

6:30 Welcome, Cheryl De Koning

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.

6:35-7:20 WRDSB Presentation on School Day, Vicky Weir

Vicky presented on how School Day works in the WRDSB. School-Day is an online cashless system for use by parents, teachers and office administrative staff. The Board is implementing School-Day to minimize the handling of cash by teachers and office staff, reduce paper, and streamline office efficiencies.

School Day is intended to help parents sign up for extra-curricular events, approve permission forms; sign up for parent/teacher interviews; minimize the risks associated with sending money to school with their child (“backpack delivery”); and reduce the environmental impact of photocopying permission forms and announcements. Multiple students can be created under one account, and the profiles follow the students within the WRDSB if they change schools, enter secondary schools, etc. For more information, go to <https://www.wrdsb.ca/our-schools/using-school-day>

7:20-7:22 Approval of Minutes from from Feb 21, 2017 meeting, Heidi Van Schaik

Motion to approve Minutes of February 21, 2017 Meeting.

1st: Jennifer McKinnon **2nd:** Cheryl De Koning **Approved:** Yes

7:22-7:35 Principal’s Report, Lori Briscoe

Principal Lori Briscoe reported on the various activities in the classrooms, based on the students’ contributions of highlights of their favourite activities.

Enrollment at Keatsway is currently at 377, down from 440, which puts us in an “enrollment transfer position”. This will affect staffing for fall 2017. We will have four full-time Kindergarten classes, and 17 classrooms, which represents one less class in the English stream. There will be two French Immersion Grade 1 classes. Carolyn Neumann VanderBurgh, a teacher who has been on leave, is returning.

A Walk in Their Sneakers to take place on April 19, 2017. City of Waterloo initiative, together with Region of Waterloo Public Health, Waterloo Regional Police Service, and Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region. Students can walk to school along a designated route, accompanied by police officers. For details, see <http://schools.wrdsb.ca/kea/files/2017/04/Keatsway-Poster.pdf>

7:35-7:40 Teacher’s Report, Carrie Bentz (Regrets. Presented by Lori Briscoe)

Clubs, sports, and activities underway: Silver Birch Reading Club, Choir, Coding Club, Sphero Coding Club, Free the Children, Minecraft Club. Glee Club. Kodaly concert at Centre in the Square on May 2, 2017.

See Keatsway’s website for Clubs and Athletics updates.
<https://kea.wrdsb.ca/clubs-and-athletics/>

Loretta Penny came to visit Keatsway on April 12 to present *Oceans Alive*.
For more information, see
<https://kea.wrdsb.ca/2017/04/10/loretta-pennys-oceans-alive-presentation-april-12/>

Track and Field season begins in May. Field will be painted on May 13. School Meet is on May 29. The Area Track and Field Meet will take place during the day on June 15, the same date as Fun Fair, which runs in the evening.

Jump Rope for Heart assembly is May 3, and the event takes place on May 19, 2017.

See Keatsway’s website for Calendar updates: <https://kea.wrdsb.ca/calendar/>

7:40-7:50 Playground Update, Heidi Van Schaik

After routine inspections over the last several years, it has been determined that the smaller playground has very limited life left in it, as parts have been progressively removed. Funding for playgrounds relies on School Council. In the fall, a mother of two of our Keatsway students approached us with an exciting proposition for the design of our playground. Rania Al-Hammoud came up with a project for her first year U of W engineering students to design a playground for Keatsway. The university students met with Keatsway students to brainstorm on playground ideas. Apart from their own class requirements, all designs had to meet

specifications with regard to CSA compliance, budget constraints, etc. Members of School Council, Lori Briscoe, and Rob Seeley, WRDSB Facility Services, viewed 35 student presentations at the university, and chose the top 10. These 10 groups presented to Keatsway students and teachers at an assembly on April 4. The kids had a blast, and articles were posted on the record and CBC websites. Students cast their votes for the top 3 designs. These designs will be on display at the Fun Fair on June 15, when students can vote to choose one design. Keatsway is under no obligation to use this design, however the design process represents a significant portion of a playground budget, and we can adapt to suit restrictions and specifications.

7:50-8:00 Fun Fair Update, Heidi Van Schaik

Planning is underway for Keatsway's Fun Fair, to be held on June 15, 2017. The theme is "Canada's 150th". Carnival-style games are being organized, and there will be a silent auction in the gym. A flyer was sent out in early April, requesting volunteers and silent auction donations. Teachers have chosen themes for their classroom baskets, and flyers will go home shortly. It was confirmed that items are distributed amongst classroom baskets, should there be any shortfalls. Thought is being given to maximize accessibility to the silent auction, as parents are often busy outside with their children between 5 and 8 pm.

8:00-8:05 What's On Your Mind, Cheryl De Koning

Updates on other fundraising efforts: Flipgive, Mabel's Labels. Parissa Bohlouli and Jennifer have offered to organize Staff Appreciation Lunch. Final School Council meeting will be pot-luck (snacks/treats).

8:05 Adjournment, Cheryl De Koning

Motion to adjourn.

1st: Hilary Bergsieker **2nd:** Jennifer McKinnon **Approved:** Yes

Secretary: Christine Valente

Next and final meeting of this year will be held on Tuesday, May 23, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm

Babysitting is available at all Keatsway School Council meetings.

Please bring only sealable travel mugs into the library.