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# School Council Meeting Minutes

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## **Abraham Erb Public School**

November 20, 2020 - Google Meet, 7:00pm

**Members Present:** Ahmed M., Amy L., Danielle G., Farhad H., Hanan A., Jennifer K., Julia M., Lee R., Leena S. (Minutes), Masoomah R., Megha B., Melinda H., Mitra D., Susan N., Tracy M., Vaidhehi K., Vashti L., Vera J., Yasar N.

**Absent:** Farzana D. Tamara C.

**Guests (signed in only):** None

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### **Agenda item: Welcome**

**Presenter: Jennifer K.**

**Discussion:**

- JK introduced herself and reviewed meeting etiquette over Google Meet.
- JK introduced DG as the moderator for this meeting to monitor the chat and alert the presenter of questions.

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### **Agenda item: Election of Council Members and Executive Roles**

**Presenter: Jennifer K.**

**Discussion:**

- JK described types of School Council members (parent members and community members) and official roles to elect from Council by-laws (Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Moderator).
- Council can be made up of 25 members. 16 members completed the form to be voting members.
- JK clarified that you don't have to be a voting member to attend Council meetings or to ask questions and provide opinions. All participation is encouraged.
- Introductions were delivered by everyone who completed a form to be a voting member.
- The list of parent voting members were acclaimed and the community rep was acclaimed as a voting member.
- JK stepped down as chair for 2020/2021 and asked for volunteers, but there were none. Should anyone change their mind they may approach JK or PK (Principal).
- FH volunteered for the treasurer role. No elections were necessary since no else put their name forward.
- The secretary role was initially vacant, but during the meeting AL volunteered and no elections were required as there were no other candidates.

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**Agenda item: Treasurer's Report****Presenter: Jennifer K.****Discussion:**

- JK reported that Council is starting the year with \$21,213.94
- Last year's budget of \$10,050 was not all spent; \$615 was spent.

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**Agenda item: Principal's Address****Presenter: Pam K.****Discussion:**

- PK thanks JK for years of service to Abraham Erb and all the parents who have helped in the school.
- There has been tremendous support from the parent community for the reopening plan and for wearing masks at school. The children including kindergarten children have been adherent without understanding the complexity of the situation.
- 95% of the parents are dropping off the kids on time. Punctuality is great. There is a process for when you are late including signing in, the sanitization process and getting their late slip. Support from parents for punctuality is appreciated.
- Preparedness is great with lunches and labelled water bottles and necessities as the weather changes. Things have changed and you can't drop off items the way that you could before.
- PK requests that appointments for students be made outside of school hours. If it can't be avoided, let the teacher know ahead of time that you will be picking up kids earlier.
- Started out with 475 students. After the September 25th deadline the numbers changed to 292 in-person and 183 in distance learning.  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the community is not in the school.
- 5-12 requests of parents who missed the deadline. Change requests are difficult to accommodate because of staff and numbers. Errors are prioritized.
- Next option change date is January 15, 2021 and the actual switch date will be February 3, 2021.
- Progress reports are due to go home on November 20th.
- Progress reports are affected if staff changes. If your child changed classes due to reorganization the teacher who had the student on the record on October 21st will complete the progress report.
- Q: Do we have any idea of what might happen if schools get shut down? Would our kids stay in their current classes but be online?
- PK believes that kids would stay with their current teacher and this is why they have had to set up Google Classrooms on top of teaching in-person.
- Q: If the school is shut down, would some classes still go?
- If in response to an outbreak, that direction is given by public health. They do the contact tracing to determine who high risk contacts are and whether it is in fact an outbreak. Can't speculate.
- Q: If there is a case such as the one recently and the staff member is not announced because of privacy, do you contact the person exposed. No, public health would do the contacting.
- Q: What is the frequency of sanitization? Touch point cleaning occurs at least several times a day. If a child goes home with one symptom, the class is evacuated to an evacuation space and touch points are cleaned. The evacuation space also gets touch point cleaning. Over the weekend touch point cleaning was done as well as sanitizing spray.

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**Agenda item: Discuss New Funding Request****Presenter: Jennifer K.****Discussion:**

- Water refilling stations were required to reduce traffic flow and avoid facial contact with water spouts. PK asking for funding for water refilling stations. 2 hydration stations were discussed and supported by Council last year, but 3 were purchased for the school. The Board paid for one.
- JK put forward a motion to approve 2 hydration stations for \$6046. Any funding that comes in later from the government for these stations can be reimbursed to the Council and there is confirmation from the Board on this.
- VK seconded the motion. All in favour.
- A smaller request put forth by the teachers for microphones so that teachers are still clear for ESL and younger learners to improve sound while wearing masks.. Two pieces have been ordered for \$70 to test out to know if it is helpful for the rest of the staff.
- JK put forth motion for amplification units that are being used in other schools to help with hearing through masks. Motion to approve \$1500 for amplification units. AL seconded the motion.
- FH asked about battery and maintenance and whether additional components are required like speaker systems to enable the microphones to work. The microphones haven't arrived so PK would be able to provide this information at a later date.
- FH motioned to get more feedback about how the device works, maintenance and additional components required and table until more is known about the trial.
- VK seconded motion to table.
- Some parents shared the success and usefulness of amplification units at Laurelwood.
- Q: Will there be individual pictures this year? No, outside visitors may also not enter the building. Maybe things will be better in May.

**Action Items:**

- PK to gather information on amplification units and results of trial for the next meeting.

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Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20pm

## 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
Gather information on amplification units and results of trial by teachers that are receiving them.	PK	Jan 2021	OPEN	Nov 11, 2020