

MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE SCHOOL COUNCIL OF
SIR WILLIAM OSLER
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
HELD AT 330 GOVERNOR'S ROAD,
DUNDAS, ONTARIO

January 17, 2017

Council Members Present: Mathew Gibson, Phil Moruzi, Dara Coulter, Heather Phillips, Sarah Van Geffen, Isabella Piatek, Angela Harrison, Sara Flynn, Jetta Turkstra, Jane Nash

Parents/Teachers Present: Jacqueline Kurtz, Michael Prendergast, Chantelle Sharp, Chan Kulatunga-Moruzi, Simone Rose, Corinne Schuster-Wallace, Joe and Leanne van der Kolk, Rebecca and Anthony Yee-win, Sajah Stiller

Regrets: Catherine Roberts, Alison Kowalchyk, Nancy Kucic, Katharine Spencer, Angela Harrison, Isabella Piatek, Lisa Neale.

1. Call to Order

Mathew Gibson called the meeting to order at 630pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was as follows:

- Attendance
- Introductions
- Requests for New Business
- Approval of minutes of November Meeting
- Election of new secretary and treasurer
- Chair's report
- Teacher's report
- Treasure's Report
- Parent Activity Committee/Movie night
- Principal's report
- Safari (classroom visits)

3. Attendance

Attendance sheet was circulated

4. Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

5. Requests for New Business

A) Corrine introduced the topic of snow removal:

Parents are voicing concerns regarding snow and ice build-up in the parking lot and walkways. Conditions are seen as unsafe for walking and driving. Parents are asking the school to be more proactive when it comes to snow and ice removal, as it they are concerned for the safety of students.

It was asked that more clarification be provided with respect to the roles and responsibilities around snow removal. M. Prendergast explained that the timeline for snow removal is before the start of school. J. Kurtz explained that the responsibilities for snow removal are shared between the custodial staff, city, and contractors (i.e., custodial staff shovels and salt main walkways, contractors remove snow in parking lots, and the city is responsible for sidewalks in front of school property). It was shared that contractors come as quickly as possible, but do not always make it before the start of school.

M. Prendergast noted that Monday, January 8th, 2018 was a difficult situation for snow removal at the school because of the early morning snow fall. He explained that in situations like Monday, the custodian needs to prioritize areas as slips, trip, and falls are a high propriety for the board.

The question of how the school/board monitors snow removal and if a contractor is doing a proper job was raised. M. Prendergast explained that the Area Supervisor will make changes to the contractor if concerns are received. M. Prendergast said that an email can be sent to J. Kurtz or L. Neale voicing concerns around snow removal. Pictures of the concerns are welcome in the email. Any emails will then be forwarded to M. Prendergast who will contact the area supervisor. Matty suggested that J. Kurtz and L. Neale should let the parents and community know that this is the avenue for reporting problems.

Concerns were voiced about the slipperiness of the tarmac at the back of the school and the difficulty for students, parents and staff to access the doors. Phil wondered if it is an option for the students to enter through the front door since it is cleared and salted first and with more consistency. J. Kurtz said she would look into it and report back before the next meeting.

B) Chantelle Sharp introduced the issue of bullying:

Concerns about increased bullying were raised and there was a question of whether there is still a zero policy around bullying. J. Kurtz was asked for some clarification of the policies around cyber bullying and how children get the message about appropriate behavior and social safety. J. Kurtz explained that staff have an obligation to report bullying and outlined some of the ways the

school addresses issues around bullying and appropriate/inappropriate behaviour:

- teachers go over norms and code of contact with their class
- a school liaison counsellor is coming in to talk about social media
- schoolwide assembly to introduce norms of behaviour
- recess time-active supervision for children who need guidance during unstructured times
- go girls
- minds up curriculum
- Tiered interventions include: Peers for social skills and Zones of Regulation

She explained that the school will deal with bullying behaviour that happens outside of school hours if affects school culture. J. Kurtz said that parents need to bring the issues forward. There is also a method for referring issues to the office (office referral form) when issues go beyond the scope of the classroom.

M. Prendergast defined bullying for the group, as defined by the Ministry of education, as a repeated behaviour. It was explained that the model of progressive discipline is used a school, which is guided by the age and stage of the student. It was explained that consequences are not always a deterrent. M. Prendergast said that statistics show that 25% of school children experience bullying and that it will never completely stop.

It was asked if the buddy bench is becoming negative for children or if it is used is a positive way. J. Kurtz has not received any negative comments. It was reported that students are reporting that kids who sit on the buddy bench are targeted. Michael encouraged parents to reach out to L. Neal and J. Kurtz so that they are aware of issues.

6. Review of minutes of previous meeting

Matty moved to approve the minutes as is, Dara seconded the motion – unanimously passed.

7. Election of secretary and treasure

Phil Moruzi resigned from the position of secretary.

Sarah Van Geffen volunteered for the position of secretary. Matty moved the motion and Corrine seconded-unanimously approved.

Phil Moruzi volunteers for the position of treasurer. Matty moved the motion and Corrine seconded-unanimously approved.

8. Chair's report

Content/presentation issue from the November meeting

In response to a question from parent Chan Kulatunga-Moruzi about the emphasis of presentation (and associated monetary costs) over content in homework, council members were asked to reach out to other parents in the school to see if this was something they were also experiencing. As I had not received any concerns from among the council members regarding this, I spoke with Chan and we agreed to remove this as an ongoing topic of discussion at the table.

Responses to Questions to the Principal

Below are responses from the principal to specific questions. Please read them carefully. Unless you have additional questions on the topics (or clarifications) I would like to consider these matters spoken to with no need for additional review at the meeting next Wednesday. Any questions you do have, please forward them to me ASAP so I can seek further clarification from the principal prior to the meeting.

In regards to the \$5 cost for the entrance to the annual performance by the grade 6-8s, I followed up with Lisa that what many parents were looking for was an option to make a donation, rather than be expected to pay. (Or to not make a donation, of course.)

"I shared the concerns with Mrs. Kortmann, our music teacher. As always, open to feedback from parent(s). An option for a donation will be available for next year. "

I shared with the principal parent concerns about the holiday sing along (the concert for the younger children) and how access for parents was communicated and decided. " It seems that some parents were informed they would not be able to attend because there was too little space, but that on the day the school said it would not turn people away, meaning that some parents got to attend, others not. I am sure there was some misunderstanding. It would be good to discuss this at our meeting and perhaps have it as part of the principal's report."

"It presents [sic] there was inconsistency of the messaging school wide without knowledge in the office and with administration being consulted or informed about invitations going out via teacher communication. Therefore, this did create a challenge. Some staff informed parents/caregivers via their communication modes. (eg. blog / twitter) As this is my second year at SWO, it had presented the past practice was for students only. In addition, I share that it has been in the past a Sing Along with students and staff only. The concern was accommodating all with appropriate seating and fire code. Any parents / caregivers who had been extended an invitation were welcome to attend. There were few classes that extended the invitation.

I did share with any staff who had come to see me that if invitations were extended to families to please keep them in play. Any parents / caregivers were welcomed to attend if an invitation had been extended and they arrived on the day of the event. I did respond personally to one family who reached out to me.

Please know there will be a consistent messaging to support all school wide activities on a go forward basis for assemblies and/or concerts."

I also requested an update on the purchase of additional jerseys and her promised investigations into size requirements for various teams.

"Please share this update: we have ordered 10 more jerseys bringing to a total of 41 in various sizes for inter-scholastic teams.

In addition, 30 sleeveless dry fit shirts have been ordered for this year in various sizes (smaller sizes as well) to support better fits and move sweat away from the body and to the fabric surface. In addition, these shirts will allow layering as needed. "

I had also asked about the purchase of new instruments.

"Sharing with you the cost of the musical instruments as requested:

Instrument at Tender Pricing:

Alto saxophone Yamaha Yas 26 \$1016.55 - The need is two alto saxaphones.

Note: SWO School Fundraising is purchasing this year 2 flutes. * \$458.55 x 2"

I asked Ms Neale for an update on the purchase of books relating to diversity and this was her response.

"I followed up with Mr. Smith, as the suggested titles were shared with him in October. He has consulted with staff re: the suggested titles and additional ones. He was waiting until January 2018 to attend a mass book vendor sale that HWDSB brought to our attention.

First week back in January, we will be celebrating with a post sharing news from the Learning Commons. It will highlight the existing titles we have in the Learning Commons. Mr. Smith has completed an inventory and aggregated from our current collection some of the suggested titles from the "to purchase list" supporting diversity and Aboriginal Education. That is good news with many additional titles we have in our collection.

Forest of Reading put together by the Ontario Library Association will be featured in the post as well and these are reads with Canadian content and diversity. We have received a set of these books as well to add to our collection.

We will be ready to share the titles that we are looking to secure either through the vendor sale or special order as well."

9. Teacher's Report

A SWO Indigenous Awareness Committee was formed involving the following teachers:

Geoff Kerman - Primary Division

Frances Nicolaides - Junior Division

Alanna O'Neil and Nancy Kucic - Intermediate Division

Pamela Kortmann - Indigenous guidance and support

Goals of the committee:

1. Bringing Indigenous Knowledges and Perspectives into the classroom by:

- *professional development through inquiry and collaboration related to Indigenous Education, Knowledges and Perspectives

- *curating, organizing and sharing of division appropriate Indigenous resources and teaching strategies that will help all teachers to integrate Indigenous perspectives and history in their own classrooms (especially with Social Studies, History, Geography, Science, Art, Music, and perhaps Dance)

2. School Wide Authentic Indigenous Experience by:

- *committee has reached out to the following organizations/individuals for guidance and ideas for how to engage our entire school in

an authentic way: Lisa King (HWDSB Indigenous consultant); Jolene John (Indigenous Community Liason Rep); McMaster University

Indigenous Student's Association; Mohawk College Aboriginal Student's Association.

- *the committee will be meeting to review activities, options, dates, as well as connecting with the SWO Student Leadership Council

We're looking to organize an assembly next month which would feature the meaning of the Wampum belt and other traditions

10. Treasurer's Report

No further money has come in. Council is still waiting on money for first hydration station and French performer, to go out. \$270 has gone out for deposit for Dance-athon DJ.

There is approximately \$2700 available. \$1000 has been allocated for graduation and \$250 has been allocated for Joy Day, which leaves \$1450 credit (approximately).

We have \$1000 allocated for 2nd hydration station. This is separate from money mentioned above.

11. Parent Activity Committee/Movie Night

The DJ for the Dance-athon has been booked. Students can vote for songs as they did in the past. Chan, Jane, Matty will be organizing the event. Volunteers are needed for the day.

There is a tentative plan to have movie night in late April. The purchase of a license will be delayed until just prior to the event so that it remains valid until the same event time in 2019.

12. Principal's Report

School Annual Plan:

1. Positive culture and well being

- a) All students feeling safe: school focus on well-being. Minds up curriculum grades: JK-Grade 8

A question was raised: How many of those goals are around equity? J. Kurtz said she would look into it and get back to council. A question about metrics was also raised. J. Kurtz said that surveys are given to school community. It requested that the data be shared with the school community.

Chan wondered if there is boy's group similar to Go Girls. J. Kurtz will inquire and report back to council.

2. Students achievement

- a) All kids reading by the end of Grade 1:
There is a reading specialist at the school for kids in SK-Grade 1.
- b) Improvement in math:
December's PD Day was dedicated to math

A Motion was to inquire about child minding and advertising it to the school community was made by Corinne, seconded by Matty - unanimously passed.

13. Meeting Schedule

Next Meeting will be February 21.

14. Termination

It was agreed to end the meeting at 7:38p.m.

15. Safari

Some who attended the meeting, visited 2 classrooms in the school.

Chair

Recorder