

Kanetskare School Council Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2025

Attendance – Natacha DaSilva, Helen Burnett-Nichols, Jen Castle-Timms, Megan d’Andrade-Bush, Cindy Stranak, Pam Ekins

Approval for minutes from last month’s meeting will be approved online (over email)

Land Acknowledgment was read by Cindy

Reaching Out event

- poorly attended
- Notes for next year – something that doesn’t include a speaker - something like paint night – that was well attended, some mindfulness/yoga, or let the program go, we need a more interactive night, need to discuss topics for next year

Café

- Lots of volunteers
- Update needed for new positions
- Still need a couple more volunteers to be there with students
- Tiffany and Janine will be here to set up & be in charge of volunteers
- No one is in charge of flowers it seems – Cindy is going to reach out to Cynthia

Joanne – We will be showcasing some of our clubs (D&D, crochet, robotics, maybe the band?) and trying to show the Grade 5’s all the great opportunities there are. Rec Centre is coming too – they can sign people up on the spot

Grade 8 Grad

- Darina will take care of food donations
- had too much food last year
- candy bar was messy & wasteful
- should do cookies & cupcakes
- Kids have chosen theme: Choices were -Starry Night, colour theme, water beach theme (confidential for now!)
- Ms. Smith will reach out in the next 2 weeks about what is needed for decorations
- Was very well received last year
- Ceremony before at Westdale & then dance/light buffet after

Book update

- All books have arrived (May 14th) and they are trying to figure out where to house them

- There are boxes of books they can't use (going to give them to students or EK)

Library

- Back wall – all shelving and novel studies books will go here
- They will come up with a sign up system so they don't go missing
- A big thanks for all the hard work that went into this
- Joanne showed pictures of the design of the library – chairs, tables, comfy seating, high top tables, semi circle couch, big round bar height tables, long tables, black chairs with ottomans – this has all been ordered and came to just under \$30,000.
- In the fall, the other tables at the back will be replaced before Open House

50th Anniversary – Update from Esme (via email)

- Was way too much to do this in June and scaled it back to do it in October
- Focus is on school spirit, community building, and possibly fundraising
- Thursday October 16th 4-8pm with Open House
- For current students, parents, alumni, and feeder schools
- We will use gym and black top (weather dependent)
- Food trucks, DJ, Scholastic book fair, archive station, and time capsule (will get removed this summer and will look to see what is in it!) It will be there to view at the celebration (depending on what is in it)
- Possibly setting up a market for vendors (wellness, small retailers)
- Marketing – save the date posters, posters for feeder schools, Facebook
- Joanne wants this organized by the end of June
- Cindy asked about a \$500 startup fee – could this be used for the party?? Joanne said that this needs to be voted on in September at the first meeting.

Principal's Report

- Branding of the school – waiting on 3 quotes for front entrance, library, gym but will likely be around \$15,000
- Joanne is working with the designer to come up with ideas for the library
- Gym – “Home of the Lightning”
- Likely won't happen before end of year and will take place last week of August/first week of September depending on renovations
- Will know more soon
- Esme has some parents that are interested in painting a mural
- Should a student or students help design a mascot?
- There will be new flooring and lockers will be painted

Electives Day

- Students had to sign up for desired elective
- That afternoon kids were laughing, so happy, and very focused on what they were doing
- Will be running this again as it was such a success
- Unknown if they should do the same events or choose different options

Portable

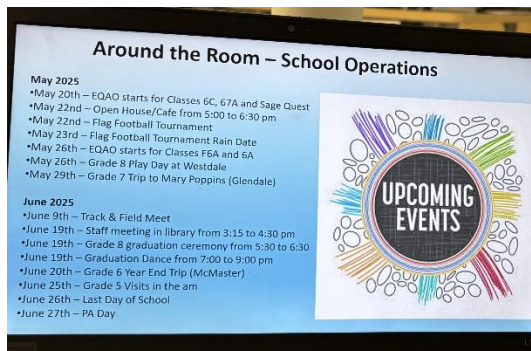
- Unknown as to where they will go but they do have to go in the back because of a variance out front
- Possibly where the wall of the pool is or on a big patch of ground where there are 3 big trees (trees would have to come down) or near the rock
- Trying not to take away space from blacktop because of renovation
- They are going to be newer portables, and Joanne has heard they are very nice!
- Unknown which classes will be using them
- Going to do a split lunch because they can't get all kids on the black top at the same time – just trying to navigate and figure this out with filed renovation possibly starting August
- Some English and French classes will have gym classes together next year

Program Strategy

- This survey got sent out to parents and will have implications for FI and SageQuest program for 2026/2027 school year. Results/recommendations will come out at end of 2025.
- Teachers did the survey at the meeting tonight
- Students are allowed to do the survey but need to have parents' consent
- Lots of unknowns so parents should have their say

School Update

Important dates:



Finishing Strong PowerPoint –

- They needed a reset as a school as kids seem to be checking out earlier and there is still lots of school days left which is why we focused on positive and finishing strong
- They all came together and came up with a commitment and asked the question, “what does finishing strong look like for us?”
- Went over 6 big expectations and talked about examples
- Staff noticed complacency with cell phone restrictions and along with this more bullying, social media issues, more walking around with cell phones/ear buds – since assembly have seen a big reduction in behaviours.

Other....

- Joanne needs to send in a school council summary report – Jenn and Cindy to work on this
- Cindy asked about police officers being out around the school recently and questioned why kids weren’t held at school. Joanne discussed that the police need to call the school and notify that they need to do a hold and secure and this didn’t happen.
- Retirements? Haven’t officially been announced.
- Last week of August we will find out about staffing/teachers
- They started discussing this at the staff meeting tonight. They ask teachers to outline 3 kids that each student works well with and 3 students they do not. Students also get their top 3 as well.

PIC Report

- 700 people registered for upcoming event on May 31st.
You can pre-register for the event, Age groups – K–12 all included
- At the last PIC meeting there was a presentation by Carina Gatton about Development Disabilities Program about the Universal life skills program, 7 skills taught throughout the year, next year will be rolling out to more schools
- Talked about school council bylaws – going to be board-wide now. Next year will be able to have input on them and not individual school responsible anymore

Adjournment – last meeting of the year!