



Shingwàkons Public School

School Council Minutes (January 24, 2023)

1. Approval of Minutes

- a. October 25, 2022, and November 22, 2022, School Council Minutes approved by School Council.

2. New Business

- a. Overview of School Council Constitution. This will be published on the School Council website. Question raised re: should there be a community member of School Council? Answer: School councils have always been open to having a community member. The community member must reside within the school catchment area. The possibility of having a community member will be explored further.

3. School Report

- a. Slide Show: A slide show of the various activities occurring around the school was shared during the School Council meeting.
- b. School Clubs: The Spirit Squad is currently brainstorming ideas for the school mascot and school colours. The Spirit Squad also started a 'Winter In' club, which allows students in grades 1 to 3 to attend the school café during the first recess and participate in various activities. The club runs on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. There are different activities on each day: Monday (reading), Wednesday (art), and Friday (games). The 'News Crew' club consists of grade 5 students who assist Mme Rick with filming and editing the daily school announcement. The students meet every day to film the announcements.

- c. Open House/ Book Fair: This is scheduled on February 2, 2023, from 5:00pm to 6:30pm at the school. The book fair will be raising money for the school library. This is an opportunity to purchase books from the book fair.
- d. Kindergarten Information Night: This is scheduled on February 7, 2023, from 6:30pm to 8:00pm.
- e. Toonie Tuesday: This is scheduled on February 21, 2023. Toonie Tuesday is in support of the OCDSB education foundation. The donations are made through school cash online. The donations go to OCDSB to assist with snack and breakfast programs. All funds stay with the school board and are meant to support students within the school board.
- f. Grade One Program Information: This will occur sometime in February. Further details to be shared.
- g. School Gym: It is expected that the gym will be available for use very soon. The tentative 'ready' date is February 2, 2023. The gym floor still needs to cure. The stage also needs to be installed. Physical Education classes are held outside until the gym is ready for use.
- h. Learning Commons: The millwork has started. It is anticipated that the Learning Commons will be completed early next week and will be ready for the Open House/ Book Fair.
- i. Elevator: This is the last item to be installed in the school. The elevator was completed today by the contractors. The TSSA will need to inspect the elevator. The school is currently waiting for the inspection to take place in order to obtain final approval to use the elevator.
- j. School Name: The OCDSB will be sharing a video about our school's name. Elder Albert Dumont, Algonquin Traditional Teacher, is featured in the video and provides an explanation about the meaning behind our school's name. Elder Dumont also authored a poem. Elder Dumont was a member of the naming committee and is an advisor to the OCDSB. The video will be shared on the school website. Elder Dumont's poem will also be displayed at the school.
- k. Transportation to school: Thank you to all parents and guardians for supporting the 'kiss and ride' initiative for kindergarten and grade 1 students. It is very important that when parents/guardians are using the kiss and ride that they stay

in the designated lane. Parents/ guardians cannot park in the parking lot and cannot walk through the parking lot. It is important that the students are safe. Parents/ guardians have been observed getting out of the kiss and ride lane and circumventing the process. There is also a large pile of snow in the parking lot. This is tempting for students but is not safe. There is currently a work order for removal of the pile. This is especially true during dismissal time when vehicles are moving. The school asks that families are mindful of this.

- I. Teaching Problem Solving: An article titled “How to Teach Kids Problem Solving Skills” (Amy Morin LCSW) was shared with School Council during the meeting.

4. Co-Chair Report

- a. Lunch Lady Program: The Lunch Lady Program will be starting next Tuesday, January 31, 2023. Information about the program was provided in the school newsletter. Council also hopes to have a message posted on the school’s Facebook page. Council members will be attending a meeting with Lunch Lady representatives to walk through their site and to learn more about the process. In terms of ordering meals, this can be done on a weekly basis, there is no obligation to order each week, parents and guardians can choose what weeks they wish to order meals for their students. This program will be run by volunteers, as such, any commitment parents/ guardians can make to assist with the program is greatly appreciated. The commitment involves attending the school on a Tuesday from approximately 11:20am until 12:00pm to assist with the distribution of meals. Additional information will be shared on the council web page, the school Facebook page, and the weekly newsletter. Question: are Halal options available through the Lunch Lady Program? Answer: Yes.
- b. School Council website: School Council is in the process of adding information to this web page. The goal is to streamline communication, to ensure that there are two key places for sharing information, namely the School Council web page and the official school Facebook page.
- c. Open House/ Book Fair event: School Council representatives will be at the Open House. Council is in the process of finalizing a handout which provides information about School Council. A volunteer sign up sheet and question box will also be available at the event.
- d. Other fundraising activities: Mabel’s Labels will be set up very soon. Council is also exploring a ‘frozen pizza’ fundraiser, either through Little Caesar’s or Jojo’s

pizza. Purdy's Chocolates is another option under review. School Council is considering setting up an official sub-committee for fundraising.

- e. Changes to School Council: Council started the year with twelve members and is now down to nine or ten members.

- f. Drop-off and Pick-up at the School: Question: Is there anything School Council can do to assist with drop-off and pick-up at the school? Answer: Although the school was built to encourage walking to school, the uptake on walking is not as great as the school would like to see. The school apologizes for the number of messages being sent to parents/ guardians on this issue. At drop-off and pick-up times, people are parking on the streets, which are very narrow. Members of the community have issued complaints. The school is trying to alleviate the problems, including using strategies such as the kiss and ride, and encouraging older students to use the park (Rubicon) to walk over to the school. The closer parents/ guardians park to the school, the more congested the area becomes. Kindergarten students require handholding to the door of the school, however if your student is older, parents/ guardians are encouraged to park further away from the school. If you have older students, parents/ guardians can park on Rubicon Street and allow their students to walk through the park to the school. The Principal is walking the path. Also, parking on Rubicon Street avoids any blockage of driveways and students do not have to cross a street to walk to the school. This issue is about student safety. Also, the developer has not released the community to the City of Ottawa. As such, the City does not have control over the streets, signage etc. The school has requested that this process be expedited as the school (a public facility) is now open. At Continental and Cope there is the first City stop sign. There are no crosswalk signs or school zone signs, however these will be coming soon. There will be no crossing guards until the start of the next school year (September 2023). The school did have a pedestrian safety presentation delivered to the students while the students were at DA Moodie. The school encourages families to do the same and talk to their students about pedestrian safety. Teaching students about road safety is the best defence. Question: Snow removal is a big issue. The streets are narrow. Can something be done – perhaps plowing along the walking paths? Answer: This depends on how the City prioritizes snow removal. The priority is downtown first to allow 'on street' parking. Suburban snow removal is later in the queue. The Principal has made a request to the City to prioritize snow removal on Rubicon Street to allow parents/guardians to park and drop-off. Parents/ guardians can also email Glen Gower (city councilor) with any concerns. Question re: walking school bus. Answer: OSTA can fund a walking school bus. Council will connect the Principal

with a parent in our community who has been coordinating a walking school bus. Question: Can the school hold another pedestrian safety presentation for students? Answer: This is possible, however the presentation was recently done in November 2022. It would be the same presentation, so there is a possibility the students may not be engaged in hearing the same message again.

- g. Communication from the School: Question: There is a discussion within the parent/ guardian community about the school's use of Twitter. Some people do not use Twitter. Answer: The school weekly update is provided via email, Twitter, and the school website. A Twitter account is not required to access the weekly message, it is posted to the school website.

5. Treasurer Report

- a. No report

6. Committee Report

- a. No report

7. Communications Update

- a. The School Council has not received any messages at the council email address as of the date of the meeting. There will be updates to the Council website which can be accessed via the School website. If any parents/ guardians are speaking with other members of the school community, please let them know about the Council website.
- b. The School Council email address is: sc-shingwakonsps@ocdsb.ca

8. New Business/ Questions Raised During the School Council Meeting

- a. Question: How do parents/guardians volunteer at the school? I signed up but was not contacted? Answer: This could have been a form from the school. The school hasn't had a need for many volunteers over the past months, however the school is now looking for volunteers to help with the milk program. This is a one day a week commitment. Also, the school will be hosting an official school opening ceremony in the spring (official ribbon cutting ceremony). There will be options for volunteerism with the school. Also, teachers may be reaching out to parents/ guardians of students in class to volunteer. In addition, there will be

other school excursions that require volunteers. The school does have a list. The Principal will ask that an email be sent out to all those who signed up to volunteer. There is also a sign-up list to volunteer for School Council. The list will be at the Open House, or an email can be sent to School Council.

- b. Question: Will there be a kindergarten play structure? Yes – it will be installed in the spring. In addition, an outdoor classroom and mini soccer field will be installed in the spring. There will be no other play structures in the yard. There is no space for an additional play structure, as portables will be installed in the yard.

Adjourned: 8:04

Meeting Attendance

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