

Ancaster Meadow Elementary School
School Council Minutes
October 23, 2018

Member Attendees:

Colleen Kaus, Reasa Diab, Kristi Snary, Sandra Wohl, Andrea Colbert-Degeit, Joey Pottinger, Julie Burgess-Nichols, Sherri Johnston, Adrienne VanDam, Manju Dahal, Shilpa Shukla

Meeting called to order at 6:31. Welcome to all. Introductions.

Non-Member Attendees:

Simon Goodacre, David Pasian

Regrets:

Jessica Thomas-Troian, Karen MacPhail

October Secretary:

Andrea Colbert-Degeit

School Council Election 2018 / 2019 Results

Chair – Colleen Kaus

Acting Secretary – Andrea Colbert-Degeit

Approval of September Minutes

The motion was made to approve the minutes as is by Sandra second by Adrian-motion carried-minutes approved. Colleen will have posted on the school website.

Approval of School Constitution

The motion was made by Colleen to change the language in the constitution under Members of the Council from “Council WILL be comprised of the following” to “Council SHOULD be comprised of the following”. It was second by Andrea-motion carried-Colleen will make the amendment.

Principal Report – Simon Goodarce, Dave Pasian

Principal acknowledged the staff at Ancaster Meadow and all of the activities that run are due to the staff.

Staff Update:

Dave Pasian sent out an email to staff members for updates on current school activities, the staff is supportive of new ideas and student initiatives. School activities happen at both nutrition breaks and afterschool.

The following feedback was provided from staff:

- JK/SK trip to Dyments Farms
- Art club is open Day 2 and 4 – first break
- Ottawa trip for grade 8 is a go

- There is a “cat club” run by 2 grade 4 students – there are 30 students attending this club. Some students would like to have a dog club – looking to join the two clubs.
- Robotics Club for Grade 6,7,8
- Number of volleyball teams (5/6 7/8)
- Ping pong club is starting soon

Colleen thanked Dave for the report. A question was posed if there was a homework club, but in the spring there will be an after school program on Fractions for Grade 6 (academic program – school board funded). Some clubs can’t run without a minimum number.

School Calendar:

Last week Fire Drill and JK/SK visit from the Fire Department

Municipal Election School Polling Station (October 22nd)

Photo Retake Day (October 25th)

Terry Fox Celebration (October 26th)

Progress reports going home (October 30th)

Parent interview (November 1st 4:00-6:30 and November 2nd PA Day)

Ancaster High volleyball tournament coming up soon

Day in a Life at Ancaster High (November 14th)

Ancaster Meadow is a busy school with a busy calendar. Events are posted on the website (parents are encouraged to subscribe), can be viewed on the television in the front hallway and shared in the weekly principal’s report.

Student council runs many events like dances, socktober, spirit days etc. They will be invited to November’s meeting to provide and update.

School Annual Plan:

The school plan is currently being developed in conjunction with all school staff for the school community. There will be a focus on culture and well-being, early reading for the primary grades and math for the junior and senior grades. Along with survey data the school plan will help focus PA days.

The Grade 3 and 6 EQAO scores show that we are above average in reading, writing and math. There are less than a handful of students who require assistance to increase the score. There are still areas to improve in math and reading and writing in Grade 3, although the sample size means that this represents a small number of students. All of the scores have increased from the previous year.

Report card data and teacher comments are very important as an assessment of progress.

Nutrition Days:

The determination of when non-nutritional days will run is an on-going situation that requires consultation with Home and School, school staff, and council. The school can run 10 of these days per year. Three of the days for the lunch box, Halloween, Holiday Bazaar, Valentines, Spring Fling event and EQAO ice cream day will also fall under this rule. We can consolidate the days (EQAO Ice cream on the same day as a lunch box day) to only count as one.

Update on Transportation:

There are still some bussing issues with two routes, but the buses aren’t as late as they were – they are now 20-30 minutes late rather than 30-45 min late. Parents are asked to log complaints with the transportation system. There have been some questions about the Courtesy Transportation. Based on the Board policy, kindergarten students are given priority based on proximity to the school. Capacity is 60-70 on an average school bus. Courtesy transportation applications are completed in September, but students cannot start

taking the bus until October. This year, we had more requests than there was capacity for. One route there was no additional capacity. As a result, a letter has been sent to parents letting those affected know that they are on a wait list for courtesy bussing if/when a larger bus is available. There is a provincial shortage lack of bus drivers. Parents who have registered bussing should have a code that they can register online for updates from the Board. School staff will continue to work through bussing issues with transportation.

<http://www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca>

Phone: 905-523-2318

Toll Free: 1-800-691-6402

School Travel Plan:

Ancaster Meadow was part of a School Travel Plan review last year. From the review we have learned that Kitty Murray is expected be painted with bike lanes and painting stripes on the roundabouts. The one closest to the school is a priority. A survey was conducted last spring (on one of the nicest, least representative days) to see some of the concerns at the end of the day. We also want to promote biking and walking to school. Change is expected to be slow, but we're on the radar now. The last report was done in 2011 before last year's report. These reports do lead to change. The report can be made available to parents. Colleen will see about posting it on the website.

New Buisness – Simon Goodacre, Joey Pottinger, Colleen Kaus

Simon thanked all of the volunteers for their assistance at the school, particularly during the election. The Catholic Board had a PA Day for Election Day yesterday

Parent Portal:

The Parent Portal is not yet running for elementary schools. Spring of 2019 is the expected launch date.

Parent Participation Survey Pro-grant Update:

PRO Grants has been cancelled this year. Instead, parents are encouraged to express their concerns on the Parent Participation Survey focusing in 7 major areas.

Fortheparents.ca is the website

STEM

Job skills development, Coding

Standardized test

Graduate with skills including financial literacy

Managing the use of tech in classrooms

Building a new age appreciate health curriculum

Bill of Rights for Parents

It is an opportunity for us to have a say in what will happen. Three ways to participate:
online survey, telephone town hall,
December 15th deadline to participate
Joey will send Colleen the information

Tattle tale line has being implemented – let's flood it with positive messages

Reasa and Kristi – will post information the fortheparents.ca website on the Parents of Ancaster Meadow Facebook page.

Meeting Adjourn:

Motioned by Reasa Diab-Second by Shilpa Shukla- Passed

