

6:30 Welcome, Heidi Van Schaik

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.

6:39-6:40 Approval of Minutes from from May 23, 2017 meeting, Heidi Van Schaik

Motion to approve Minutes of May 23, 2017 Meeting.

1st: Sheila Vardy **2nd:** Jennifer McKinnon **Approved:** Yes

6:40-6:55 Principal's Report, Penny Miller

Penny Miller, Principal, introduced herself to School Council.

Enrollment on the first day of school this year was 385, and to date has increased to 400.

New staff this year: Mrs. Hankins, science and health, Mrs. Kras, Kindergarten; Mrs. Makrykakis, Grade 1; Mrs. Vandenburg, music; and two new EAs, Ms. Mikel and Ms. Gierscher.

Assembly held on the first Friday was focused on the book *Beautiful Hands* by Bret Baumgarten, a book that celebrates how hands can do so many wonderful things, such as plant ideas; stretch imaginations; and reach for dreams.

Early Math Initiatives program to run at Keatsway. 30 minutes five times a week for ten weeks, modelled after Early Literacy Alliance of Waterloo. Those struggling with math concepts are identified and helped in key areas such as learning math facts and automaticity.

School Improvement Team has been organized, with the aim of establishing instructional goals in the areas of math, graduation rates, and wellness. Teachers on this team are Mr. Craig, Mme Morrison, Ms. Jackson, and Ms. Voisin.

Safe, Caring and Inclusive Schools team will meet two to three times a year, and will lead projects such as assemblies and forming playground leaders.

Various safety drills held this week and next.

Terry Fox run to take place on Sept. 29, after first Nutrition Break.

Grade Six Camp takes place next week.

6:55-7:00 Teacher's Report, Carrie Bentz

Clubs, sports, and activities underway or to begin in October: Junior Choir, Free the Children, Volleyball.

See Keatsway's website for Clubs and Athletics updates.

<https://kea.wrdsb.ca/clubs-and-athletics/>

7:00-7:05 Financial Update, Jennifer McKinnon

Approximately \$8,000 was raised at the Fun Fair in June.

"Ford Drive4UR School" event in August raised \$900, plus an additional \$395 in donations.

Meet the Teacher pizza sales raised \$800.

Approximately \$28,000 in funds for playground.

More details to be presented at October meeting.

7:05-7:20 Fundraising Update, Heidi Van Schaik

Fall fundraising campaign underway. The fall fundraising is estimated to raise majority of funds needed for our budgeted operating costs. Most funds are raised from chocolate bar sales, and again this year, we will be offering Fresh From the Farm bundles. Ongoing funds from Mabel's Labels, and Flippgive. Partnership with Lion's Club of Kitchener, providing four adult volunteers for their evening Oktoberfest parking for two weekends. In turn, they will donate \$1500 to our playground fund.

7:20-7:45 Playground Update, Heidi Van Schaik

Background discussed. Twice a year, playgrounds are inspected. Over time, various elements that are not deemed safe have been removed from the original playground, which was built 40 years ago. At one time, there were swings and three slides. The remaining play structure (what is referred to as the "primary" playground) has had parts removed and is showing its age. It is a matter of time before inspections deem it will need to be removed.

Estimates to build new playground as per designs chosen are \$50,000 to \$75, 000. Currently funds are close to \$30,000.

Rob Seeley, WRDSB Facilities Manager, has been meeting with Heidi, and has suggested that \$30,000 should be enough purchase the challenge circuit portion of the designs. He also suggested an exact location for a GaGa Ball pit. The new portables were positioned in such a way that in future, no portable can be installed in that location.

Motion: To put the Challenge Circuit out to tender, and to build in fall if possible.

1st: Heidi Van Schaik **2nd:** Jennifer McKinnon **Approved:** Yes

Motion: To build a GaGa Ball pit this fall, in the location between portables 3 and 4.

1st: Heidi Van Schaik **2nd:** Sarah Woods Weber **Approved:** Yes

More volunteers are needed for the Playground Committee, especially in the area of researching and applying for grants, and pursuing corporate and community donations.

Suggestions were made to research donations of mulch, either from private tree farms or landscape suppliers, or the City or Region of Waterloo. Alternatively, to research donation of rubber mulch, as it is a longer term solution..

7:45-8:00 Snack and Lunch Program Update, Jennifer McKinnon

Nutrition for Learning starting up. Currently, the menu includes cheese and crackers, carrots, juice, raisins, whole grain goldfish, yogurt, granola bars, and apples. Volunteers pack bins per classroom each morning, deliver to classrooms, and place them outside classroom door. Student volunteers collect bins and return to milk room, then place cooler bags in fridge. Parent volunteers empty bags. There is an opportunity to use this program to supplement needs for students who come to school without lunch, or who need a snack at other times in the day.

Volunteers are needed. Contact Wendy Kennedy wctkennedy@gmail.com if you can help by:

- Packing and delivering bins between 9:30-10:00 am Mon-Fri
- Repackaging crackers, carrots, goldfish into individual servings
- Emptying bins and recording amounts eaten, afternoons, Mon-Fri

Lunch program last year, which was run through ESNS, included milk Mon-Fri; pizza on Mondays; Boston Pizza on Thursdays; and snacks on Wednesdays. Sales dropped last year. Discussion of switching to school day instead of ESNS, as there will be a better profit margin, and less advance notice required for placing or cancelling orders. Milk will be dropped, as it is not the best use of resources in terms of planning and preparation, and dairy is included in the

Nutrition for Learning program. We will keep pizza, plus one specialty item per month, and one specialty meal or hot dog lunch per month.

8:00-8:15 Election of Officers and Signing Up for Committees

Co-Chairs: Cheryl De Koning and Heidi Van Schaik

Treasurer: Jennifer McKinnon

Secretary: Christine Valente

Motion: For current officers to retain positions.

1st: Alexis Rutherford **2nd:** Ivy Friedman **Approved:** Yes

Sign up sheets circulated for Committees: Fundraising, Events, Home Reading, Lunch Program, Playground, Bylaw

WRAPSC rep needed.

8:15 Motion to Adjourn

1st: Sheila Vardy **2nd:** Alexis Rutherford **Approved:** Yes

Secretary: Christine Valente

Future meetings will be held on Thursdays:
October 19, November 16, January 18, February 15, April 19, and May 17.

Babysitting is available at all Keatsway School Council meetings.

Please bring only sealable travel mugs into the library.