

Kanétskare School Council

January 10, 2024 - Meeting Minutes

Members present:

Megan Evans - Chair (Secretary & Treasurer)

Eisham Abdulkarim - Vice-Chair

Joanne Hall – Principal

Janine Durajlija – Teacher Representative

Jennifer Walsom, Robin Latour, Cindy Stranak, Kathrin Milley, Fleur McGeoch, Esme Rambert, Kathrine Hollands, Darina Vasek, Jennifer Wallace, Ilya Pinassi, Tanya Jurkovich, Louai Moghrabi, Haider Saeed, Laura Van Alphen, Michelle Woods - Voting Members

Joanne Hall, our new permanent principal, introduced herself to school council. She has been working in HWDSB since 1999 and has held a wide variety of positions including elementary and secondary principal, student success teacher, consultant, etc.

Her first order of business will be to coordinate and support the new reading curriculum that was just launched by the school board. This will begin to be implemented this year.

Janine Durajlija provided the staff report. There are quite a few clubs up and running at the school: Maker's Space (crochet club, sewing club, knitting club), Lord of the Rings, Gauss (mathematics), Safe Space and Health Action Team. She highlighted the Health Action Team which is made up of 15+ students from all grades, meeting weekly, focused on mental well-being and inclusion. They recently completed an art project to promote anti-bullying. They hosted a winter warm-up/de-stress event where students were invited to enjoy a cup of tea and do mandala colouring.

There is a need for a parent volunteer to help with the sewing club and a need for a parent volunteer for the knitting club. Yarn, needles and sewing supply donations would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Megan Evans if you can help: evansmeganbethany@gmail.com.

Megan Evans led the discussion around council business. The school council hosted a holiday cookie sale on December 22nd. We sold around half the cookies we purchased and have frozen the leftovers which will be sold the week of Valentine's day. Funds raised will be put in the trip subsidy fund.

Council intends to create a welcome letter for all families new to Kanetskare which will include relevant information on how to sign up for school emails, how to access School Cash Online, how to apply for a police check for people interested in volunteering, etc. We have set a date in early March to have a draft ready. **If anyone has thoughts on what they think would be useful to include, please email them to the council chair: evansmeganbethany@gmail.com.** Our main goal is to improve communication between the school and parents.

We intend to host another café at the May Open House. We are in the process of finding an inclusive theme to draw in broad participation across the school community.

We discussed starting up intramural sports which would run during the second recess. There has been high turnout for sports teams at Kanetskare and our intention is to offer the opportunity to play to more students. This will take some time to get up and running and we may need to ask for parent volunteers to help run it. As a first step, we are looking at starting an open gym during second recess for students interested in playing indoor games. Again, we may be reaching out to ask for parent volunteers. More information will be coming soon.

School council will be sending out a direct donation letter later this month asking for money specifically to purchase musical instruments and comfortable seating for the library commons room (with the idea of creating a space that is inviting to students to relax and read a book).

Cindy Stranak provided an update from the most recent PIC (parent involvement committee) meeting. The PRO grant (parent reaching out grant) application is due this month. School council is brainstorming ideas for an event to apply for. There is also a new initiative at the school board which will be running a pilot program this year, called BeKind. We intend to apply to participate and if we are selected (only 5 schools across the board will be chosen), we will pass on the full details.

Next school council meeting was to be on Wednesday, February 21st, however, due to a scheduling conflict the date has been changed to Thursday, February 22nd at 6:30 pm. Please note the earlier start time and date change.