

Abraham Erb Public School

Oct 19, 2022 - Google Meet, 7:00 p.m.

Agenda item: Welcome, Introduction and Territorial Acknowledgement **Presenter: Ivy JY Cui**

Agenda item: Approval of Sep.21 Minutes **Presenter: Jodie Hancox-Meyer**

Agenda item: Teacher’s report **Presenter: Meghan Wentworth**

Food Drive

Thank you to the community, staff and students at Abe Erb for such a successful Food drive for our Thanksgiving holiday. We as a school managed to collect 1350 cans of food to donate. The food was donated to a local organization called Waterloo 911 which is a food kitchen as well as a local Food Bank. We look forward to our upcoming events to help out our community which will be happening throughout December.

Legacy School Initiative

Abe Erb is excited to announce that we are now officially called a “Legacy School”. (This is in accordance with Gord Downie, and Chanie Wajack). Approximately 370 schools throughout Canada are involved in this program. The Legacy Schools program is a free national initiative to engage, empower and connect students and educators to further reconciliation through awareness, education and action (#reconciliACTION) for Indigenous throughout Canada. Our staff and students will have opportunities for students and teachers to lead the movement in awareness of the history and impact of the Residential School System on Indigenous Peoples. Educators will use a Legacy Schools Toolkit and educational support resources to engage students, staff and the school community, and as the catalyst for their commitment to the work of reconciliation.

Terry Fox

On September 23, the school participated in the annual Terry Fox run. As a school we raised a total of \$1045.80.

Spirit Day

On Monday October 31, students are invited to participate in our school-wide spirit day "Out of the Ordinary Day". Students can dress up in anything they might not normally wear - maybe a different colour, a different style or a costume.

Lines Painted

We were excited to come to school after the previous long weekend to discover that all of the line had been repainted on the tarmac and some added greetings were painted at the front door and the walkways around the school. Many classes have taken advantage of the new play areas to organize games of 4-square and basketball.

Nutrition for Learning

We are into our 4th week of Nutrition for Learning. There are four grade 6 leaders helping with the distribution of food each day, with Ms. Maxwell overseeing the ordering and logistics. There has been a great reception for the program and students have been accessing it mostly in the afternoon after they have finished their lunches.

Book Fair/October Reading Challenge

Our new librarian, Mrs. Mueller has created an October reading challenge for both students and teachers to participate in. Lots of completed forms have already been submitted ahead of the October 31 deadline. She will be awarding prizes to those who complete the challenge. Students are extremely excited for the upcoming Book Fair in November!

Forest School Update

Room 18 (my class) and Room 29 (Mrs. Fox) have been heading out to the neighbourhood forest for some forest school sessions. Last year the School Council approved funding for Anita Smith to come and provide sessions for Kristin Monette and myself with a few modelling sessions last year. I have begun to schedule classes to join Room 18 to join us so I can start phase 2 of last year's plan to lead classes in sessions so that more teachers feel comfortable taking their classes out into the community.

As per last year's plan, I have begun to research items that would make learning kits for classes to grab and use in the forest.

Agenda item: Principle's report

Presenter: Jodie

School

- Our September start-up has gone really smoothly this year. We have an additional class (up by one from last year) and have a total of 19 classes, and 446 students. We have also welcomed a number of new staff members, including our new head secretary, Mrs. Jenn Balkos, who just started at the end of August and is doing a fantastic job in our main office, working alongside Mrs. Cherie Blair.

- The new pinnies that School Council generously agreed to fund have arrived and they look fantastic! This will allow us to represent Abraham Erb with pride at our Regional Junior Track and Field meet in June and ensure that all students have a well-fitted pinnie to wear.
- Both portables on the back tarmac have been removed and delivered to schools that need them. This has freed up some play space on our tarmac and allows for better and safer “sight lines” for our staff to supervise students.
- I have received verification that WRDSB Facilities Services will be funding the refreshing of all our “line games” and painting on our back tarmac. The cost is over \$2000 so it’s great that the Board will be picking up the tab for this. The painting will be completed soon.
- At the end of the year, we received an additional 12 HEPA filtration units to be used throughout the school. Those units, along with our pre-existing mechanical ventilation system allows us to have as much clean and fresh air as possible inside the school.
- I have been having ongoing communication with the City of Waterloo around getting a crossing guard in place at the intersection of Laurelwood Drive and American Beech Avenue where many of our students and families cross to get to and from school. At this point, there is no guarantee, but the City is hearing my concerns and taking it to their September Council meeting for approval. They are actively recruiting new guards and we have assisted this process with a School Day blast sent out a couple of weeks ago. We have also sent out some messaging clarifying the parking bylaws in place along Laurelwood Drive. In the interim, we again have some grade 6 students, who have been specially trained by Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region assisting with the safe crossing of students. I would encourage any parents who have concerns to directly contact the City of Waterloo to further advocate for the need for a crossing guard and perhaps even some parking bylaw reinforcement. The more voices that are heard by the City, the better!
- WRDSB schools have recently been informed that some of the communication apps and online educational programs commonly used in many schools are no longer being approved from the standpoint of privacy and online security. Thus, our staff have had to make some pivots in terms of how they communicate with families. For example, the “Talking Points” app is no longer approved nor is “See Saw.” Though these apps have been very popular with staff and families alike, we have no choice but to adhere to the new guidelines and stick to only using those apps and programs that have been officially approved by the WRDSB.

Board

- We are still feeling the many impacts of the July 10th “cyber incident”. Many of our systems are still not fully operational. For example, families can only receive announcements on School Day, but are not yet able to log in and complete forms, permissions or payments. In addition, any new families who have joined Abraham Erb from outside of the WRDSB are not able to create School Day accounts. There are also ongoing challenges with adding new students to Google classrooms and some other internal programs (e.g. WRDSB staff cannot log an ITS ticket). We keep putting one foot in front of the other and exercise patience as the Board is doing its very best to getting us fully operational again.
- As of September 2022, all WRDSB-operated Before and After School programs will operate as licensed childcare programs under the Child Care and Early Years Act. One of the biggest

impacts is that by September 2025 fees will go down to an average of \$10/day for families using the program with children 5 years or younger.

- The WRDSB has released its detailed Strategic Plan. Anyone who is interested is welcome to have a look at it on the WRDSB website.
- As with many school boards across the province, we continue to face some significant bussing challenges due to the driver shortage. Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region has recently announced that it will unfortunately have to cancel some bus runs on a rotating basis due to this shortage. Thankfully, at Abraham Erb, we have yet to be impacted by this.

Province

- All school boards across Ontario are still waiting for EQAO test results to come out sometime this fall. Students who wrote the test will each receive an individual student report.
- All of the education unions are currently without a contract as they all expired on August 31st. We are hoping for smooth negotiations as that process unfolds this year.

Agenda item: Treasure’s Report – attached for reference Presenter: Vasudha Raghunathan

- Funds available as of Oct 21: \$8,701.67

Abraham Erb Parent Council Financial Report - October -19-2022

Funds in Bank	<u>Sep 22</u>	<u>Oct 22</u>
Bank - general	13,754.27	9,146.64
Bank - WEFI*	3,663.66	3,663.66
Total Bank	17,417.93	12,810.30
Total budgeted funds for 2022-2023		3,158.00
Expenses	4,835.43	
Committed to spend	950.63	4,108.63
<u>Outstanding Items</u>		
refunded by WRDSB		
tax rebate received (credited)	177.97	
cash	50.25	
Funds available	<u>11,860.09</u>	<u>8,701.67</u>

Agenda item: Principle’s report Scholastic Book Fair Presenter:Julie Island

Julie provided the book fair time line as following:

- Monday November 28th - Wednesday November 30th: Book Fair Open
- Thursday November 24th - Book Fair cases and supplies are dropped off. Set-up in the afternoon.
- Friday November 25th - Class viewing during school hours. Teachers will sign-up for time slots during the day to bring their classes down to view the Fair. They will be able to make their wish lists to bring home.
- Monday November 28th - Book Fair opens in person and virtually (all online orders using the link will be delivered to the school with free shipping). Time still TBD but will run before, during, and after school.
- Tuesday November 29th - same as Monday
- Wednesday November 30th - Book Fair will be open 9:10am - 12:00pm to allow students to make last minute purchases and orders.

Julie will have an online sign-up volunteers to work the Fair (1 hour time slots).

A teacher Wish List will be posted at the Fair, Students and families can purchase these books to gift to their teachers/classrooms.

Discussion- Winter hat and mitten purchasing

Presenter: Ivy

Found the left over winter hats and mittens, no need to purchase more.

Some teachers noticed that there is a need for winter clothes and boots among newcomer families. Mrs Carey will coordinate the winter clothing drive from Oct 21 to the end of November.

Discussion-family focus-council run events

Didn't have enough time to discuss it, left it for the next meeting.

Next meeting: Nov 16, 2022

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:10 p.m.

