

Kanétskare School Council
Meeting Minutes
November 28, 2024

Members present:

Vice-Chair: Cindy Stranak
Treasurer: Carly Felton
Secretary: Katherine Hollands
Temporary Principal: Ms. Rowell
Teacher: Janine Durajlija

Regrets:

Chair: Jennifer Walsom
Eisham Abdulkarim
Tom Flood
Eisham Abdulkarim
Jennifer Coon
Meghan Eisenberg
Tiffany Herron
Louai Moghrabi
Darina Vasek

Voting Members: Helen Burnett-Nichols, Jennifer Castle-Timms, Megan d'Andrade-Bush, Natacha da Silva, Pam Ekins, Esme Rambert, Jennifer Wallace

1) Welcome, Land Acknowledgement & Attendance

Cindy Stranak read the land acknowledgement, and attendance was taken.

- October minutes were distributed prior to this meeting. Jennifer Wallace made a motion to approve the minutes, Megan d'Andrade-Bush seconded the motion, and the motion was passed.
- There were two additions to be made to tonight's meeting agenda: exterior lighting at the NE corner of the school along the pathway (this item will be added to the Principal's Report), and adding a discussion of the book drive to Fundraising.

2) Meeting Agenda

Cindy Stranak moved to approve the agenda, Megan d'Andrade-Bush seconded the motion, and tonight's meeting agenda was passed.

- School Council email: kanetskareSC@hwsb.on.ca

Cindy noted that this email is now accessible, but not currently receiving emails from the School Board or from PIC. Cindy will continue to follow up on this issue.

- Parent Reaching Out Grant (PRO Grant)

Cindy confirmed that Kanetskare's application for the PRO Grant has been submitted. Conversations with Earl Kitchener have been ongoing to discuss the possibility of hosting a joint event in order to allow the funds to go further. It has been a struggle to find a local speaker beyond Paul Davies.

Aubrey Noronha (hellohope.ca) is a speaker who has been mentioned, who has previously spoken at the School Board and was well received. He covers topics including anti-racism, kids' mental health and kindness, and he can speak to staff, parents, and students. His cost, however, is prohibitive at \$3,000 per session. Cindy introduced the idea of having Strathcona school join in the talk as well, which would assist in covering the cost. There was a conversation around the logistics involved in 3 schools sharing a speaker, where the event would be help, and whether it would be geared towards families and students all at the same time. Earl Kitchener will get back to Cindy with some additional options in case Aubrey is not available or we do not have sufficient funds. Cindy will speak with Joanne to see if there is any additional funding that might be available.

- Fundraising

- Library: Indigo Literacy Grant Application – due January

No update on this front, as the application is not open yet. Cindy and the team have connected and are just waiting for access to the application.

- Direct Donation

Megan d'Andrade-Bush noted that in addition to the direct donation letter there will also be an ask for books and/or funds for the book drive, so we need to make sure we pay attention to the messaging so there is no conflict between the two. Cindy confirmed she will work with Esme and Megan on the timing of these two initiatives.

- Book Drive

Carly asked for clarification about where the book drive donations go – there is some confusion around whether the drive is for library books or for classroom books, and what is the difference. Megan and Esme clarified the primary goal of the book drive is to help create a novel study area containing multiple copies of popular novels that students can use for novel studies. (Ideally 5-6 copies each of 5 or 6 different novels.) The book drive also aims to source multiple copies of popular general interest books to be used by the student in their spare time.

Jenn Castle confirmed that she has used the Scholastic Funds from the book fair to purchase titles from Scholastic that were on the wish list created by staff.

These were mostly general interest books requested by teachers.

Esme Rambert has created an information poster about the book drive that she will forward to Ms Rowell so it can be distributed to all Kanetskare families.

Prompted by the conversation around purchasing books, Carly Felton asked about the records for the Treasurer. Ms Rowell will contact Tracy Murphy, who

works in the office, and put her in touch with Carly with any records or information she may have.

Ms Rowell noted that the books from Scholastic have arrived. Jenn Castle will take them home to sort them according to classroom. Ms Rowell will speak with Joanne about where these books should be housed.

- 50th School Anniversary Celebration – Sub-Committee, Date, Format

The subcommittee has been formed for this celebration. Morgan Van Groningon has offered to join the sub-committee. Esme stated that she plans to start the planning for this event in January.

Ms Rowell spoke to one of the caretakers who remembers adding something to the time capsule when it was first created, which is a great reminder of how various community members might be involved. Mr Rowell will speak with him to see if he may be able to speak or participate in the celebration.

It was agreed that all the messaging for this celebration should go out to the wider community to facilitate participation from anyone who might have a connection to the school.

3) Principal's Report

Ms Rowell reported that the Grade 8 trip is being confirmed, and graduation dates will be confirmed shortly.

The last step has now been completed at Kanetskare for the Safe Schools Action Plan.

The new school jerseys have arrived. The senior girls volleyball team will get to be the first to wear them as they compete in their semi-finals.



Esme asked about where and when photos are taken that can be used in the yearbook. She noticed that last year's yearbook has some repeat photos from the previous year and wondered if there is a need for kids to volunteer to take photos throughout the year. (was anything resolved on this front?)

Esme asked if there was any news on the arrival of spirit wear, as it was supposed to arrive in November. Ms Rowell confirmed that there were some personal issues with the provider, but she would follow up to see what the new expected arrival date is.

4) Teacher's Report

Janine Durajlija reviewed the great variety and number of clubs going on at the school for students, including Robotics Club, Dungeons & Dragons Club, Spirit Club, Kindness Club, Chess Club, Celebration Club, Homework Club, Cricket Club, Knitting Club, Sewing Club. All of this is in addition to Intramurals and school sports teams, which right now includes Jr and Sr Volleyball teams. While all of the clubs may not be mentioned on the daily announcements, students are great at recruiting each other and most of the staff are aware of which clubs are happening each day and will communicate this casually to students.

Janine shared that planning is underway for a school dance, the Holiday Assembly, International Day of Persons with Disabilities, bingo and the music concert.

5) PIC Update

Cindy provided an update on the recent PIC meeting, attended by Gerry Smith, Superintendent with HWDSB, who provided an update on the Board's vaping and cell phone policies, as handed down by the Ministry of Education. The School Board has purchased a variety of vape detectors, which are currently being tested. They hope to purchase detectors next year to be installed in high schools. If there are any left over, there is a possibility they could be installed in those middle schools identified as having a need for them. Cindy shared some new information that came out at the PIC meeting: it is no longer approved for student groups to connect through social media, the result being that it will be very difficult for existing groups to organize and connect without this medium. Mr Smith promised to take this feedback from parents back to the board to work on a way forward.

6) Future Business

- By-laws review and update
This item will be discussed in the new year.
- Inviting Trustee, Elizabeth Wong, to a future meeting
Carly mentioned that she has attended a meeting with Ms Wong in the past and it was useful to hear her updates and that she was open and approachable. This item will be addressed by Jen Walsom and Joanne when she returns from leave.

7) Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:57pm.