

## **Kanétskare School Council Minutes- Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> 2022**

Here are the minutes from our school council meeting on Wednesday.

The following members were in attendance: Megan Evans, Mark Hopkins (principal), Janine Durajlija (staff representative), Ligia Cordovani, Shannon Boyle, Sara Hagel, Corrine Carlin (school public health nurse), Loui, Daniel Chong (special presenter).

We reaffirmed our vote from the last meeting to give voting rights (either in person or via email) to all who have expressed an interest in participating in school council either by attending a meeting or filling out the form sent home last month. The following are voting members: Megan Evans, Gay Yuyitung, Sara Hagel, Christi Hodgson, Danielle Gendron, Eisham Abdulkarim, Cindy Stranak, Britney Langlois, Meg Paxton-Roos, Janine Durajlija (representing teaching staff), Mark Hopkins (school principal) and Anthony Bruno (from the rec centre, serving as community rep), Shannon Doyle, Ligia Cordovani and Loui (missed recording his last name). Council chair is Megan Evans, Co-Chair is Ligia Cordovani, secretary position is unfilled and treasurer is Sara Hagel.

David Chong presented his work with Daily School Route. This is an organization working to promote students commuting to school via walking, biking or scootering. He outlined the research his group has conducted in Ward 10 and gave examples of the recommendations that will stem from that. One example is creating a website that will show potential common routes to school and where crossing guards are located (so parents can help their children plan safe routes to school). They are beginning to research our Ward 1 and parents and students can expect a survey to come home in the next couple of weeks. They would greatly appreciate our participation.

Next, we heard from Corrine who is a public health nurse working every Wednesday in our school. She outlined her main goal which is to address student mental health. She plans to form a student coalition (composed of student volunteers from every grade) to assist her in developing strategies to address mental health needs across the school.

Janine delivered the staff report saying the general sense of happiness and energy among students and staff has not waned. The kids very much enjoy their freedom (new since Covid restrictions relaxed) at lunch and recess. Special tech has been rolled out in each classroom which facilitates students with reading in both French and English. This allows students at different reading levels to access the support they need. A reading specialist is also available at the school.

Mark delivered the Principal report which outlined the two staffing changes in 6B and 6C. He solicited feedback regarding school communication with parents. If you have any feedback, please email him. Currently, he sends out a weekly email summarizing what's going on at school and posts the information on the school website. There is an option to translate school communications into multiple languages via the website so he encourages parents to subscribe. The new school logo will be decided via student vote next week. School council will work together with him to plan an event unveiling the

new mascot, logo and school colours. More details to come very soon. We discussed the possibility of resuming school excursions. Trips must be equitable from an accessibility standpoint as well as a financial standpoint. We will likely start up a subsidy fund via an "additional funds" option to school cash online to raise funds for an "angel fund" or similar initiative to cover the subsidy. Mark gave us a tour of the school to see the progress of the renovations which are ongoing. The classrooms are getting a big facelift!

We will offer a hybrid meeting (sending out an MSTeams link for those who can't attend in person) for our next council meeting. If there is enough interest, we can continue this throughout the school year.

**Our next meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 30th at 7:00pm** in the Kanétskare learning commons room. We went ahead and scheduled the rest of the meetings for this school year, which are: Nov 30th, Jan 21st, March 1st, March 29th, May 3rd, June 7th (wrap up/celebration).