



Shingwàkons Public School

School Council Minutes (April 25, 2023)

1. Approval of Minutes

- a. March 28, 2023 Minutes approved via email.

2. New Business

- a. No new business

3. School Report

- a. Jump Rope for Heart: This is currently being organized by the school. It is a fundraiser for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. There will be a donation link in the weekly parent update. This is an event that involves the whole school. There will be different activities involving a jump rope. The activities are physical and designed to raise the heart rate. All students will be participating regardless of fundraising. The Kindergarten students will be participating in the gym. All other students will be outside. The event will be held on May 5, 2023.
- b. Plant Sale: The plant sale will be held on May 19, 2023 from 8:30am to 4:00pm. Volunteers are needed to help with the sale. The plants available will be smaller plants. The students will be able to take home a small plant if they choose to purchase one. There is permission to take small plants home on the school bus. Families are also able to come to the plant sale during the day. There is a wide variety of plants available at the sale, fruit, vegetable, flower. These plants were started months ago by Madame St. Denis. The class has been working very hard to get ready for the sale. The sale is a fundraiser for the school garden. This will be a cash only event.

- c. 'Spring In Club': This is a 'drop-in' club organized by the spirit squad. It is for grade 1 to 3 students. Activities are organized for the students.
- d. Physical Education: There is a basketball tournament scheduled on May 3 for girls and May 11 for boys. Students are looking forward to the tournament. There is a Track and Field event tentatively scheduled on June 20. There will be a junior track and field day to determine the top two students in each event who can move on to the larger event. All students in grades 4 and 5 will get to participate in the junior track and field event. The date of the junior track and field event is to be determined.
- e. Walk to School Event: This will occur on May 25, 2023. This is part of the school active transportation (walk, roll, or bike to school). The staff will be creating opportunities to show the community how easy it is to walk to school. There will be staff at different areas in the community dressed in costumes to walk in with the students to school. The school is working with partners at the City of Ottawa to have a mascot for the event.
- f. Class Lists for Next School Year: Staff are looking to build class lists for next year. The staff take a lot of time to prepare class lists for following year. Many factors are taken into account in formulating a class list including: friendships, social interactions, students who have different needs, whether student is a strong independent worker etc. However, class lists are not based on 'best friends'. The school will not accommodate friend requests or teacher requests when formulating the class lists. It is important to consider that having a teacher who may not be 'preferred; teaches a student resilience and how to figure out ways to deal with the situation. This creates a positive learning environment. In addition, the school will not allow class changes the first three weeks of school. It takes time for students to adjust to a new classroom, oftentimes the initial anxiety and stressors diminish after the first few weeks in a new classroom.
- g. Classes: There will be a combination of split and straight grades in English and French Immersion classes. Up to the primary levels, there is a 'cap' in place of 20 students. Only 10% of the school district can be greater than 20 students. These numbers/ classes are based on historical data. In our new school community, there will not be classes assigned to be greater than 20 students. As such, if there are 30 students, 20 students will be in a straight grade class and 10 students will be split in another class. Kindergarten is already all split (between junior and senior) so there will be no cap of 20 students in Kindergarten classes.

The 'soft cap' for Kindergarten classes is 29 students. Presently, all 9 Kindergarten classes are sitting below 29 students. When students are put into split classes - this is out of necessity and thought. The staff are aware that an environment with two grades can be a difficult challenge for some students and where possible staff will try not to place these students in split grades. Split classes are sometimes difficult for parents/ guardians to understand. However, it is important to note that split classes provide different opportunities for leadership and friendships. In addition, the staff are required by law to ensure that curriculums are being delivered. If your student is placed in a split class, please see it for the positive that it is. Also, the reality is, in all classes (straight or split) – students are learning at different grade levels – the school does 'age appropriate' grade placements, students are not held back. Question: How will split classes work in French immersion? The students will receive the same minutes in English and French language instruction. Language curriculum is taught simultaneously. Math is at different levels – so the higher grade should be able to take a concept further. Question: What determines whether a student can/ can't handle split grades well? Some students may struggle with attention/ focus and may not be able to manage a split class. In the School Weekly message – there will be a note – if you think your child is best suited for straight classes/ split level to let the Principal know and the reasons why.

- h. No Stopping Signs: Rouncey, Cope, and Continental – there is no stopping between 8:30am and 9:30am, and 3:30pm and 4:30pm. However, people are still stopping and having their children dart between traffic to get to the school. Please share this with the school community. This is very preventable – parents/ guardians are putting their children at risk. The school has places where a student can be dropped off where they don't have to cross a street – parking on Rubicon or further on Rouncey.
- i. Grade 3 EQAO: This will be happening in May. The test is done completely online at the school with guidance of class teachers. The students are set up on a schedule. The students are in class on a Chromebook through the assessment. The EQAO assessment designed to allow the school to see where gaps are in a child's learning. Also, there is funding provided to schools with lower EQAO scores. The EQAO assessment will occur the last week of May or first week of June, or a combination of the two. This only affects the third-grade students. Question: If a student is on an IEP – will there be accommodations? Yes – the student will be provided accommodations. Will teachers read the questions? The assessment will be read out. The parents will get the results of EQAO testing. Next year – the school will get the results for the school as a whole. Question: in

the EQAO – the green tick means you answered the question – not that it is correct. So, for those who think they got the right answers – can they retake the test? No there is just one opportunity to take the EQAO test. It is of note that some students just tick answers without reading the questions – so the test results are meaningful but not the ‘be all end all’. It is helpful for students to slow down and read the questions.

- j. Request to School Council: School is requesting support from the School Council to purchase maker space items. Currently, consumables are used in the maker space (i.e., paper towel rolls). The school is trying to find more robust materials – things to be reused. The school is looking for \$1000.00 to purchase different kits to help STEAM activities – to get the school ready for next September - to make the learning commons used for this purpose.
- k. Collaborative Proactive Solutions in a Nutshell: handout provided to School Council. This article pertains to proactive problem solving. Review document and enclosed chart. Helpful to think about and consider this approach at home. Think about behaviors that you see at home that you don't love – then think about what was onset/ trigger to cause behavior to occur. Behavior is indicative of a root problem – behavior is due to skill not development. Checklist to consider – view through parent lens, also used at school. Want to bring this to School Council as staff talk about lagging skills with families – this helps to provide an idea to parents/ guardians of what the staff are talking about – parent/ guardian may have an idea of what might be antecedent to behavior. This is helpful for a teacher – to focus on what is going on for student and target more precisely – and help to support a student.

4. Co-Chair Report

- a. Grand Fair/ Grand Opening event: Fundraising subcommittee has met twice to go over event itself. Food trucks - 4 or 5 trucks can come on May 18. These are food and dessert trucks. Some of these trucks will give us a percentage back – Mr. Sundae, Kona Ice, Jo Jos Pizza, we will make a decision on this. Activities – students in grades 4 and 5 will be involved in the activities. The school needs to know how many activities – School Council will confirm. Music – will need to confirm that we can play music during the event. Face painting, balloons – the committee is currently exploring these options. Volunteers - School Council is looking for volunteers to assist with the Grand Fair event. If you know anyone who wants to help – please reach out to School Council. Also – if there are any staff members that want to help out

with opening night or have any ideas for activities etc. – please reach out to School Council. Question – music for the Grand Fair– how loud will it be? Worried about noise complaint? The school has received noise complaints in the past. The school stopped doing the dance party in the mornings but will still play the National Anthem. The Grand Fair is a community builder – the school will look into this. The by-law allows noise up to a certain time. Question – Grand Fair. Will there also be a closing party? This would be too much for this year.

- b. Jar Walk: These will be a meeting with staff this week to discuss timing and to organize the event. Suggestion that the tickets be sent home to be filled out. Also – every child should get one free ticket. The purchase of tickets through the Jar Walk should be via School Cash Online. Ensure participants know there is a surcharge applicant to School Cash Online. There is an option to ‘showcase’ some of the jars during the Grand Fair event.
- c. Grants: PRO Grant - \$750.00. Plan is to put this money towards the school garden. School Council will need to report to the Board on ‘how’ the money will be sent. School Council also received another grant of \$500.00. School Council will need to decide where to spend this – possibly the maker space?

5. Treasurer Report

- a. Balance of \$3166.00 in the account. School Council is still waiting for Purdy’s to send the money that was raised. The cheque will be mailed at the end of April. It is important to note that Papa Jacks will come out of this account and that this amount does not include the funds raised via Lunch Lady. The grants have been received and deposited into the School Council account.

6. Communications Update

- a. Communications: The School Council received a few emails last month. These have been responded to. The minutes have been posted to the council website.

7. Open Floor/ Questions Raised During the School Council Meeting

- a. Question: Where will the bike racks be located? Out of the yard near the Kindergarten drop off right up against the fence area. The school asks that when students arrive with a bike or scooter that they walk the bike or scooter as soon as they get to the school yard.

- b. Question: French tutors – is the school aware of any teachers offering tutoring this summer? Not aware of any teachers offering tutoring services. Sometimes high school students are involved in tutoring. There are also tutoring centers. In addition, there is a Canadian Parents for French (Ottawa Chapter) which provides great resources for parents.
- c. Request: Can School Council have another table inside the kitchen for Papa Jacks and Lunch Lady – perhaps in the open space beside the fridges. There is an extra table, School Council can use this for staging.
- d. Question: Can School Council designate a cupboard in the kitchen for School Council use? Yes – be sure to label the cupboard.
- e. Question: Painting lines in the yard – are funds required for this? Yes – the school is trying to have Design and Build pay for some of the lines – but the school may be coming back to School Council to request funds.
- f. Question: Status of landscaping around the school? The school is waiting for sod to be ready. Once the sod is delivered, the landscaping will be finish end of May or June.
- g. Question: Will there be a School Council meeting in June? Yes, there will be one scheduled on June 20, just to tie up loose ends for year as, in the Fall, financials etc. will need to be submitted to the Board.
- h. Question: Is there a rule for carryover re: School Council funds? There is no rule – however a school council is not meant to ‘make money’ - councils should spend a good portion of what is made. However - it is always recommended that council leave a couple of thousand dollars for start-up of the following year.

Adjourned 7:55pm

Meeting Attendance

Name	Email Address	In Attendance
Laurie MacLeod		Y
Vusal Babashov		Y
Amanda Connolley		Y
Mehdi Mostajeran		N
Danielle Fournier		Y
Sarah Wade		Y
Ronny Quint		Y
Ranganathan Balakrishnan		Y
Johanna Golding		N
Akhere Areghan		Y
Todd Thompson		Y
Sarah McMerty- Cunningham		Y
Colleen Scott		Y