

## **Ancaster Meadow School Council**

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

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### **Member Attendees:**

Mayalnk Batra, Reasa Diab, Carolyn Golden, Colleen Kaus, Mohammed Nalla, Jessica Troian, Eti Umah, Nicole Vincic, Sandra Wohl,

### **Non-Member Attendees:**

Kelly Dunford (Principal)  
Navjit Singh (Teacher Representative)

### **Regrets:**

Julie Burgess-Nichols

### **Secretary:**

Nicole Vincic

### **Welcome:**

Meeting called to order, by Colleen Kaus at 6:38 pm.

### **Land Acknowledgement:**

Read by Reasa Diab.

### **January Meeting Agenda Approval:**

Mr. Singh asked that the Checkers Tournament be added to the agenda under new business. Motion to approve with updates, by Reasa. Second by Jessica. Motion passed.

### **November Meeting Minutes Approval:**

Correction to the spelling of Poaps is required.  
Motion to approve with correction, by Jessica. Second by Sandra. Motion passed.

### **Principal's Report:**

#### **Staff Report/ Updates: Kelly Dunford**

Ms. Dhalla has returned. Julie Finley has returned to her position as permanent office assistant. Dianne Wojtasik is currently on leave and Brandy Kaytor is covering.

Wide variety of student placements throughout the school – student teachers from Laurier University, student ECEs from Brock University. This is a great opportunity for student teachers/ ECEs to learn from our experienced staff.

#### **Checkers Tournament: Navjit Singh**

Checkers Tournament will be running this year at the Ancaster Fair Grounds. Mr. Singh is considering on running a concession “store” at the tournament. Originally, Ancaster Home &

School organized the concession sales. But in the second year, it was organized by volunteer AMES parents and the profits went into the Checkers Board account.

Mr. Singh indicated that the date set for Wednesday March 29. He is looking for AMES parent support/ volunteers help with the concession sales. Reasa suggested that Mr. Singh reach out to the parent community from other schools to get additional help as AMES is short on parent volunteers.

Reasa mentioned that March 29 is during Ramadan and that perhaps this should be taken into consideration as we have a large student population in the school and across the board that observe Ramadan. This may affect participation. Mr. Singh said that there is limited availability of a date outside of Ramadan this year, so he will make sure to take it into consideration when setting future dates. He may try to find out if there may an opportunity to schedule it before March break (TBC).

Enrollment is limited to 1 team per grade (grades 3 to 8), per school. This is approximately 36 students per school. To help ensure that we have the right number of volunteers, Kelly recommended that each participating school be responsible to bring their own volunteers, as well as their own facilitator.

Many volunteers are needed to help run this event. In addition to the event day, set up takes place the night before and take down is the same time. This is a good opportunity for high school student to get their volunteer hours. Another recommendation was to use grade 8 students as referees (the ones who do not make the team). Additional volunteers can also include the student teachers.

#### **January PD Focus: Kelly Dunford**

Meeting with teachers helped identified a PD opportunity for grade 2 to 5 teachers whose students who have not had early learning reading resource facilitator support. Reading Specialist, Hilary Kawamura with Learning Resource Teacher, will facilitate the session about the early reading skills acquisitions.

#### **School Goals: Kelly Dunford**

1. Create a sense of belong for all students through student centre responsive pedagogy and to close the gap for those currently and historically underserved.

Specific to Ancaster Meadow we are focussing on students with IEPs and students who are just below grade level.

2. Increase well-being by establishing and maintaining trusting relationships with students and families.

This is a core piece to learning. Must have trust for learning to occur.

Currently, math is not one of the boards strategic directions however given recent EQAO results, it might be! Based on what we are seeing with results, hopefully the Trustees will establish it as part of their next strategic direction.

While AMES is above board levels with math, there has been a decline in results. However, Kelly mentioned we should be cautious comparing EQAO data at this time due to gaps resulting from the pandemic.

**Question:** Are other schools seeing a decline in results as well?

**Answer:** Yes, other schools are seeing a decline as well. When we look at the overall board level, 44% are achieving grade level or above (for primary math).

EQAO school results are all posted online: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/blog/eqao-releases-school-and-board-results-for-2021-22-assessments/>

**Question:** Are there recommended textbooks for students to use at home to help with learning?

**Answer:** Curriculum is often inquiry-based so it is open for learning opportunities for all students. Textbooks are typically written for one grade level, so they may not specifically support inquiry-based learning opportunities. The curriculum provides opportunities for teachers to select their own resources. Common publishers include: Pearson, Nelson offer resources for schools

Various new math resources are being piloted with licensing fees (approximately \$700 fee)

If parents are looking for workbooks to use at home, the Canadian Curriculum textbooks from Costco are a good option.

### **School Buses: Kelly Dunford**

There continues to be bussing concerns with lateness. There is one bus in particular that is consistently a half hour late (at minimum) This is the same bus since the beginning of the school year. This is very frustrating for all involved. There is also an issue with another bus route where First Student has not been able to secure a consistent driver for the incoming route which has caused many issues for that route (not arriving on time, missing stops, etc.).

Kelly has been documenting and hoping that things will get better.

### **New School Board Trustee: Kelly Dunford**

Amanda Fehrman is our new Board Trustee. She welcomes the opportunity to come visit with Council.

### **Grade 8 Graduation: Kelly Dunford**

Commencement ceremony is confirmed for Tuesday June 20.

Grad photos will take place on March 30, with retakes on April 20.

**Question:** Will there be grade 8 trip this year?

**Answer:** It may be considered, still yet to be determined. Overnight trips approved by the board. However, there will not be a Wonderland (not board approved)

**Term 1 Report Cards/ Interviews: Kelly Dunford**

Term 1 Report Cards will be handed out on Feb 17.

No interviews are scheduled. However, parents are encouraged to keep in contact with the teacher (ongoing communication is encouraged).

Reminder that January 27 is PA Day.

**Covid 19 Update: Kelly Dunford**

No self reported case since the last on in December

**New Business: Colleen Kaus**

**PRO Grant 2022/2023**

PRO Grant \$1000 available with proposal which must detail what the money will be spend on. The application due January 27th

Colleen asked Council for suggestions on what we want to spend the money on. Last year's attendance was very poor. Overall, speakers have generally not been supported. Recommendation was put forward to consider math supports for parents to help address the concerns with gaps in math. Recommendation to look into Jump2Math as option.

Motion to write the proposal for PRO Grant application to support math and financial literacy was put forward by Carolyn. All in favour. Motion passed.

Suggestion to host this with Spring Open house to help encourage participation.

Early May would be ideal (first part of May).

Open House May 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> possible (Wednesday or Thursday).

**Meeting Adjourned**

Motion to adjourn by Reasa. Second by Sandra @ 7:30pm.