained to us how to keep our personal information private online. We learned how to respond to cyberbullying. After our presentation, I tried to take Mr. Davis’ advice and make my information more secure. We learned that if someone bullies us online we should tell someone we trust, and if it is really serious we should report it to the police. I learned that if someone sends you something bad, you shouldn’t say something bad back, you should screen shot it and show your parents or the police. Also, we learned how to block a person online.

In our classes, we are working on a book report. We read a novel of our choice and we are working on a presentation of the novel. In art class, we are making spiral art with shapes. I like this project because it is really colourful and I can express myself through art.

Girls Volleyball team – some of the grade 6, 7 & 8s have joined the volleyball team. We have learned a lot about volleyball, and it has helped us improve our volleyball skills and it was really fun. Our grade 6 girls volleyball tournament is on Feb. 27 at another school – Go Zion Lions! Thank you for listening to our student presentation we hope you enjoyed it!

4. Teachers' Reports – (presented by Mr. Bell)

From Mr. Campbell

6.5, 6.6, 6.7 are starting their unit on Narratives. Right now we are analyzing different short stories and looking at literary elements found in narratives as well as how plot is structured in different ways. They will move onto how narratives are connected to media and ultimately how to plan, organize and write a short story of their own.

6.2 is focusing on Space right now. They have looked at the incredible distances between planets in our solar system, their relative sizes, other objects in our solar system like comets and asteroids, the characteristics of the Sun, and the day and night cycle. They will be moving on to how celestial objects interact as well as space technology.

From Mr. Singh

Grade 8 – Modelling Circle formulas for Area/circumference moving to Pythagoras next
Language – Crafting a Picture book and exploring narratives for children.

From Mr. Dafos

In English (81, 86, 87), students have recently finished their 2022 Year in Review videos where they practiced summarizing and finding the main idea of key new events from last year.

In Geography, they will be creating an infographic comparing the quality of life between a developed and developing country.

From the French Department (Mr. Bell and Ms. Warford)

We have a new extracurricular activity in process for a French Speech Arts Festival / Competition which will be taking place at the school on Friday February 3rd. Students have been learning to write persuasive speeches in French, and will be selected by Ms. Warford and Mr. Bell to go forward to present at a whole school assembly, where they will be juried for excellence in their field.

From the Visual Arts Department

Grade 6's have recently finished their Notan art project which is now on display in the Foyer outside of the office. 7-8 classes are working on a school wide community painting project that will see the contributions of 104 students working collaboratively to create 7 large stunning mixed art works that will be hung this month around the school. Grade 8s are nearing the end of their graffiti style writing project. Their advancements in this art form will help them prepare for the next school-wide art initiative to create murals on the second floor that look at our school themes of belonging, joy, and self-care.

From the Eco-Team (Ms. Ahmad and Ms. Gonsalves)

ECO-TEAM - Implemented a composting system in the school to improve Zion's environmental footprint. Green bins are in both lunch rooms and compost is also collected in each class during snack time. This initiative includes an educational component which includes infographics and posters distributed to each class, along with regular school announcements. The Eco Team continues to do research and make school announcements on various topics related to climate change, such as the idling of cars in the parking lot.

Other school ongoings: (date can be found in whole school calendar)

Upcoming dates for Grade 7&8 girls volleyball tournament
Library Helpers and Writing Club
Board Games Club, and Eco-Club
Respect the Rainbow and the Grade 6 Success Club
Yearbook Club
Robotics Club
House league dodgeball
Choir

5. Principal's Report by (Mr. Le)

Update on Teacher's proposal for funding. Amounts requested extend beyond school budget/club amounts and will impact the entire school and/or are whole school activities available to Gr.6-8 students.

Club	Teacher	Amount Requested	Item(s)
Art	Bell	\$400.00	Mural making/paint equipment
Games	Singh, Tong	\$200.00-\$300.00	Additional card games and chess sets
Robotics	Dykshoorn	\$500.00	Supplement LEGO building (Mindstorms)
Volleyball	Gardziejczyk, Nini	\$550.00	Volleyball game nets
Basketball	Gardziejczyk	\$550.00	Basketball backboard with electric winch
Tabletop hockey	Nini	\$350.00	Tabletop hockey equipment and game sets
ZAC :	Cattell	\$150	Film and props for photo booth at Spring Dance(whole school event)

Total: Approx. \$2800

Approval of the requested funding for the items listed above in the amount of \$2,800, motion by Phouv, seconded by Key – **motion carried**

Health and safety update

- Repair work has begun on the 1st floor boys washroom
- Caretaking has done a complete locker survey and found that 144 lockers require repair/and replacement. Facilities have informed the Principal that repairs will come out of the facilities budget however, replacement will need to come out of the school budget.

6. Message from our Trustee (James Li)

- Very high level of engagement from students regarding Special Interest Programs. About 7500 applications were received and about 3500 offers awarded. The goal is to try and increase the availability of these programs over time. For 2023-2024 school year we were able to add a STEM+ teaching resource to Vanier Secondary School. This increases the number of spots for students from 42 to 81. Our goal was to get to 100 spots, but the school did not have the physical space to accommodate up to 100 spots. The addition of about 40 spaces, translates to 160 over the 4 years of high school.
- For the 2024-2025 school year the goal is to increase the number of teachers with the required skill set and continue to grow that base.
- There is also a goal to increase the Arts based Special Interest Programs with an additional location in the northwest part of the City and another in the southeast region of the City.
- The grade 11 English curriculum is scheduled to change to cover different material as the basis for teaching English. The content will be based on 100% Indigenous material, but the elements of the English language studies will remain.
- The course material is from Ministry of Education and York has already implemented it.
- From TDSB operations standpoint, we are heading into budget season. So if the school has any specific needs, this can be communicated to Trustee Li.
- Question: How does the Board allocate funding for teachers to schools? This is a MoE formula purely based on the number of students in the school, and the MoE does not care how that is implemented or setup. This is the root cause of the problem that leads to split classes.
- The cost of each teacher is between \$105k-\$110k
- Funding for other programs and projects is based on a different formula. For example, every grade 5 student has received a Chromebook
- This year, because of covid and the fact that some students left the country for the school year, the central resource planning was way off, and this was particularly unique in our ward.
- For example, Zion was allocated teachers based on 424 students to start, we ended up with 450 students, and we currently have 454. We had too few grade 8s and we had more grade 7s

- Question: Are the Specialty Programs more expensive to operate? The Arts programs are more costly, because setting up the infrastructure is more expensive.
- Building a new school costs approximately \$20mm.
- Question: Does it cost more to place Special Programs inside existing schools? Yes, the change in resources from the typical program to specialty is not linear.
- In order to advance the development of more specialty program spots it will be a multi-year process. We first have to budget for training teachers – we need qualified teachers to be available. Then we have to allocate funding to operate the programs. This is a complex formula that requires us to account for movement of resources.
- At the middle school and elementary level there's a shortage of ESL and other support programs and teachers right now.
- There's also a supply teacher shortage province wide.
 - Retired teachers can only teach 90 days per year otherwise it affects their pension.
- Question: Is it an operational, HR or budget issue? The collective agreement only allows for 40% of the teachers to work as supply teachers or occasional

7. Parents concerns about split classes for 2023/2024
- What can be done to minimize or avoid split classes
 - Resource allocation

8. Financial report – (Eric/Phouv)

Current bank account balance: \$13,787

Allocations of school funds so far:

- Graduation reception \$600
- School team jerseys (used \$971.60 of budget) \$1,000
- End of Year BBQ for students and staff \$1,500
- School tents \$3,000

Total allocation \$6,100 (not including the teachers request approved at this meeting)

Fundraisings raised to date:

- Halloween pizza lunch \$903.98
- School Spirit wear (payment not received yet) \$670
- Holiday bake sale \$979.50
- January 12, pizza lunch \$1,196.02
- February 2, pizza lunch \$1,248

Total money raised to date \$4,997.50

Projected estimate for future fundraising:

- February 23, pizza lunch \$1,100
- March, pizza lunch \$1,100
- April, pizza lunch \$1,100
- May, pizza lunch \$1,100
- June, pizza lunch \$1,100

Total Projection \$5,500 (We'll probably add one or two more pizza and bake sale to the list)

9. School Council fundraising events and activities

COMPLETED: Thursday February 2, Pizza lunch (\$1,248 profit)

UPCOMING FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES: Thursday February 23, Pizza lunch

10. New Business?

- a. What's been planned for the school trip this year?
 - i. Grade 6: Agha Khan Museum
 - ii. Grade 7: ROM trip
 - iii. Grade 8: Second City – drama
 - iv. We maybe able to fit in a field trip to Downsview Park for Grades 7 & 8, and we will try to have Grade 6s join too.
- b. Graduation Trip: Last year: Wonderland. We were planning for a trip to Niagara Falls, but the cost was prohibitive. We will plan to involve student voices in this planning.
- c. Unfortunately we were waitlisted this year for an outdoor camping trip, because we started the planning and dialogue too late. The TDSB is also trying to make sure other schools are attending the outdoor learning centers under equity planning.
- d. Graduation committee (did not have time for discussion)

11. Motion to adjourn

Meeting adjourned @ 8:20 PM. Motioned by Phouv, seconded by Key – **motion carried**

School council meeting dates:

Tuesday, March 28, 2023 – 6:30 - 7:30 PM (Virtual)

Tuesday, April 18, 2023 – 6:30 - 7:30 PM (Virtual)

Tuesday, May 9, 2023 – 6:30 - 7:30 PM (In person)