

Kanétskare School Council

March 27, 2024 - Meeting Minutes

Members present:

Megan Evans - Chair (Secretary & Treasurer)

Eisham Abdulkarim (virtual)- Vice-Chair

Joanne Hall – Principal

Janine Durajlija – Teacher Representative

Cindy Stranak, Darina Vasek, Jen Castle-Timms, Jen Walsom, Jen Wallace, Kathrin Milley, Louai Moghrabi, Michelle Woods, Jen Castle - Voting Members

Joanne Hall started off our meeting with the principal's report. Permission slips and a deposit for the grade 8 year-end trip to Toronto are due tomorrow. 85 students have already made their deposits (out of roughly 120 students) which is enough for the school to go ahead and finalize the trip. Nearly \$1,000 has been donated toward the field trip subsidy already! The Toronto trip is scheduled for June 11th. The grade 7 students have a field trip planned on May 30th to Battlefield Park and grade 6 students have a field trip planned on June 26th to the Warplane Heritage Museum. Information will be sent home soon about these trips.

The council's direct donation campaign raised over \$1,500. Council will vote at our next meeting on how to split the money between musical instruments and seating for the library.

On the upcoming PD day on April 8, staff will focus on creating the school improvement plan. The broad areas of focus are dignity, compassion, trust and joy and how these can be fostered at school as well as looking at strategies to improve reading and math skills. Staff will provide input to the principal to help develop the improvement plan.

The principal initiated a check-out and check-in system for students leaving campus on second lunch break in order to better monitor where students are. Next year, she will implement a code of conduct students must follow in order to leave campus during lunch and if they break the code of conduct, the privilege will be revoked (she has received many complaints from neighbors and local businesses about students).

Janine Durajlija provided the staff report. Clubs and sports are in full swing at school and many students are participating as there are many activities to choose from.

The school would like to extend an invitation to parents interested in volunteering in any capacity (coaching/leading sports, running a club, helping tutor students with math or reading, giving a talk on a subject of interest, etc). Please contact Janine Durajlija if you have time and are interested: jdurajli@hwdsb.on.ca

Joanne and Megan are both in regular contact with the superintendent regarding our school mascot and logo. As you know, our school has been without a formal mascot or logo since our renaming back in 2021. Because we now have an Indigenous name, we need Indigenous input regarding our mascot. While we feel frustrated about the very long delay, we have to respect the school board's process as they seek Indigenous input.

We completed the welcome letter which is meant to improve communication between parents and the school. The letter will be emailed out to school council members with these meeting minutes. If you have feedback, please email Megan: evansmeganbethany@gmail.com. We will send the finalized letter out to parents in the next week or two and in the future, it will go home with students at the start of each school year.

The Spring Open House has been scheduled for May 8th, from 5:00-7:00. We will host a fundraiser, Kanetskare Café (previously French Café), at the open house. We urgently need to form a sub-committee of parent volunteers to handle the planning of the café. I will email council members and spread the word to get a committee formed.

It is also time to form a sub-committee for planning the grade 8 graduation ceremony and dance. I will email council members and spread the word to get this committee formed.

Next school council meeting will be Thursday, April 18th from 6:30-7:30pm.