
School Council Meeting Minutes – May 17, 2023

Abraham Erb Public School

May 17, 2023 - Google Meet, 7:00 p.m.

Number of Attendees: 13

Attendees Names: attached for reference

Agenda item: Welcome, Introduction and Territorial Acknowledgement

Presenter: Ivy JY Cui

Agenda item: Approval of Apr. 19 Minutes

Presenter: Jodie Hancox-Meyer

Council approved the April 19, 2023 meeting minutes.

Agenda item: Teacher's report - Attached for reference

Presenter: Meghan Wentworth

Meghan clarified for last meeting question, that 6th grader's camp has allowed students for half stay with a discount of half price. After the fund raising from Popcorn sales 30\$ was covered off for each student's camp ticket cost of 97\$.

Agenda item: Principle's report - Attached for reference

Presenter: Jodie Hancox-Meyer

Questions raised at the meeting:

1. Are the 6th grader's going by walk/bus for the orientation day to Laurelwood School?

The students will be going by bus to be safe side if it is going to be a rainy day. They don't want it to be postponed as it took two weeks to land on a date.

2. Jump rope for heart and Grade 6 orientation at Laruelwood public school both are on June 19th 2023

Agenda item: Students as Writers Project Proposal**Presenter: Taru and Andrew Cairns**

- There was a presentation given on the proposal. There was a brief discussion about the proposal how students are going to write the books in dual languages.
- This is going to be run like a class project where all the students individually or in pairs will be creating fiction or non-fiction text based on their cultural heritage or their own stories.
- Parent Volunteer involvement is to be planned for the corrections in the first languages is recommended as one parent had an experience with students using Google translator for the language translation.
- Student should know how to speak or write to choose the language.
- This is going to be a pilot project for the whole next academic year starting from Fall, target is to complete the printing and give the books to students by May.
- Each book is printed 3 copies, one for student, class and school libraries.
- Some of the benefits from the project were presented and requested for an amount of 360\$ for this pilot project.
- Council voted on the item (85.7% - YES; 14.3% - NO) and approved the amount and it should be updated in the treasurer report.
- There was suggestion to let know about the project to all the students to create interest in other students.

Questions raised at the meeting:

1. How is the class chosen for this project? Were only two languages selected from many languages spoken in the class? What are the criteria in choosing this class?

For this pilot project a French immersion class is selected, as all the students in the class knows both the languages. So, it can be for the entire class.

2. What is the future planning for the funds if more requests or more classes are joining?

After pilot they are planning for applying a board level funding for this type of projects through Parents Involving committee as more parent volunteer involvement needed to actual corrections of the language.

3. What was the previous project about?

Prior to this the books are for junior students with first language and English.

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

- There was an update given about the applied PRO Grant amount, that the grant was approved for full amount i.e., \$1200/-.
- There is a cost of \$280/- travel fees for the 7 scientists arriving for the MAD Science event to be held on May 31st. As school council agreed to fill-in the cost gaps for the event, the amount of \$280/- is considered an approved expense.
- A total of \$1480/- is to be spent for the MAD Science event and \$1200/- will be reimbursed after the PRO grant is received.

Agenda item: Principal Profile discussion**Presenter: Jodie Hancox-Meyer and Ivy**

- There was a brief discussion about this item and school council is to decide on filling the principal profile feedback form. There are three areas to be filled in for this report.

Questions raised:

1. Are there two reports to be given by the school council?

Jodie has given her input about this saying there is a year-end summary report to be given by the school council before July 30th. It should cover about all the events that school council involved during the academic year.

Second is the principal profile feedback report that has to be completed by the school council. This year the council decided to pass on this as Jodie has just arrived.

Agenda item: Recap on ART Show and Book Swap**Presenter: Jodie Hancox-Meyer**

- The event was a huge success and received a lot of positive feedback. Some even suggested to make this a yearly event.

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

- Funds available as of May 17: \$ 12,160.45.
- WEFI Funds available as of May 17: \$ 435.

Agenda item: WRAPSC Update
Presenter: Vasudha Raghunathan

1. There was one discussion happened about the communication of PRO Grants was not proper over the entire school board. How can they improve the communication to schools?
2. There is school council handbook for the bylaws and all the school councils has to be kept informed about that. The link to the handbook to be shared and attached to the minutes.

Discussion about School Council:

There was brief discussion about the school council as it is end of the school year. Election for the new school council will be held in September. The council voting members should be informed that they should be attending the meetings.

Questions:

1. How many members must be in School council?

As per the bylaws there can be up to 24 voting members in the school council and a minimum of 11 to 12 voting members.

Next meeting date: June 21, 2023

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.

School Council Meeting Members Attendance		
Date: May 17, 2023		Yes: 9 No: 11
Name	Position	Yes/No
Ivy Cui	Chair	Yes
Sirisha Puli	Secretary	Yes
Vasudha Raghunathan	Treasurer	Yes
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	Yes
Sheila Sloom	Voting Member	No
Seun Soetan	Voting Member	Yes
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	No
Lee Russell	Voting Member	No
Melinda Hecht- Enns	Voting Member	No
Massomeh Rudafshani	Voting Member	Yes
Julie Island	Voting Member	No
Vaidhehi Kumar	Voting Member	Yes

School Staff attended: Jodie Hancox-Meyer, Meghan Wentworth, Andrew Cairns.

Parents attended: Taru Malhotra

Teachers' Report for School Council

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

The latest and greatest at Abraham Erb!

Room 28 participated in an invasive plant species removal activity in White Cedar Forest. We met with a volunteer from the City of Waterloo and learned about the problem with invasive plant species (in particular Garlic Mustard) and how to successfully get rid of it. We pulled about four-yard bags full of Garlic Mustard out of the forest! We were rewarded with time well spent on a beautiful day in the forest and a freezie for the walk back to school.

~Miss. Fox

Room 10 has studied volume and capacity by borrowing sand and water tables from the kindergarten rooms. We measured the length of dinosaurs on small cards, through toys and then measured the real length of dinosaurs using meter sticks in the hallway! The Barosaurus (48m) went from the fire doors by the kindergarten room - all the way to pod 1! Loads of fun! We are also in the midst of making a paper mini-town to show important aspects of communities, including the things that people need and important community helpers. We are looking forward to our Tim Horton's center to study coins and money!

~Ms Watson

The Running Club has started for junior students! Mr. Moffet has organized an amazing program where students are playing games while getting lots of exercise. This is a great way for students to practice for Track & Field while having fun with friends after school. The group went for their first forest run where they played relay races in small groups. Various teachers, from primary and junior, have been out to support this club that takes place twice a week until the end of June.

- Mme McAllister

Ms. Varady, Mr. Pool and Mme McAllister's class had a fantastic visit from Wild Ontario. This organization is an environmental and science education program in the Department of Integrative Biology at the University of Guelph. Students had the opportunity to see a red-tailed hawk, an American kestrel, and a great horned owl up close!

- Mme McAllister

Principal's Report for School Council

Wednesday, May 17th, 2023

School

- In partnership with Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region (STSWR), we will be having a “bike to school week” from May 29th to June 2nd. We will be doing daily announcements to encourage students to ride their bikes to school and doing a “count” of bikes in the racks to submit to STSWR for a chance to win a prize for our school (a new bike rack).
- Next year, we will be making a small change to our daily schedule. School start and end times will remain the same (9:10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.) We will be having 4 periods of instruction, followed by 1st NB, followed by another 4 periods of instruction, followed by 2nd NB, followed by 2 periods of instruction at the end of the day. Currently, we are following a 4-3-3 model. The rationale behind this is to increase the instructional blocks when students are at their freshest and best able to learn. It will also create the opportunity for more double periods of instruction. This will shift the time of our second nutrition break to 1:50 – 2:30 (currently it is 1:20 – 2:00). Our website will be updated accordingly.
- Our Art Show and Book Swap on April 27th was a huge success! The event was very well attended and lots of positive feedback was received. Personally, I think this would be an excellent even to run on a yearly basis.
- We will be having a Jump Rope for Heart event day on June 19th where all students will participate in a variety of fun activities, including skipping during the second block of the day. On May 26th, we will be having a Jump Rope for Heart assembly for all the students to talk about the event and the option of students being able to do some fundraising for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Donations will be accepted online and also in cash for any families interested in participating in the fundraising portion of this event.
- This is a very busy time of year with many events on the horizon. Our Volunteer Breakfast is being held the morning of May 25th in our library from 8 – 9 a.m. Our Kindergarten Open House is the evening of June 12th from 6 – 7 p.m. Our Junior Track and Field meet will be held on May 30th and the Regional Track and Field meet is at Jacob Hespeler Secondary School on June 21st. All of our grade 3 and 6 students will be participating in EQAO testing the week of June 5th – June 9th. Grades 6s are going to Camp Ki-way on May 18th and 19th and will also be visiting Laurelwood PS on Jun 19th for an orientation.

Board

- Two of our WRDSB elementary school have now officially been renamed. Ryerson PS in Cambridge is now called Blue Heron PS. A.R. Kaufman PS in Kitchener is now called Hillside PS. The school renaming process is a part of our commitment to making concrete changes in support of the Calls to Action outlined by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The WRDSB began the renaming process for both schools in early 2023. The work was led by School Renaming Committees, made up of trustees, school staff, board staff, parents & caregivers, students, community members, Indigenous community members and representatives from community organizations.
- The Waterloo Educational Foundation Incorporated (WEFI) has renewed their commitment to funding local organizations that support student nutrition programs. The WEFI Board of Directors passed a motion to provide \$30,000 to be distributed equally to our community partners Food4Kids Waterloo Region, the May Court Club of Kitchener-Waterloo and Nutrition for Learning.
- Two WRDSB trustee positions are now vacant. Sadly, Trustee Fred Meissner passed away suddenly last week. All our school flags will be flying at half-mast until the day of his funeral. Trustee Marie Snyder has also recently resigned her position due to health reasons.

Province

- The Ministry of Education has recently announced that they will be updating the Grade 10 Career Studies curriculum to include mental health literacy and is introducing mandatory resources for teachers and students on mental health literacy in Grades 7 and 8. The Ministry will also be providing funding to further students' access to school-based mental health professional and services year round, along with helping Boards meet local needs and priorities related to mental health, including professional development, student engagement, wellness promotion. We will have to wait for more details on what this will look like for us in the WRDSB.