

Kanétskare School Council

Meeting Minutes

March 27, 2025

Members present:

Chair: Jennifer Walsom
Vice-Chair: Cindy Stranak
Secretary: Katherine Hollands
Principal: Joanne Hall
Teacher: Janine Durajlija

Regrets:

Treasurer: Carly Felton
Eisham Abdulkarim
Jennifer Caste-Timms
Louai Moghrabi
Tom Flood
Esme Rambert
Darina Vasek

Voting Members: Helen Burnett-Nichols, Jennifer Coon, Natacha da Silva, Meaghan Eisenberg, Pam Ekins, Tiffany Herron, Cindy Stranak, Jennifer Wallace

1) Welcome, Land Acknowledgement & Attendance

Meaghan Eisenberg read the land acknowledgement, and attendance was taken.

- February minutes were distributed prior to this meeting. Natacha da Silva made a motion to approve the minutes, Cindy Stranak seconded the motion, and the motion was passed.
- There were a couple of changes to tonight's meeting agenda
 - Jodie Brant, Public Health Nurse, joins the meeting tonight and will provide an update during the Principal's Report
 - There will be no Recreation Report this evening as they could not attend

2) Meeting Agenda - Updates

- Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grant – Planning (Cindy S.)
 - Confirmed Speaker: Aubrey Noronha

Cindy confirmed that Aubrey Noronha is scheduled to deliver a presentation to the school. Cindy and Joanne Hall had a call with him where he reviewed his presentation and an online format was confirmed, as this leads to higher attendance than an in-person meeting, as is also less expensive. Mr Noronha will present to the students on April 8th, and then to the parents on the evening of April 23rd at 7:00pm.

Cindy asked for feedback about what information should be on the poster that goes out to families, and whether registration should be required for this event. It was decided that families should be asked to register, but also that the link will

be sent out to all families, especially in a reminder email the day before and anyone who has received the link will be welcome to join. There was some discussion about also inviting Gr 5 parents from our feeder schools.

- Fundraising: Book Drive Update

Megan d'Andrade updated council that \$1,500 has been raised through the "Give, Read, Grow" initiative, and MANY books were collected to add to the General Interest books in the library. Joanne Hall added that an anonymous donation of \$6,000 was provided and will be used for purchasing books for the novel studies program. Many books have already been ordered, and a list of French novel studies books is in progress. All novel studies books should be ordered from Epic Books by the next Student Council meeting in April. Any funds left over from this donation amount will be put towards the library re-design.

- 50th School Anniversary Celebration: Sub-Committee Update

The Sub-Committee has not yet had a chance to meet, so no update was provided.

- Notice: Westdale Presentation

Jennifer Walsom shared with the Council that Westdale Secondary School is hosting a presentation about mental health, the importance of sleep, and social media by Dr. Jean Clinton, a Child Psychiatrist on Apr 2nd at 7pm in the Westdale Auditorium. This presentation is open to the community.

3) Principal's Report

Joanne introduced Jodie Brant, Public Health Nurse, to the Council and Jodie provided an overview of her role at the school. Jodie is in the school ½ - 1 day per week, and her role is to support the Health Action Team at various schools. Jodie reported that a student survey was completed to get feedback about what health priorities the students would like addressed. The 3 major priorities are:

1. Bullying – concerns around bullying were addressed partially through kindness initiatives and were tied back into the 7 Grandfather Teachings
2. Language – teachers have been speaking to students in class about the power of words, and these discussions were also tied into the 7 Grandfather Teachings
3. Nutrition Program – students wanted to see an increase in the quality and the quantity of snacks provided by the nutrition program. Fundraising was undertaken and \$500 was raised to put towards this initiative.

Jodie also gave an update on upcoming Earth Day activities, which include campus-wide cleanup, classroom challenges, posters, and classroom presentations by students during Earth Hour. Student leaders are also being trained on vaping prevention by a Tobacco Health Promotion Specialist.

Another role of Jodie's is to provide support around vaccines and immunizations and helping with outreach to new families, including providing them with translated material regarding vaccines.

Joanne Hall provided a brief update to the Council on several activities:

- 1) Year-End Trips
 - a) Gr 8: going on June 4th to Toronto
 - b) Gr 7: might be two trips including a production of Mary Poppins at Glendale, as well as going bowling
 - c) Gr 6: work in progress
- 2) EQAO – evaluations will be happening the weeks of May 12th, May 20th and May 26th, with 2 classes each week participating
- 3) Library – Joanne has been in contact with the company working on a library design and they have provided several options. She is now waiting for the quote.
- 4) School Branding – Joanne is working on getting a quote for painting and graphics on the white block walls in the library, as well as for updating the school main entrance. There is a possibility that the School Board may agree to contribute to this.

Joanne provided an update on the School Improvement Plan. Teachers have been working in groups to improve the 3 areas identified as most important:

- High Impact Instructional Teaching Practices – This involves making time to work with small groups of students, direct instruction, and functional feedback.
- Reading & Writing – This is a difficult area to teach if the students have not already learned this in elementary school. Teachers are currently at the stage of assessing students' reading abilities.
- Math – Certain teachers are certified to use the MathUp program, which provides different ways to teach various concepts, and provides learning tools.

Jennifer Walsom asked if parent volunteers could be helpful in any of these areas. Joanne said that yes, volunteers could be very helpful once this initial assessment period is complete.

Jennifer Walson asked if there are any updates from the City of Hamilton regarding the use agreement for the sports field. No updates have been received from the City.

4) Teacher's Report

Janine Durajlija updated the Council on this year's Open House. There are plans to do a Café again this year, but a member of Council is needed to spearhead the event. Last year the Café raised around \$1,300 and was a great success, with lots of student and family participation. Natacha da Silva volunteered to oversee the setup of a volunteer portal on signup.com and to coordinate volunteer times and donation supplies. It was decided amongst the Council that the Open House Cafe would probably take place on May 22nd from 5:-6:30. (Ms Hao usually does a band event at beginning at 6:30.)

Janine also provide a rundown of the various clubs happening at the school and noted that swim team practices started this week. She is also working on a talent show at the school. If it

turns out to be a popular event, it may be presented to the whole school. Otherwise, a smaller talent show may be presented only to the Grade 6 classes.

5) Hamilton Recreation Report

Recreation member not able to attend, so nothing to report.

6) PIC Update

Cindy Stranak shared that there is a PIC Celebrates Well-Being family event taking place on Saturday May 31st from 9am-2pm at Sherwood Secondary School. This event is open to the community if anyone is interested in attending.

There were no PIC meeting updates, as there was no March Meeting.

7) Standing Business

- Principal Placement Survey – by Council – due Apr 25
No new information.
- Volunteer Policy Consultation Survey – Individual – open until Apr 17
No new information.
- By-laws Review & Update – Part 1, Review and Process
No new information.

8) Future Business

- Graduation Planning
Joanne had no new updates to share regarding graduation except that discussions will be happening around the food planning in April. Last year there was an excess amount of food, so this will be scaled back this year.

7) Adjournment & Next Meeting

The next meeting date has been moved to April 23rd at 5:30pm. This meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm.