



## Shingwàkons Public School

### School Council Minutes (March 28, 2023)

#### **1. Approval of Minutes**

- a. January 24, 2023, and February 28, 2023 School Council Minutes to be approved by School Council via email.

#### **2. New Business**

- a. School Council recently received both the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grant and the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) grant.

#### **3. School Report**

- a. Slide Show: A slide show of the various activities occurring at the school was shared during the School Council meeting.
- b. Environmental Stewardship: A grade 2 class is collecting writing utensils to recycle at Staples. If any families have pens, markers, dry erase markers at home that they are no longer using – they can send the writing utensils into the school and the utensils will be recycled at Staples.
- c. Make it Sow: Proposed fundraiser to raise money for the school garden by selling seeds. The fundraiser allows individuals to purchase seeds (flower and vegetable seeds). The purpose of the fundraiser is to raise funds for a school garden. If any parents/ guardians would like to help with the fundraiser or the garden project, volunteers are welcome.

- d. Plant Sale: A plant sale will likely be held in May. Flower and vegetable seedlings have already been started. This sale will raise funds for the school garden.
- e. Boomerang lunches: A boomerang lunch is a lunch that has every piece of it returned to its source – home. A boomerang lunch reduces food waste and garbage. Tips for parents and guardians to make program successful including the following: use Tupperware or reusable containers; use Ziplock bags or reusable containers to hold single use containers that may be messy; choose fruits that come in their own natural packaging; pack reusable utensils to reduce use of plastic when ordering Lunch Lady; and for the pizza program – parents/ guardians can send in a reusable plastic plate or use a lid for Tupperware as a plate.
- f. Clubs: Dance Club for grades 3 to 5. The first two weeks will be for students to try out the dance club. After the two weeks, the club becomes a commitment. The Dance Club meets on Tuesdays during the second lunch. The club will work towards a performance (more information coming later). Spring Fun Fest Club for grades 1 to 3 this week during the first activity break on Mondays (games/ talent activities), Wednesdays (music and dance), and Fridays (drop-in club) in the Café.
- g. News: The school received a \$500.00 donation from Mattamy homes. This donation will be used for physical education equipment with a focus on Kindergarten students.
- h. Upcoming events: April is Autism Awareness month. Light It Up Blue on March 31. All students and staff are encouraged to wear blue to kick off Autism Awareness Month. Scientist in the School workshops will begin in April for many classes. Most workshops are virtual with small kits. One workshop may be on site. Scientist in the School programs related directly to the science curriculum. Often these workshops will include materials and experiments that are more difficult for teachers to replicate. If a student is in a class that is participating in the Scientist in the School workshop, students are asked to make a \$10.00 donation through School Cash online. Plant Sale on May 20 – which is international day of the bee
- i. COBS bread: possible fundraiser option for the school to consider ('Raise Some Dough').

- j. School Mascot: The school has chosen a new mascot – the Cardinal. A new logo for the school is under development.
- k. Literacy: Using the Reading Rope. Early reading involves word recognition (phonological awareness, decoding, sight word recognition). Schools have seen a complete ‘switching of gears’ in terms of how reading is taught in schools. A lot of research has gone into this issue. Essentially, it is a phonological approach rather than whole language learning. There is an emphasis on spelling instruction - larger content words, resources, phonics through phoneme, grapheme mapping. Teaching phonics and word study in intermediate grades. It is also important to be aware of/ consider background knowledge, life experience of students when teaching/ learning to read.
- l. Staffing Process 2023-2024: This process is currently underway. Teachers have been given a survey which provides an opportunity to identify preferences re: teaching assignments for the next school year. The school is projected to grow upwards of 200 students. The school is also adding grade 6 next year. There will be an influx of people moving into the community, as well as the addition of grade 6, which explains why the school population is increasing at the rate it currently is. There will also be a slight increase in the number of Kindergarten students. The classes will be determined based on enrollment numbers. The school will be doing class placements. If parents/ guardians have information to provide that may assist in determining proper placements, please share this information with the school. This information will then be shared during the placement meetings. It is important to note that the school does not accept requests for specific teachers. Question: If you have two children – will their teacher be consistent? No. Question: Does reshuffling happen every year? Yes – this happens every year – new students are placed in new classes. The school tries to take a cohesive and collegial approach to making up the classes each year. The school looks at friendships between students and tries to make sure that all students have someone in their new class that they have connected to from previous years. Question: Grade 6 students? It doesn’t seem fair to pull students from their current school for one year? These students will be allowed to stay with their peer group and then transition to high school. The grade 5 students will stay at our school as the grade 6 class. Question: Will teachers reach out to families before school starts? The teachers are asked to reach out on the Sunday before school begins. The teachers will send a welcome email so that the students know where they are going. Also, it is important to note that the school will not be making any class moves until the end of September. The

school asks that families be patient and give some time in the current class before a change of class will be considered.

#### **4. Co-Chair Report**

- a. Purdy's Fundraiser: The Purdy's fundraiser was a success. Approximately \$500 was raised. The orders have been received and delivery will be organized. There will be one date identified for parents/guardians to pick up their orders. Order will be available during three different time slots on that date.
- b. Papa Jack: This fundraiser is ready to go. The fundraiser needs to be added to School Cash online.
- c. Spending of School Council funds: School Council has received the PIC funding (\$500.00) and will need to decide how this money will be spent. Question: Are there any immediate needs for the school? There are no immediate needs. However, the school will be providing students with sidewalk chalk and will be asked to come up with games to be drawn on the asphalt in the yard. The school plans to hire a company to paint lines on the asphalt for games. The school would appreciate some assistance with funding the line painting. Other ideas for spending Council funds this year include: books for the library, play structure, scientists in the school, creation of a 'teachers' wish list' (to be considered/ reviewed by teacher representative, Vice Principal and Principal), buses for a field trip. Could also tie this in with the official school opening (May 18) – School Council can organize a fun activity – can be a free event or a fundraiser.
- d. PRO Grant: The application for the PRO grant was approved and money has been received. Thank you to our council volunteer (Johanna) for putting the proposal together. Council may consider putting this grant towards the school garden initiative. A meeting will be set up with the teacher organizing the garden initiative to discuss further.
- e. PIC funding: This grant was also received by School Council. Further discussions will need to be had to determine how the council wants to spend this grant (see item c above).
- f. School Active Transportation Program: The school has been approved to participate in this program. The program is delivered by the City of Ottawa and OSTA. The program encourages students to walk, cycle, and scoot to school. There is a letter to be signed on behalf of School Council. As soon as the letter is

signed and sent back, the program will officially commence. The next step in the program is data collection. There are a lot of parents/ guardians who drive their children to school. The school and neighborhood are designed to be a walking school and neighborhood. This is both a school approach and a community approach. The Chair of the School Council will attend a meeting with EnviroCentre. The program involves meetings throughout the school year, completing an audit around the school, looking at traffic patterns, hotspots for safety areas, how the school can better encourage families to walk to school (even just part way). This is a 2-year commitment at least and beyond this – the school can extend the commitment if it works well. Question: Has the school given any consideration to changing the bell times? The bell times are driven by the bus times. The school is the latest starting school in the board – this is driven by transportation. Question: Does the school have bike racks? Yes – they will be installed over by the gate where the Kindergarten pick up is located.

## **5. Treasurer Report**

- a. Grants have been received and deposited into the School Council account.

## **6. Committee Report**

- a. Cake Walk: School Council will explore another option similar to a cake walk, namely a Jar Walk. Participants can fill jars (non-glass). Classes can also prepare a jar for the event. One of the teachers has experience with this type of activity and may be interested in assisting with the event. The teacher will be connected to the Co-Chair.

## **7. Communications Update**

- a. Communications: The School Council received one email last month concerning the day care. The last two months of minutes will be posted to the council website.

## **8. Open Floor/ Questions Raised During the School Council Meeting**

- a. A survey has been developed by School Council to be sent out to the school community. The questions will need to be reviewed further by council prior to distribution.

- b. The school's Chief Custodian will be transferred as of this Friday. The school is very sad to see her go as she has been a part of the school community for some time and has been a great asset. The Chief Custodian worked so hard to prepare our temporary school and our new school building for the students. There will be a 'surprise' for the Custodian on Friday prior to her departure.

Adjourned at 7:50pm

## **Meeting Attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Email Address</b>	<b>In Attendance</b>
Laurie MacLeod		N
Vusal Babashov		Y
Amanda Connolley		Y
Mehdi Mostajeran		Y
Danielle Fournier		Y
Sarah Wade		Y
Ronny Quint		Y
Ranganathan Balakrishnan		Y
Johanna Golding		Y
Akhere Areghan		Y
Todd Thompson		Y
Tricia Scott		Y
Colleen Scott		Y