

Abraham Erb Public School

September 21, 2022 - Google Meet, 7:00 p.m.

Agenda item: Welcome, Introduction and Territorial Acknowledgement **Presenter: Jodie Hancox-Meyer**

As the Principal of the school, Jodie introduced herself and welcomed parents who attended the first school council meeting for the 2022–23 school year.

Agenda item: School Council Election **Presenter: Jodie**

Jodie provided an overview of the School Council positions. An election was not held, and positions were acclaimed as:

Chair: Ivy Cui

Treasure: Vasudha Raghunathan

Secretary: Fang Xu

Agenda item: Teacher’s report – attached for reference **Presenter: Shelley Carey**

Questions raised:

For the “nutrition for learning” program, do online donations from parents automatically go to the school or do they go into a central site where they are then distributed to all the schools?

Answer: The donation will be directed to the school, when parent select a certain school from the dropdown list, they will be directed to the payment section.

Agenda item: Principle’s report - attached for reference **Presenter: Jodie**

Questions raised:

1. Is Mr. Walker going to be starting up Junior choir this year?

Answer: The school has already been given a date for the Kitchener Rangers game in November. The primary and junior teachers have signed up so stay tuned for more information.

2. Will the school ever be "upgraded" to accept grade 7 and 8 students?

Answer: This is a question to the WRDSB planning department, it is extremely rare for a school that is K to six to start taking grade 7 and 8 students.

Agenda item: Treasure's Report – attached for reference Presenter: Taru

- Funds available as of June 15: \$19,607.55

Agenda item: School Council Funds Request

Presenter: Jodie

The school is in urgent need of two data projectors and two document cameras. The data projectors are \$1,144 each plus tax. And the document cameras are \$435 each plus tax, totaling \$3,158.

90% of the Council members voted yes to this request, the quorum is met.

Next meeting: October 19th, 2022

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:10 p.m.

Teacher's Report for School Council
Wednesday, September 21st, 2022

Staff is happy to be back in the classroom, building their communities and looking forward to a positive year.

A few of the items that are happening/have happened in the school in the month of September:

- Last week students in grades 5 and 6 began their leadership positions - which include office helpers, announcers, lunchroom helpers, door helpers, sign assistants, janitorial helpers and pizza day helpers. They are extremely excited to be involved around the school.

- The Terry Fox run will happen this Friday. Laura Watson is our staff organizer and she has been very busy putting up posters and writing announcements. Classes are excited to participate on Friday.

- Picture Day is scheduled for September 29. Class photos will also be taken again this year.

- Many classes are looking to schedule field trips throughout the fall. Sadly with the bus interruptions it may prove difficult to secure bussing for trips. A few of the junior classes have already had Al Woodhouse from the Outdoor education centre out to the school to do some invertebrate investigations in our monarch waystation. Other classes have begun to explore trips/excursions within walking distance of the school.

- In the next few weeks, our school will begin the Nutrition for Learning program. Becca Maxwell and Meghan Wentworth are organizing a space for the program in the school and assigning grade 6 students to assist during breaks.

- Abe and Erb are getting ready to kick off our Thanksgiving Food Drive. Staff and a group of students will be collecting food starting Sept. 26th. Which is already this Monday! We will put information out on School Day, and announcements throughout next week. The sign outside will also be on display, so we're hoping that this will be a great first food drive.

Principal's Report for School Council
Wednesday, September 21st, 2022

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.

Abraham Erb Parent Council Financial Report

Current Bank Position				
as at Wednesday, June 15, 2022				
<u>Funds in Bank</u>		<u>June 15/22</u>	<u>Sept 12 /22</u>	
Bank - general				
Bank - WEFI*				
Total Bank		19,607.55	17,417.93	
<u>Committed to spend</u>				
	7,976.78	3,459.37		
Total budgeted funds for this year		<u>7,976.78</u>	-	
anticipated expenses for this year		4,517.41	-	
<u>Outstanding Items</u>				
refunded by WRDSB	-		-	
tax rebate received (credited)	<u>66.23</u>		-	
Funds available			<u>17,417.93</u>	

<u>Approved Budgeted/Expenses for this academic year</u>				
	<u>last year's Budget</u>	<u>Spent last year</u>	<u>Unspent:Committed</u>	<u>Budget this year</u>
Home reading books	1,070.00	500.00	570.00	0
Teacher resources	3,400.00	2488.58	911.42	0
Spiritwear	500.00	0.00	500.00	0
Needs-based necessities	500.00	0.00	500.00	0
Walkie Talkies	800.00	0.00	800.00	0
grade 6 ceremony	200.00	190.42	9.58	0
pinnies	300.00	280.37	19.63	0
Behaviour management system	266.57	0.00	266.57	0
Purchase of pinnies	490.71	0.00	490.71	0
Field trip- Sharp bus lines	449.50	0.00	449.50	0
Total	<u>7,976.78</u>	<u>3,459.37</u>	<u>4,517.41</u>	0