

MINUTES

School Council Earl Kitchener

Oct 17th 2023 | 6:30pm

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Land Acknowledgement by Dave Thorne and welcoming words.

Approval of Minutes and Agenda

The Agenda for October Meeting were approved by:

- Lisa, Maria

Agenda Change:

- Addition to the Agenda by Ashley: Parent of English student; how to encourage/promote for English program and battle negative association with the English Program

The Meeting Minutes for September Meeting were approved by:

- Lisa, Sara

Meeting Minute Change:

- None

Discussion School Council Membership (Fleur)

Fleur reads out the rules for School Council rules in regard to Roles/Memberships

Needs to have 6 voting members (parent representatives), Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Principal, H&S rep and School staff representative.

Chair: Fleur McGeoch (nominated by Fleur and Lisa) una

Co-Chair: Rachel Collier (nominated by Fleur and Sarah)

Secretary: Kathrin Milley (nominated by Maria, Vanessa)

Voting Members

H&S Representative: Maria Orrego

Principal: Dave Thorne

Staff Representative: Margret Sliwinska

Staff Report by Margret Sliwinska

- Meet the teacher was well received.
- Cross Country event was well
- Grade 1 trip to Dyments Farm
- FDK goes to Brentwood Farms
- Waiting on lots of Craft Supplies
- EK High Flyer kids are going to get involved in more H&S activities, e.g. Nutrition Program
- Swim meet is next Tuesday October 24th (92 participants) about 20% didn't make the team that did try-outs
- Junior Choir start started (Grade 3,4,5)
- Maybe at the beginning of the year send out a letter that makes parents aware of what clubs (e.g Choir, cross country, swimming....) can happen

Principal Report by Dave Thorne

In November Dave will share School Plan

Daniel Wang 'Daily School Route' connected with Grade 5 teachers and students and is in contact with Dave (maybe another presentation by Daniel)

Signage will go up that shows walking duration to EK School (students will be involved to decide where to put signage)

Neighbor to Neighbor starts on October 23rd to Friday November 3rd (Food donations) Nickafor is the Contact Person for this initiative (last year over 6000 cans were donated)

EQAO received by school, the individual results will come in later

The only problem area is Math where EK is below Provincial Average; will be addressed in PA day

What is the difference between the different School boards on how they perform in this test (HWDSB does their Math instructions in French other boards don't do it)

Celebrations in Schools: often discussed topic to be inclusive...

- Engage communities/families with assemblies (holiday concerts)
- Explore the option maybe to do a concert at an external location (theatre Aquarius; Sarah has good contacts to get this organized)

Crossing guards are separate from HWDSB, only run by Hamilton City

- Communication to the Community if there is/is not crossing guard
- Know what the Crossing Guard policies are
- Dave to send out notification letter to parents to inform them, that Crossing Guards are run by Hamilton City and not HWDSB
- Also send out note, the City is responsible for salting of SideWalks

Amended Agenda Topic: English Course perception

Ashley: Concern, that enrollment is so low that they take away program and those kids will be bussed to different schools. How to be proactive in marketing the English Program, battle the negative Perception of English program

18 Classes at EK; only 4 of them are English Stream at EK

Need to advocate for the English stream the same way as for the French on Board Level

Leave this topic on the upcoming agendas; maybe get suggestions on how we can change the perception of the community in regards English vs French

Fleur to find who is contact person on HWDSB in regards to this

Other

xxxxx

Next Meeting

November 14th, 2023