



Shingwàkons Public School

School Council Minutes (October 25, 2022)

(note: meetings going forward will start at 6:30pm)

1. Introduction of School Council Members

2. Overview of Meeting Structure

- a. Schedule of School Council meetings will be determined by council
- b. School Council meetings will start at 6:30pm
- c. School Council meetings will be structured as follows:
 - i. Treasurer report
 - ii. New business
 - iii. Co-Chair report
 - iv. School report
 - v. Committee report
 - vi. Communications update

3. 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. Math at Shingwàkons: students in various grades are participating in math games (i.e., sorting games). Kindergarten classes are engaged in inquiry-

based math learning (i.e., measurement, balancing, weighted objects, sorting, matching). Grade 3, 4, and 5 students are using a 'hands-on' approach by using math and real money to run a canteen. The students will be counting change for a fundraiser that is occurring in November. This is a great learning opportunity for students.

- b. Take Me Outside Day: Classes are encouraged to take learning outside. Kindergarten students spent the entire day outside. Kindergarten students were able to go into the forest and learn math by making patterns with different types of leaves.
- c. Scavenger Hunt
- d. Sports: Grade 5 students will be running a canteen for two football tournaments being hosted on November 1 and November 3. Junior Borden ball is starting this week. Intramurals will be played by grades 3 to 5. Shingwàkons was represented by students at a recent cross-country meet.
- e. Diwali: Students learning about Diwali.
- f. Terry Fox Run: Students did a great job during the Terry Fox Run. They demonstrated perseverance during the run. It was a great community building activity. The school raised \$305.00 for cancer research.
- g. Remembrance Day: Assembly will be held on November 11. Classes have been asked to contribute a wreath, art, or other activity for Remembrance Day. Some classes will be performing songs, and poem readings. Some classes will be having veterans or active military members attending. The assembly will be open to the community, however attendees will need to bring their own chairs for the event.
- h. Spirit Squad: Students in grades 3 to 5 will be invited to participate in the squad.
- i. Happy Fall Y'all: Upcoming school event on October 31. Students can wear a costume, black and orange clothing, or a school t-shirt.
- j. Primary Choir: Students in grades 1 to 3, who want to sing the National Anthem during the Remembrance Day assembly will be invited to do this.
- k. Upcoming events: Photo Day on October 28; Happy Fall Y'all on October 31; and PA Day on November 4.

Todd Thompson (Principal) provided an 'administrative report' summarizing the following:

- a. Professional Development Day (October 7): This PD Day focused on several items including the following: i) Literacy and how the concept of literacy instruction has shifted over last year. For example, teachers are looking at helping students learn how words are formed through letter sounds and combination. This is a shift from decoding and comprehension; ii) Culturally Relevant and Responsive Pedagogy (CRRP): ensuring that students can see

- themselves in the learning and what teachers are doing instructionally, including the books on shelves, videos, posters, students have something where they can recognize themselves. Teachers spent a good portion of the morning of the PD Day discussing culturally responsive education and how they can be a more culturally relevant responsive educator
- b. Assessment and evaluation: Progress reports will be issued soon. Progress reports are intended to give an update on a student's progress. All reports to parents are a tool for communication, the reports provide a snapshot of where things are. This is a good time of year to provide information in relation to how the term is going - how a student has settled in and is adapting to the curriculum. The progress report will have three indicators: progressing with difficulty, progressing well, and progressing very well. No grades are provided in the progress report. The progress report is an invitation for a conversation in relation to a student's needs. It is an important time of year for a 'check-in' and to have a conversation with the teaching staff. For Kindergarten students, the progress reports are all anecdotal, there are no marks attached, rather there is a narrative of their learning. At no point should any reporting be a surprise to parents or guardians. If a parent or guardian feels they were not aware of an issue, this should be shared with the educator. Report cards will be issued on November 17.
 - c. OCDSB Parent Conference: Will be held on Saturday, November 5, 2022.
 - d. The Third Path: This is an overarching philosophy that is embodied at Shingwàkons Public School. In the past, education was viewed as academics (one path) and well-being (second path). However, academic success cannot be achieved if students do not feel safe and part of the learning environment. The Third Path is a reflective set of strategies, namely eight conditions of learning, that once met in a student's educational journey will better set up a student's success in the real world.
 - e. Article titled "Ten Things that have Exhausted Me as a Special Needs Parent": This article was distributed during the School Council meeting for the Council's awareness and discussion. Shingwàkons staff are trying to create a deeper understanding across the school's broader community, both at Shingwàkons and any school in public education system, that students all function uniquely and are all on their own educational journey. Shingwàkons staff are thinking of way to broaden and deepen the community's understanding of this. The community can ostracize a child inadvertently when the community does not fully understand that a child is dealing with something more than just going to school as a neurotypical child. The community can work on this at home, by building understanding and empathy. The school is planning to share, perhaps on a biweekly basis, links to articles on this topic within the school newsletter. The purpose of sharing of these links is to create awareness and understanding of this issue.

4. Co-Chair Report

As this is a new School Council, the Co-Chairs are in the process of determining what needs to be put in place by the School Council. Some of the issues raised by the Co-Chairs included the following:

- a. Social media and communication for school: There needs to be consistent messaging on all social media platforms. The School Council will require a volunteer to assist with monitoring the messaging on various social media platforms, but also to assist with monitoring the School Council email account and answering any inquiries that come in through the account. Following discussion of this need, a school council member volunteered to assist with monitoring the School Council email account. The School Council email address is as follows: Sc-shingwakons@ocdsb.ca.
- b. Fundraising: Council will need to explore possible fundraising activities. There may also be a need to establish a fundraising committee. Following this discussion, a school council member volunteered to assist with fundraising activities.
- c. Constitution: The School Council requires a Constitution. This will need to be completed within the next month. The Co-Chairs will draft and share with the rest of the members. Members will vote on the Constitution at the next School Council meeting.
- d. Meetings: The frequency of council meetings will need to be determined. Meeting on a monthly basis would be of benefit. Council agreed that monthly meetings are fine. The dates of the meetings will have to be determined considering various holidays and school breaks. The school will explore the possibility of hosting a School Council meeting in the new school, however the logistics may be challenging. The school will also explore the possibility of hosting the School Council meetings both in person and virtually, in order to allow members of the school community to join online.
- e. Communications: School Council has a role in helping to ensure that communications from the school are shared with the school community. For example, if forms need to be filled out, council members can post reminders in the community. The school will provide a 'standing section' in the weekly newsletter for 'School Council News' so that the Council can contribute to the weekly newsletter.
- f. Open Floor: Opportunity for anyone to raise any questions or concerns heard from the school community during the School Council meeting. It is important to note that the purpose of the 'open floor' is not to address specific questions about a student (this can be addressed with the Principal and Vice-Principal

separately), but rather to address broader school and community issues. Questions raised during Open Floor: Pizza and Milk: these initiatives raise school generated funds. These events are run by the school. If the funds are raised by School Council, the Council directs how the funds are spent. New School Building: the new school will have kindergarten play structure, but no structure for other students. Another play structure would be 100% fundraised by School Council. However, school staff are looking to see if Shingwàkons can use the play structure at the park located adjacent to the school, essentially extending the school yard to the city park.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm

Meeting Attendance

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