

Abraham Erb Public School

School Council Meeting Minutes

(Generated by Sirisha Puli, Reviewed by Ivy Cui)

Date: 15 Nov 2023, 19:00 EDT

Attendees:

From the school: Jodie Hancox-Meyer, Shelley Carey, Meghan Wentworth

Parents and Community Member: Hadas Avni-Peleg, Alex Korobkin, Melinda Hecht- Enns, Sirisha Puli, Hanan Alshommali, Vaidhehi Kumar.

Meeting Summary

The meeting started on time and minutes for the October 18th meeting are approved with a small correction of the date for Book Fair event. During the meeting, the teachers report and the principal's report was presented. There was discussion about the board's math action plans and ideas to utilize the parent involvement grant amount. Welcoming the ideas to spend the PIC grant and ideas for fund raising events, the meeting is adjourned at 7:55 pm. The next meeting has been scheduled for January 17th 2024, with a pre-meeting planned to set the agenda.

Topics & Highlights

1. Teachers and Principles reports are attached for reference

2. Principal's Report

- Vaidehi asked about the overview on the board's math action plan. Jodie said that some coaches are being recruited and planning committees are formed to provide extra help in progressing the achievement of the math skills. They mainly focus on selecting the school based on the EQAO results that are below the provincial level and help the kids in the selected schools to progress.

3. Treasurer's Report

- Last month, the council has a total of \$11,758. Approval of \$1500/- for PhyEd equipment and \$300/- for spirit wear purchases has updated in the expenses as they are committed by the council. Currently the council has a total of \$9958/-.

4. Spirit Wear

- School day mail reminder is being sent for parents to order and all the orders will be delivered to school without any shipping fees.
- Teachers have identified around 13 kids whose families may not be able to afford buying the spirit Wear and Jodie will be ordering T-shirts for those kids with the approved 300\$ by the council.
- Hanan asked did we receive any samples for the spirit wear to check the sizes of the clothing? Jodie said we haven't received any samples and Ivy is the right person to provide answers for all the queries related to Spirit wear and can be easily reached through email.

5. Book Fair

- A week from today the book fair packages will be arrived and there is good turnout from the parents for volunteering. Everything is going smooth as planned.
- A donation box is planned to be kept at the library during the book fair to collect any donations from parents for the week of giving.

6. Parent Involvement Grant

- There is a grant amount of \$500 for parent involvement activities and Jodie has asked the council members and parents to come up with ideas.
- That being said one idea was to conduct the same "Five the magic show" as last year which was a great hit. If the same option is chosen then some arrangement plans [like stage] has to be planned in order to accommodate the crowd properly.
- Another idea was to plan a multi cultural fair/International day. Arranging booths for each community to showcase their cultural diversities, share their living styles, different household things they use, and can even plan a cultural fashion show. Can also plan in making a recipe book with some selected recipes from each community. The idea is liked, but there was a question on where the money is being spent on? So, more insight is needed on this idea.
- When there was a question about how often this type of event is shared with the neighbouring school, Jodie said it is possible but there will be more planning needed and more layers of complexity is included. It requires planning with involving both the school councils and more work for the people organising the event. It is also difficult to accommodate two school communities in one school building.
- This item is still open for more ideas and will be added to the next meeting agenda for more discussion.

7. Collecting and Raising Funds

- A potential fund raiser event has to be planned and the ideas will be open for discussion in the next school council meeting.

8. Next meeting and agenda

- The next meeting is scheduled for **January 17, 2024** and the chair, treasurer, and Jodie will have a quick online meeting about a week before to put the agenda together.

Attendees at the School Council Meeting November 15th 2023:

2023-2024 School Council Members		
		Yes: 6 No: 8
Name	Position	Yes/No
Ivy Cui	Chair	No
Hadas Avni-Peleg	Treasurer	Yes
MeetGeek Notes	Secretary	
Alex Korobkin	Voting Member	Yes
Melinda Hecht- Enns	Voting Member	Yes
Sirisha Puli	Voting Member	Yes
Vasudha Raghunathan	WRAPSC Rep	No
Amy Le Roji	Non-Voting Member	No
Stephen liu	Non-Voting Member	No
Hanan Alshommali	Non-Voting Member	Yes
Kai Zeng	Non-Voting Member	No
Katie Bates	Non-Voting Member	No
Prajaktha Kashalkar	Non-Voting Member	No
Ruchi Gera	Non-Voting Member	No
Vaidhehi Kumar	Community Rep.	Yes

Principal's Report for School Council

Wednesday, November 15th, 2023

School

Our photo retake day was on November 8th. We were able to take the photos of any student who were absent on our first photo day, along with re-takes for those who weren't happy with their first photo.

On November 20th, all students will receive a Progress Report Card (grades 1 – 6) or an Initial Observation of Learning Report (Kindergarten). Parents are encouraged to sign and return the bottom portion of the report card to their child(ren)'s teacher(s) as soon as possible. Parents are also encouraged to reach out to their child(ren)'s teacher(s) if they have any questions or wish to discuss their child's progress.

All students participated in Bus Evacuation Training on October 20th. This was organized by Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region. Prior to this day, all classes watched an age-appropriate education video about school bus safety. This is important training even though most of our students walk to school as all students will be involved in riding busses for field trips over the course of their time in school. The bus drivers running the training commented on how well behaved and respectful our students at Abraham Erb are, which is always wonderful feedback to get!

We held a Remembrance Day assembly on Friday, November 10th. It was a lovely ceremony and tribute to those who have served, continue to serve and all those who have been impacted by war. Our choir performed, classes each created and laid a wreath and many of our junior students had leadership roles in the planning and running of the assembly.

Mrs. Nickolic's class participated last year in a project with the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery. Indigenous artist and educator Naomi Smith led free class workshops with select grade 5 students, and also ran similar workshops with adults with dementia. This program recently won an award of excellence recognizing outstanding contributions to the museum community with emphasis on innovation.

Board

Grade 8 Information Nights are being hosted by all secondary schools in the WRDSB (November – January depending on the school). More information can be found on the WRDSB website.

The WRDSB has created a Policy Review Process which gives an opportunity for the public to provide feedback on WRDSB policies. This process will occur twice a year. Input will be reviewed by the Board of Trustees and by the WRDSB staff responsible for drafting the policy. More information about the process is available on the WRDSB website.

Last year's 2022-2023 Board Improvement and Equity Plan outcomes are now available on the WRDSB website.

Province

A deal with ETFO Support Staff (WRDSB DECEs) was reached and has been ratified.

OSSTF negotiations (WRDSB high school teachers, secretaries, library clerks) have proceeded to the stage of binding arbitration, which means that a central party will decide what the new contract terms and conditions will be. We are in “wait and see” mode with this.

ETFO (WRDSB teachers) are still working with a conciliator on their negotiations. A strike mandate has been given by member. Again, we are in a “wait and see” mode.

OECTA members have also given their union a strike mandate, though that will have no impact on the WRDSB.

Teachers' Report for School Council

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

What's happening at Abraham Erb!

Volleyball Club is happening after school for Grades 5 and 6 students on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school for 3 weeks, providing the opportunity to play games, develop skills and socialize with peers.

Our Jr. Choir will continue rehearsals through the rest of November and into December as we prepare for our Winter Variety Show performances in December on 20/21. Students in Grades 4,5,6 will meet 1 or 2x a week at nutrition breaks to fine tune their performance skills and work as a team to create something really special.

We're all excited to start our planning for the Winter Variety Show!

Grade 1s will start skating this month.

Kids in many grades are going to see the Nutcracker to support a former student. The performance will be on December 4th at the UW Theatre of the Arts.

Popcorn Sales

Popcorn sales are running every Tuesday at first and second nutrition breaks. Parents have the opportunity to preorder for their child/children on school day, which opens on Tuesday afternoon and closes Friday morning. There is always the option for cash and carry the day of as well.

Room 9 Kindergarten- planting tulip bulbs in our outdoor garden for the spring.

Also, we are growing pumpkins seeds through the winter hopefully move to our outdoor garden in the spring.

Room 6 - student led inquiry on space and weather.

-The "Week of Giving" will also commence the week of December 11-15. Items included Mittens and Cozy Items, Toys/Games, Toiletries, Food Items and Fun Friday! Please note that only "NEW" items will be asked to be donated and our team will be distributing the items to families in need within our building and those in our community.