

Abraham Erb Public School

Apr 19, 2023 - Google Meet, 7:00 p.m.

Number of Attendees: 10

Attendees Names: attached for reference

Agenda item: Welcome, Introduction and Territorial Acknowledgement

Presenter: Ivy JY Cui

Agenda item: Approval of Feb. 15 Minutes

Presenter: Jodie Hancox-Meyer

Council approved the February 15, 2023 meeting minutes.

Agenda item: Teacher's report - Attached for reference

Presenter: Meghan Wentworth

Questions raised at the meeting:

1. Why was the date for the grade 6 field trip chose to be on the long weekend and are you anticipating a low attendance as it might be a travel week?

Meghan said that among many applicants for the camp luckily, they got the date and chose it as it is wise to grab the opportunity.

2. Alison asked about, is there a chance to opt-in/out for a day due to travel plans?

Meghan needs to check on that and get back with the options.

Agenda item: Principle's report - Attached for reference

Presenter: Jodie Hancox-Meyer

The province is going to recruit around 1000 new teachers and not sure about the number of teachers assigned for each school.

Questions raised at the meeting:

1. Motivation for the new trend in the French Immersion program?

Jodie explained that it is been under discussion and review for a very long time. The change would give the families take more time to take better informed decisions. Math teaching also changed from French to English cause many kids struggle to do due to French not of math.

Agenda item: Funding Request for Grade 6 celebration**Presenter: Jodie Hancox-Meyer**

- There was a brief discussion about the funding for Grade 6 celebrations. It would be good if the council approve an amount of \$250/-. The amount would be good enough for decoration and treats for kids. Anything rest will be covered by Jodie.
- School council voted on this and approved the amount.

Agenda item: PRO Grant Updates**Presenter: Jodie Hancox-Meyer**

- There was an update given about the applied PRO Grant amount and still we are waiting to hear back from the province. We are still not sure about how much will be approved.
- In past it was about on an average of \$500/-. If a greater number of schools applied the amount might be less or if a smaller number of schools applies then the amount might be more.

Agenda item: Potential Funding Top-Up Request**Presenter: Jodie Hancox-Meyer**

- As we are waiting for the approval on the PRO Grant there was a request of about \$1200/- for MAD Science STEAM education event.
- It should be paid upfront by the school council and then gets reimbursed after the PRO Grant approved.
- Allison wished luck to have more fund raising for the next year to top-up the council funds. Fall and Spring fund raising event planning to be done at the earliest next year.
- School council voted on the request for \$1200/- and approved it.

Questions:

1. There was a question about when the teacher's wish list usually approved by the school council? About the breakfast to Teachers by the School council?

Board is avoiding giving food or treats to the teachers as it is seen as giving gifts to them.

Teachers appreciate the wish list being provided by the council, but Jodie suggested the timing might be changed to end of fall. If it done as older times then the time the purchase orders received will be either late in the academic year or after the end of the year. It will not

serve the actual purpose or it may be of no use for that year and the requirements may change.

So, if we are getting the Teachers wish list/activity list for October's meeting next academic year it would be great.

Agenda item: ART Show and Book Swap Updates**Presenter: Ivy and Shelley**

There is a great additional volume of artwork that has been submitted, so we are in good shape for the Art show. Book Swap books in current state are also of good supply (more children's level vs adult but that's great).

Another reminder on the event timing etc., out this week via school day.

Mrs. Mueller have some rules that have been posted on the library door and on the first display table - such as, no touching of artwork, no running around the library to be cautious of the exhibits, that the library function will be closed during the event.

Ivy has sent a mail about the volunteers to watch the book swap tables and for inside the library to monitor the artwork and got the volunteers. The library will be closed that day after 1st nutrition break on for volunteers to do the setup of the artwork.

Jodie said that she can keep the door to be opened without someone always watching to allow the people in that evening. So, there might not be a need for someone to monitor the entrance and to guide families to the library and the Book Swap,

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

- Funds available as of Apr 19: \$ 11,725.
- WEFI Funds available as of Apr 19: \$435.

Agenda item: WRAPSC Update**Presenter: Vasudha Raghunathan**

To be Updated

Next meeting date: May 17, 2023

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:58 p.m.

School Council Meeting Members Attendance		
Date: Apr 19, 2023		Yes: 7 No: 13
Name	Position	Yes/No
Ivy Cui	Chair	Yes
Sirisha Puli	Secretary	Yes
Vasudha Raghunathan	Treasurer	No
Farhad Hossain	Voting Member	No
Alison Pickett	Voting Member	Yes
Suganthi Jayaseelan	Voting Member	No
Amy Le Roji	Voting Member	No
Hanan Alshommali	Voting Member	No
Sheila Sloot	Voting Member	No
Seun Soetan	Voting Member	No
Kai Zeng	Voting Member	Yes
Vashti Latchman	Voting Member	No
Leena Motwani	Voting Member	No
Artur Zepeda Chehaibar	Voting Member	No
Alex Korobkin	Voting Member	Yes
Lee Russell	Voting Member	Yes
Melinda Hecht- Enns	Voting Member	No
Massomeh Rudafshani	Voting Member	No
Julie Island	Voting Member	No
Vaidhehi Kumar	Community Rep.	Yes

School Staff attended: Jodie Hancox-Meyer, Shelley Carey, Meghan Wentworth.

Parents attended: none

Teachers' Report for School Council

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

March-April and upcoming activities at Abe!

(Please add anything you're doing in the classroom: field trips, workshops, etc, to let the community know the fantastic things that are being done here:).

Library: Forest of Reading program (ran from January with voting on favorite book during the last week of April)

Kindergarten classes had a visit from the firefighters in March. The kids enjoyed learning about these important community helpers.

Room 6 Kindie is now learning about habitats and will hopefully resume regular "Wednesday walks" to the neighborhood woodland and pond at the end of the month.

Art Week in Kindergarten Room 9.

We studied 4 artists and made 4 of their famous pieces. We learned about Eric Carle, Paul Klee, Alma Thomas, and Heri Rousseau. Here are a few pictures of the children's work.

Intramurals - handball

Twice a week teams of around 10-12 students take part in handball intramurals. Grades 4 and 5 are playing in one league and grade 6s in another. We are seeing fantastic sportsmanship, teamwork and lots of healthy competition. About 120 students are involved in handball intramurals altogether.

Cubing club-there's a Rubiks cube club that has been started at Ab Erb for grades three and four. Every Friday we meet in the choir loft and look at different algorithms through the use of videos and anchor charts and discover how to solve Rubiks cubes with the Grade three in fours. They are very excited about this new club and we had a great turn out last Friday.

Chess club: Mr. Walker is running a chess club for junior students in the library twice a week.

Popcorn Sales

- The grade 6's has been selling popcorn for the past 6 weeks and it has been met with great reception. The money raised will be going towards offsetting the cost for grade 6 camp. Popcorn sales will continue until the week before camp (May 18-19). So far we have raised around 1300 dollars.

Track and Field

- Junior classes are starting to practice for the track and field season - starting with high jump.
- The Abraham Erb Track Day is tentatively scheduled for May 30.

Jump Rope for Heart:

Planning has begun for our Jump Rope for Heart event which will take place mid- June. The kick off assembly will be held May 26th.

Spirit Day :

This month's spirit day is Rainbow Bright Day where students are encouraged to wear their wildest, brightest clothes and let their spirit shine.

Some of the classes will be picking up garbage around the neighborhood for Earth Day.

Room 25 & 28 had a visit from the Junior Giraffe Club at the beginning of March. Anne Innis Dagg is a Canadian zoologist and author who faced many challenges as a woman scientist in the 1950's. She is a pioneer in the study of animal behavior in the wild, with a special focus on giraffes.

Junior French Immersion students are participating in the March Madness style music competition called, Manie Musicale. This is a month-long competition that encourages students to listen to songs, learn about French artists and their home countries, and vote on which song they prefer. It's been great to see kids fall in love with current French music!

Room 25 & 28 are going to the University of Waterloo Earth Science Museum to learn about rocks, minerals and erosion.

On May 24 & 25 SmartWheels is coming to Abraham Erb. This is an Ontario curriculum-based program for students in grades 4 through 6 and is delivered in a modern, leading edge fully equipped mobile RV. The presentations are delivered by a MADD Canada Facilitator and teach students about the effects of alcohol and cannabis on developing brains and bodies.

Principal's Report for School Council

Wednesday, April 19th, 2023

School

This is a very busy time of year with lots going on.

Popcorn and pizza sales and distribution are running smoothly. Popcorn is run by Mrs. Wentworth and grade 6 students. Profits will be used to offset the costs of grade 6 camp in May. Our grade 6s will be recognized at a year-end Celebration event on Monday, June 26th from 2 – 3:30 p.m. in our gym. “Save the date” reminders have been sent home to all grade 6 families. It is the time of year when we start planning for next year. This involves submitting enrolment counts and starting the staffing process. Staffing season is very “fluid” with frequent tweaks and changes to our organization as we go along. Things won't be solidified until the beginning of September for the 2023-2024 school year.

In partnership with the City of Waterloo, Waterloo Regional Police and Student Transportation services of Waterloo Region (STSWR) we did a week-long safety blitz in our parking lot and on Laurelwood Drive a few weeks ago right after March Break. My understanding is that the City is going to continue to send bylaw officers out to Laurelwood Drive on a fairly regular basis. Additionally, we are going to have new/additional “fire zone – no parking” signs added to our lot at the front of the school and the lines in the lot are going to get repainted to further indicate the no-parking zone at the front of the school. The City is telling me that they continue to look for a replacement crossing guard at the corner of Laurelwood and American Beech but for now, we don't have one. Additionally, we shared information yesterday on School Day with all our families on behalf of the City of Waterloo, about the upcoming implementation of 30 km/hr speed limits in all school zones.

With the start of nice, mild weather and the defrosting of the ground, we have opened our creative playgrounds for the season again, which the kids are very excited about. We will also be practicing some more fire drills and a tornado drill between now and the end of June. We will be hosting a Volunteer Breakfast the morning of Thursday, May 25th in our library to recognize the amazing contributions of our many volunteers. More information, including invitations, will be forthcoming. All members of School Council are cordially invited to attend!

Board

The Psychology department continues to offer Lunch and Learn session for parents and caregivers in the month of April. More information can be found on the Board's website for those who may be interested.

As many of you are likely aware, there will be some significant changes to the French Immersion program starting in the fall of 2023. All FI families received a paper copy of a letter outlining these changes and a School Day blast was sent out to all of our families a few weeks

ago. In a nutshell, there will no longer be entry into the FI program in grade 1. Rather, families will indicate an interest of their grade 1 child to enter the FI program in grade 2. Starting in September, FI students will have 58% of their day taught in French (an increase from 50%). Also, English, Math and Science will be the subjects taught in English. All other subjects will be taught in French moving forward.

Province

Between May 10th and June 14th, all grade 3 and 6 students across the province will participate in EQAO testing. At Abraham Erb, we will be doing EQAO with our grades 3 and 6 students during the week of June 5th. This will include some of our Remote Learners, who will be coming into the school to participate in the testing. All students will receive an individual report in the fall. We will be sending home more information to families in the coming weeks.

Members of all 4 major teachers' unions in Ontario have been without a contract since the end of August 2022. Negotiations are ongoing at a provincial level, although quite slowly, and under a media blackout. Everyone, including teachers, await news of updates and progress.