



Shingwàkons Public School

School Council Minutes (November 22, 2022)

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes taken during the October 25, 2022, School Council meeting will be distributed to the School Council via email for approval.

2. School Report

Colleen Scott (Grade 1 teacher (EFI)) provided a summary of the various activities currently underway at Shingwàkons Public School. These activities include the following:

- a. Remembrance Day Assembly: An assembly was held for grade 1 to 5 classes in the school gym. A separate assembly was held for kindergarten students. The school was honoured to have members of the military at the assembly. Students, staff, and members of the community had an opportunity to recognize and honour veterans. All classes made wreaths for the assembly. Many classes also put together songs and poems.
- b. Sports: Borden Ball intramurals are being held during recess. Any students (in grades 3 to 5) can participate. The intramurals are supported by teaching staff and grade 5 students who take on a leadership role as referee during the games. Some students have been selected as part of a Borden Ball team. There are 35 students who will be participating in Borden Ball tournaments.
- c. Luv to Groove: This event will be taking place next week. An instructor will come in and teach dance classes to students. All classes will be provided with two opportunities to attend the classes. The class are usually 'hip hop'. This

event engages all students who work towards putting together a routine by the end of the sessions. The cost to participate in the program is \$5.00 payable via School Cash online.

- d. FIFA Character Cup: On Thursday of this week, the FIFA Character Cup will be held within the school. The school spirit squad organized the event. It is an opportunity to students to go outside and participate in various games and activities with a team. The focus of this event is both character development and physical education for the students. Please dress your children warmly that day and pack an extra pair of mittens and socks.
- e. Conferences with Educators: These conferences are occurring Thursday evening and Friday morning. If parents are experiencing any difficult signing up for an appointment online, please reach out to your child's teacher for assistance with booking a meeting.

Todd Thompson (Principal) provided an 'administrative report' to School Council. The 'administrative report' is summarized as follows:

- a. Scholastic Book Fair: The school will be hosting scholastic book fair. This event will occur in person at the new school and will be held in late January or early February. The book fair will run in parallel with an open house to invite families to see the new school. The book fair raises money for anything scholastic in terms of the company (i.e., maker space, stem activities, resources for the school library).
- b. Official Announcement re: opening of new school building: This announcement is pending. There will be a meeting with the Superintendent to confirm approval to move forward with an announcement.
- c. Transportation: There is a shortage of bus drivers. The vast majority of students will go from eligible for busing to ineligible for busing. The school encourages walking as the streets surrounding the school are narrow and there is limited parking. The walking distance for kindergarten students is 800 meters. There was an 'empty seat policy' applicable to busing, however due to the driver shortage, this program closed. As such, some families may have a Kindergarten student who qualifies for the bus, however their older students may not and therefore cannot take the bus with the Kindergarten student. It is important to note that this is a transportation policy and not specific to the school. This will be the biggest change for the school community.
- d. Extended Day Program: The extended day program will be shut down for two days during the move to the new school building. There will be further communication from the school shortly to provide parents/ guardians with an opportunity to make alternative arrangements.
- e. New school Building: The new building is progressing well. There has been a significant amount of work completed. The goal is to obtain occupancy on

- December 1. Over the month of December, the hope is to have the Principal and Vice-Principal split between the two locations (DA Moodie and the new location). The new building will be opened early in the morning to enable staff to move items to the new school prior to the start of the school day. The school is also expecting a visit from Trustee Scott on December 6. Trustee Scott will visit both the current site (DA Moodie) and the new school building.
- f. Discussion of Article: The article titled “Why School is Hard for Kids with ADHD – and How You Can Help” was shared and discussed with School Council.

3. Co-Chair Report

Laurie Macleod, Co-chair of the School Council, provided a ‘Co-Chair Report’ to School Council. The ‘Co-Chair report’ is summarized as follows:

- a. Constitution: A draft School Council Constitution will be sent to School Council for review and approval within the next few days.
- b. Fundraising Plan: School Council will prepare a plan outlining what School Council intends to do as part of its fundraising for the school year. The purpose of the fundraising pertains to student enhancement and engagement. For example, Mabel’s Labels and Purdy’s chocolates may be good fundraising options for the school.
- c. Milk program and pizza day: School Council has been contacted by individuals who want to volunteer for these programs. These are school run programs – potential volunteers can provide their names to the school.
- d. Second hot lunch program: The school has received inquiries from parents/guardians in relation to a second hot lunch during the week. This is a good fundraising opportunity for School Council.
- e. New playground: Many questions have been received about a playground at the school. There will be a playground at the new school for the Kindergarten students. The school is still waiting for a response from the City of Ottawa in relation to the school’s request to take down a portion of the fence between the school yard and the existing park.

4. New Business/ Questions Raised During the School Council Meeting:

- a. Pizza and Milk program: Q: If a student misses a pizza or a milk day – what happens to the pizza and milk? A: The pizza and milk come back to the office. The pizza will be provided to staff. The school is not funded for a snack program, however there is food available for any students that come down to the office. However, leftover pizza is not provided to students.

- b. Photo Make-up day: Q: Is there a photo make-up day? A: Yes – it will be on January 12, 2023.
- c. Advocacy: Q: There was a school choir that was formed for the Remembrance Day assembly – I was only aware of this because it was mentioned during a previous School Council meeting. Is it possible to make this information more accessible for parents and guardians? A: The school will put this information in the weekly newsletter. This information could also be shared via YouTube however the school has not received the requisite media forms to do so.
- d. Diversity: Q: There was a lack of representation in the video we watched today during the School Council meeting? A: This video was of the school staff specifically (using ‘bitmoji’ images) – lack of representation in the school staff - not a hugely diverse group of educators.
- e. Extended Day Program: Q: How much room is left in the program? A: There is quite a bit of space, there are five morning Early Childhood Educators and five afternoon educators. The program can handle an influx of the population. However, families who require the Extended Day Program should register now.
- f. Crosswalks: Q: Who ends up doing the cross walks? A: This is run through the Ottawa Safety Council. The school has submitted an inquiry re: crossing guards, however the difficulty is that crossing guards are usually funded at start of school year. As such, we are sure if we will get crossing guards this year. The school will be working with the Ottawa Safety Council.
- g. New School Hours: Q: What are the new school hours? A: 9:20am – 3:50pm. Parents and Guardians will not be allowed in the school yard. The OSTA sets ages re: pick-up of students at dismissal. Kindergarten students require a parent/ guardian to pick them up. A student in grades 1 to 5 can leave on their own. Students require direction and coaching from their parents/guardians re: whether they need to wait for a parent to pick them up or if they are allowed to walk home on their own. Once the school makes the transition to ‘no transportation’, it will be helpful for families to attend at the new school with their children to find a ‘meeting spot’, so that their child can familiarize themselves with the meeting spot and the plan for dismissal. It is also helpful to practice this plan a few times before school starts in the new building. The school will also be using a ‘kiss and ride’ – which will be off Continental on the parking lot side. The plan is for vehicles to pull up and students would exit the vehicle themselves and walk themselves to the yard. There are also parent/guardian driven initiatives which work well – including the ‘walking school bus’. This requires parent/ guardian volunteers.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Meeting Attendance

Name	Email Address	In Attendance
Laurie MacLeod		Y
Vusal Babashli		N
Amanda Connolley		Y
Mehdi Mostajeran		Y
Danielle Fournier		N
Sarah Wade		Y
Ronny Quint		Y
Zainy Nasser		N
Ranganathan Balakrishnan		N
Johanna Golding		N
Kamile Donmez		Y
Akhere Areghan		N
Todd Thompson		Y
Sarah Cunningham		Y
Colleen Scott		Y