

6:30-7:00 Meet and Greet

Thanks to Lori Briscoe for the coffee and baked goods. It was an opportunity to get to know other parents at the school. There was also information displayed about various ways to get involved at the school.

7:00-7:05 Welcome, Jennifer McKinnon

The Keatsway School Council meets monthly during the school year. A major role of School Council is to create a level environment for all students in terms of opportunities, field trips and activities available. The meetings provide the opportunity to share information and provide parent input to school, School Board and Ministry of Education programs and plans. The mandate of the Council is to provide parents/guardians with the means to advise the principal and the board on ideas, which lead to improving learning opportunities for students. Keatsway School Council also provides support for the students through fundraising activities. All Keatsway parents are welcome and encouraged to attend the monthly meetings. Community members, including parents of children who will be attending Keatsway in the future, are also welcome at all meetings.

7:05-7:40 Principal's Report, Lori Briscoe

Principal Lori Briscoe reported on the various activities in the classrooms, from the Kindergarten students settling in and learning routines, to the Grade 6 Camp.

On Monday, September 26, an information night was held at the school to discuss the new Ontario Health Curriculum. It was an opportunity for parents to learn specifically about how Keatsway will be addressing the various expectations within each grade level. Ms. Mezo, health teacher, led the evening's discussion, together with Lori Briscoe and Brian Weigel. There were 3 language interpreters (requests had been made available on the form that went home with students), and twenty parents came for the talk. Ms. Mezo presented the Health Curriculum information, clarified any fears or misconceptions, and answered questions. In the end, all parents left well informed, and did not request any special accommodations.

Lori presented information on Ontario Physical Education (OPHEA) guidelines, updated for September 2016. All teachers are required to follow these guidelines, be it for Physical Education (gym) or Daily Physical Activity (DPA). For example, there are new guidelines that address jewellery when participating in either gym or DPA. Teachers may choose from different activities, based on grade level, but as students reach higher grade levels, there are more activities that are subject to these guidelines. For example, some activities require no exposed jewellery, some no hanging jewellery, and some no jewellery at all. More information can be found here: <http://safety.ophea.net/>

Lori presented on new initiatives at Keatsway addressing mindfulness and meditation. At the first assembly of the year, the theme was Mindful Eating. A video of a reading of the book *No Ordinary Apple* was shown. Students have been asked to take the first ten minutes of their twenty-minute eating portion of Nutrition Break to remain quiet, practise mindful eating, and focus on their food. It is not a rule or

compliance task, but rather a way to encourage mindful eating, which might include thinking about being grateful (to parents, to farmers, etc), or how eating fuels and nourishes. Later that week, students also participated in mindfulness activities with guest Steph Van De Ven. Such activities have been shown to help children with things such as focus, self-regulation, and anxiety.

The dress code at Keatsway has been updated to provide more general terminology. It can be seen in the students' planners. School Council can review this dress code and revisit at future meetings, if desired.

Current enrolment is at 383, and there are five new staff members.

Staff list on the Keatsway website gets updated by the board. At this point, it has not yet been updated.

New staff and other changes:

Mark Tinning - afternoons, ½ time. Drama, Dance, DPA, and Kindergarten planning

Tammy Stinson - .7 LTO for Music, plans to continue with ukulele, recorder, and choir, including Kodaly choir.

Stephanie Amaral - Grade 2/3 French Immersion

Gitta Voisin - .3 Art for French Immersion classes, now has her own portable; the rest of her time is spent in her role as Special Education teacher

Surekha Sharma - Grade 1 (English)

Lisa Gillians - Kindergarten, on medical leave

Ashley Strauss - Kindergarten

Sarah Lichty - DECE (not to be confused with Sarah Lichti, on staff, Kindergarten)

Sher Byers - Kindergarten teacher

Vice Principal Brian Weigel - ½ time at Keatsway, ½ time at Centennial. Staffing of a VP is based on a school's needs, and enrolment.

Donna Showers - full time. Library is now open every day. The two times per week that Mrs. Showers has front office hours, Janet Connelly staffs the library.

Katherine Chrysafides - .8 ESL

Mr. Logel retired as of October 2016, Fredi Funes currently Head Custodian.

Lori provided "What do you want to hear?" sheets for people to contribute their ideas of what they would like her to present at future meetings.

7:40-7:45 Teacher's Report, Carrie Bentz

Clubs and sports to start soon:

- Running Club has begun, takes place during 2nd Nutrition Break
- Minecraft Club
- Choir: Primary students - to sing at assemblies; Junior - to participate in Kodaly choir
- Grade 5-6 volleyball and Junior volleyball intramurals to begin soon,
- Recorder Club

Terry Fox Run to take place Friday, Sept. 30. Grade six students had their own run on Tuesday, Sept. 27, since they left for Grade 6 Camp on Sept. 28. Students have been invited to bring in loonies and toonies, continuing into following week. If goal of \$800 achieved, students earn an extra long recess. Students were involved in choosing the reward.

Special events planned for 150th anniversary of Canada's Confederation

7:45-8:00 Chair's Report, Patricia Shaw

Patricia Shaw, Co-Chair from 2015-2016, provided final report. She has left her binder and USB stick with all information and notes.

Patricia Shaw submitted annual report to WRDSB. It is to be posted in the school.

Patricia presented update on Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants for School Councils. Patricia filled out and submitted PRO Grant in June.

This grant for \$1000 can be applied towards the following:

- Lecture/event series held over 3 dates/nights, addressing Curriculum K-6, with a focus on math; Anxiety and Mental Health; and Mindfulness. Proposed that these events be led by board staff.
- Books for Parent Resource shelf in library
- Translation services for the event
- Childcare, refreshments, and workshop material during events

Patricia pointed out that many grants are available in the School Council Handbook, some of which can be tapped into for outdoor playground fundraising.

Patricia completed the Principal's Report. She had asked for input, but received none.

Jennifer McKinnon, co-chair, expressed gratitude and appreciation for all the work that Patricia contributed to school council, including returning for this meeting, despite the fact that her youngest is no longer at Keatsway. Patricia is an inspiration, her presence will be felt at Keatsway for years to come.

Action Item: At the end of the year, School Council is required to fill out a report. Patricia left paperwork and password for the grant.

8:00-8:10 Approval of Minutes from May 25, 2016 meeting

Action items from May 25, 2016 meeting:

1. Set up School Council table at Meet the Staff event in September

Table was set up by Jennifer McKinnon at Meet the Staff event.

2. Add 30-45 minute social time at the beginning of September meeting

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3. Provide written notice in September information envelope about School Council meetings

Information included in September paperwork that was sent home to all students.

4. Cheryl to contact Martin's about supplying apples for school meet.

Cheryl contacted Martin's Apples, they provided apples for school meet.

5. When Patricia receives information on Math Night, she will forward to Jennifer McKinnon

Patricia sent information to Jennifer.

Motion to approve Minutes of May 25, 2016 Meeting.

1st: Heidi Van Schaik

2nd: Patricia Shaw

Approved: Yes

8:10-8:15 Science Fair Report, Sheila Vardy

2017 marks Keatsway Science Fair's 20th anniversary. To ensure maximum participation numbers, a good date has been booked. March 1, 2017 - after (but not immediately following) Family Day, after Reading Week.

Sheila and Betty Pries are looking for input on ways to celebrate its 20th year.

Sheila has been in communication with We-Connect (U of Waterloo Outreach program). They can come and do demonstrations prior to event, provide Science Professionals for the event.

Patricia will pass on contact information for an outreach person at UW for Engineering

Discussion of planning a kick-off assembly, providing support system at school for students to prepare, science fair "brown bag" events

Discussion of communicating with Centennial, who has well-established science fair success. Find out how they organize their event, how they use UW resources.

This marks Betty Pries' final year at Keatsway. Sheila and Betty looking for someone to join them, to carry on after Betty leaves.

8:15-8:40 Fundraising Report, Heidi Van Schaik

Fundraising meeting held in June. There was discussion of what fundraising should look like, how to include as many people as possible.

2016-2017 is a Fun Fair year. (School Musical and Fun Fair alternate)

As of this point in the year:

ESNS forms sent home.

Mabels Labels has so far raised \$110, link is on website, and on school supply lists.

Fall Fundraising kicks off September 29, ends just after Thanksgiving. Goal is to raise \$8000. Kick-off assembly has taken place. Three ways to be involved:

1. Lamontagne chocolate bar sales. \$3/bar, case of 30 bars. Keatsway makes 50% of sales (No gift/gift wrap etc catalogues will be sent home this year)
2. New this year, Fresh From the Farm - orders of bundles of locally grown produce (Martin's Apples, potatoes, onions, carrots, squash, sweet potatoes) can be preordered, delivery in November. Keatsway makes 40% of sales.
3. Donations. Donations can be made directly to Keatsway. 100% goes to Keatsway.

New prize structure. Different levels of prizes. Students earn raffle tickets. All three ways qualify to earn raffle tickets, and they can enter draws for prizes of their choice. Prizes for top-selling class, and for top-participating class

Chapters Bookstore Night Nov. 4. Details to come.

Holiday Bazaar being discussed.

Boston Pizza Night will be planned

FlipGive website. There will be a link on Keatsway website. Links to various online merchants. With one extra click, Keatsway will receive 4-50% of sale. No additional charges for purchasers.

Fun Fair - tentative date set for June 15.

8:40-8:50 Election of Officers and signing up for Committees

Sign-up sheets put out for various committees and volunteer opportunities, including Fundraising, Fun Fair, Home Reading, Milk/Pizza, Bylaw, WRAPSC, Science Fair.

As committees are established, it is to determined if a committee makes the decisions, or if they put decisions to a vote at School Council meetings.

School Council Officers:

Co-Chairs - Cheryl de Koning and Heidi Van Schaik

Treasurer - Jennifer McKinnon

Secretary - Christine Valente

Committees:

Playground - Tracy Castell

The Waterloo Region Assembly of Public School Councils (WRAPSC) looking for parents.

The Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) also looking for parents to apply for positions.

8:50 Adjournment, Jennifer McKinnon

Motion to adjourn.

1st: Jennifer McKinnon

2nd: Sheila Vardy

Approved: Yes

Secretary: Christine Valente

Future meetings will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:00

November 8, December 6, January 17, February 21, April 18, May 23

Babysitting is available at all Keatsway School Council meetings.

Please bring only sealable travel mugs into the library.