
School Council Meeting Minutes

Abraham Erb Public School

May 22, 2019 - School Library 7:15pm

Members Present: Alison P., Amy W., Becky L., Carolyn M., Deb B., Farzana D., Jennifer K., Karen H., , Lee R., Melinda H., Sheila S., Tracy M., Vaidhehi K., Vera J.

Absent: Dan L., Deji S., Jing X., Julie I., Kelly S., Lan W., Leena S., Megha B., Tamara C.,

Guests (signed in only): Masoomah R., Seun S.

Agenda item: Welcome Presenter: Jennifer K.

Discussion:

- SS motioned to approve April minutes. AP seconded the motion. All voted unanimously to approve April minutes.

Agenda item: Eco School Presentation Presenter:Mme Morrison

Discussion:

- Mme. Morrison is looking to start a student club to work towards an Eco School Certification and to encourage the students to engage in environmental concerns. Students in the club will choose the club activities based on what they want to see changed and they will educate each other. There will be curriculum links as well.
- One example of what is required for certification is to do a garbage audit at the beginning and end of the school year to look at the change.
- Sophie A. a Grade 2 student presented her Science Fair project “How trashy are we?. She created a large tower from all the garbage from student lunches to help make us aware of our waste.
- Sophie said “I can’t change the oceans but I can change our school”!
- One possible connection that the club will have with the Council is support for the school yard greening. Mme. Morrison suggested we can look into Grants together or possible Council funding.
- Deb suggested that they connect with the Region of Waterloo Waste Services who can provide resources and education opportunities
- Mme. Morrison will reach out to the Council in the new school year to further discuss partnership opportunities once the club is established.

Agenda item: Principal’s Profile Presenter: Jennifer K.

Discussion:

- We recently had a request from the Board to submit our Principal Profile. It is a standard form that is requirement for School Councils and we did not have one on file for the last 2 years.

- The information on this form is used by senior administrators when they consider a transfer and/or placement of a principal to and from a school community. It is a way for parents to provide input into that process.
- Heather is not aware of any plans for a new principal at our school.
- There are 3 questions on the form:
 - Identify the school council priorities/expectations (for the Principal)
 - Identify the special programs/innovations which your school provides to support student learning
 - Identify any issue or concern for your school community which you would like taken into consideration when looking at leader transfers or changes for school.
- Answers to Question 1 and Question 2 was drafted by Jennifer. We discussed feedback on that draft and agreed that we should add more specific and recent examples. Some ideas of examples were discussed.
- We discussed possible responses for Question #3 and agreed that it should be a recap of the previous 2 questions.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Jennifer will revise the draft and resend to everyone for a second review.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Jennifer requested that everyone email her any examples that they want included or themes that should be highlighted in the next draft. All comments are due to Jennifer by noon on Friday.

Agenda item: Principal’s Report

Presenter: Heather

Discussion:

- Several members of the Senior Administrative Team were on site in May. (John Bryant, Lila Read, Scott Lomax and Elaine Ranney). They noticed a welcoming culture, positive relationships between teachers and staff and celebrated our positive partnership with families.
- Grade 6 Transition:
 - An announcement was recently made to confirm that our Grade 6s will be going to Laurelwood now.
 - Peter Bernt, Principal at Laurelwood, had a chance to visit the classes and answer any questions.
 - On June 14th, students will have an opportunity to visit the school.
 - Parent night is June 17th
- Kindergarten
 - New to Kindergarten open house was May 15th
 - Classes next year are currently 3 full classes and 1 class of 15 (i.e. teacher only). This is based on current enrollment and subject to change.
- Grade 3 EQAO started May 22 for 3 days
- Grade 6 EQAO is May 27, 28, 29
- Juniors are getting ready for track and field - regionals are June 20th
- PD Day is May 31 - teachers will be working on reporting and assessment
- Recent class trips include - Laurel Creek, Crawford Lake, Doon Heritage Village, Clay and Glass Museum, Grade 1s are taking skating lessons.
- We have 1 tornado drill and 3 fire drills remaining
- Update on 2019/2020 planning:
 - We are about 6 weeks behind in planning for next year. The Board is still waiting for government announcements to be complete.

- Learning Support Teachers were declared surplus so they will return back to classrooms. There is a reduction in Digital support teachers and a reduction in ESL teachers.
- Current enrollment shows a reduction in 1.5 classrooms
- The Board recently posted some FAQs about the budgeting process
 - <https://www.wrdsb.ca/blog/2019/05/21/budget-staffing-frequently-asked-questions-faqs/>
- Sarah Melitzer has taken over for Erin Dumart who is on maternity leave
- John Cummings and Mark Maloney are retiring at the end of this year.
- June 3 - Track and field
- June 10 - ESL camp
- June 11 – Volunteer tea
- June 20 – Regional track and field
- June 24 – Grade 6 grad rehearsal
- June 24 – Report cards go home
- June 25 – Grade 6 grad 1:00
- June 26 – Winit assembly
- June 27 – Final assembly
- June 28 – PD Day

Agenda item: Treasurer’s Report

Presenter: Carolyn M.

Discussion:

- Bank balance remains relatively unchanged from last month.
- Art & Science Night expenses are all in. We were \$350 under budget.
- First Pita Pit cheque was received for \$306
- Approved teacher requests = \$5,954 spent and \$2,730 remains to be spent.

Agenda item: Update on Family Fun Night

Presenter: Jennifer

Discussion:

- Food pre-orders are due tomorrow. This is very important so that we know how much food to order. Some food is available that night on a first come, first serve basis.
- Anyone who can volunteer should complete the form in the recent Schoolday note so that we know what shifts you are available.
- Hopefully everyone is available to bake at least one cake. Please confirm with Alison if you can contribute. Cakes should be brought to the main office on the morning of May 30.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:25pm

APPENDIX #1: Log of Open Action Items

Noted: Closed items are only noted here if the item was in open status at the beginning of the meeting

Action	Person Responsible	Deadline	Status	Meeting Raised
Investigate idea for mental health and anxiety speaker and provide update	Sheila	April	DEFER TO NEXT YEAR	Nov 21
Revise the Principal's Profile draft and resend to everyone for a second review.	Jennifer	Friday May 24	OPEN	May 22
Principal Profile - Everyone email Jennifer any examples that they want included or themes that should be highlighted in the next draft.	Everyone	Friday May 24	OPEN	May 22