

Shannen Koostachin Elementary School

School Council Meeting

Monday January 13, 2025

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Maria Marino (Principal), Chris Hollingsworth (VP), Allison, Andrea, Antony (on behalf of Kirsteen), Farkhunda, Jennifer, Kylie, Lesley, Nazareth, Pinky, Saima, Sara, Sheree, Tahmeena, Tanna, Yasmeen.

Regrets sent: Colleen, Amanda, Amira, Asma, Colleen, Kruti, Stephanie, Ms. Gear and Ms. Mitchell.

1. Welcome / Land Acknowledgment

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement read by Kylie
Opening of meeting – Naz and Sheree

2. Review and approval of last meeting minutes

Approved by Tanna and Jen

3. Black History Month - (Presented by Leslie Billingsley)

- Leslie presented some of the Black History Month activities and events held at a school where she was previously a member of the parent council for 4 years for inspiration for SK parent council.
- Anita Grant - founder of Hello Hair is a local Hamilton mom featured on Dragon's Den and Forbes magazine. Anita has partnered with HWDSB to close the knowledge gap when it comes to natural hair. She has created dolls made of natural hair and uses them in demonstrations at HWDSB schools to battle hair discrimination and promote acceptance and appreciation. Anita has also published 2 books, Hello Hair and Hello Hair CurlCode Black Workbook.
- Anita Grant's presentation includes a 2 part presentation approx 25 mins that includes History and mannequin demo. A stylist will provide a live demo with all the mannequins on display for students to look and touch. 1 hour presentation rate is \$300 with 2 presenters and takeaway pamphlets.
- Ainara Alleyne - creator of Ainaras bookshelf, is a high school student at Bishop Ryan, tv host, advocate, and book lover. Ainara shares the importance of diversity in literature.
- Josh Taylor - Owner of Defining Movement Dance is a dancer, choreographer, and speaker. He explores themes in hip-hop culture and social justice. Was very popular at school and was asked to return on several occasions.
- Leo Nupolu Johnson - CEO of Empowerment Squared. Focuses on how Black History is about celebrating Black excellence and is not limited to slavery. Empowerment Squared provides newcomers and marginalized adults and families with free programming that helps them succeed in Canada. Grades 7 & 8 were invited to explore Empowerment Squared's new facility and meet with the staff on a field trip.

4. Teacher's Report (Presented by Ms Slater)

- Volleyball - Both Boys and Girls teams made it to the playoffs. Sr Boys team won their tournament. Volleyball season is done.
- Basketball - Basketball season is starting. Girls team won their first game (home game at SK)
- Indoor Soccer - Indoor Soccer will be starting soon with Ms Celeste however students do not know about this as of yet.
- Hoops 3 - Hoops 3 is a program for grades 5-8 where classes spend one lunch per grade per week at a minimum in the gym.
- Winter Concert was a great success even though it was put together last minute.
- Senior band and Open Music - Mr Mulligan is running the first elementary band at SK focusing on technique and building foundations. Tentative spot booked at Valley Park (more details to come) for a Public Library Performance. Parents encouraged to attend the open free concert to support the SK band.
- Arranging a music fest at Saltfleet for students to visit the feeder school.
- Elementary Band Fest - hoping to participate in the Elementary Band Fest and hoping for parent support.
- Spring Talent Show - was a great success last Spring with great routines and students are asking to do it again this year with the possibility of staff participating as well. Requesting Parent Council to share with the community and see if there is interest in opening it up to the community to attend.
- School Devices Technology Update - Current breakdown of school devices is 1 ipad per Kindergarten class (total of 5), 4-6 ipads per Primary class (total of 52), 8 devices per Junior class (total of 63 devices), 12 ipads and 3 laptops per intermediate class (total of 90). Plans moving forward include: buying laptops for Intermediate classes and passing down ipads to Primary and Junior classes. In addition, to teachers keeping the same devices each year to encourage better caretaking of devices.
- Robotic Team participated in the competition on December 10th. One of the parents made the t-shirts for the team. Team came in 3rd place in the battle. Team members received a medal and a tshirt from the school board. Kits only arrived in November so was very short time for the team to prepare for the competition. Very proud of the team. Moving forward, next year's challenge kit will be ordered earlier and hopefully students will be able to start working in September in preparation for the competition. Potential Junior Team for grades 3-5 in the future with less complex robots.
- Robotics Club to start at school starting from Grade 5 with materials available at school. Club will be run in 10 student cohorts 2 weeks, 3 lunch breaks a week (total of 6 days). Students get to build and learn more about robots. Currently 32 students have signed up for the Robotics Club. Asking Parent Council to help with fundraisers and help from the community for Lego donations (must be standard Lego size), Lego building instructions/manuals, and containers (measurements to be provided later).
- Innovation Space - Staff members visited the Innovation Space at Queen Mary's school for inspiration and ideas to implement at SK. Initial thoughts are to set up the innovation space in the library at SK with STEAM stations. Support from Parent Council and community is needed to build up the innovation space for students to use and benefit from. Top 4 asks: Lego donations, storage containers, Dash robots, and Makado cardboard cutter (safe for students)

5. Principal's Report

- *Current enrollment* is 696 students.
- *Innovation Space* - Working with the Librarian and Robotic Educator Leads to re-imagine the Learning Commons/Library to create a STEM space in addition to book
- *Intermediate Town Hall* - Educator Champions are Mr Mulligan and Ms. Houshmandi organize a monthly meeting for Intermediate students to provide them with the opportunity to develop leadership and capture

student voice. Upcoming Town Hall meeting to be held on January 20th. Students will bring forward their ideas e.g. discuss safety when entering the school.

- *Upcoming Events at SK*
 - Spring Open House- scheduled for May 8th. Timings to be confirmed.
 - Kinder Open House - scheduled for May 22nd. Timings to be confirmed.
 - Year End Grade 8 Trip - Trip will be to 3 destinations in Toronto including a Toronto Blue Jays game and possibly a picnic with fresh pizzas, fruits and vegetables. Tentative date set for June 19.
 - Commencement - Ceremony scheduled for June 24 at Saltfleet. No tickets required as there is more than enough space for additional family members. Party and Dinner to be held at SK afterwards. Ms Marino requested parent council support for contacts for a DJ, photo booth, 360 video booth or any other fun activity to please reach out with a quote.
- *CCPI (Critically Conscious Practitioner Inquiry)* - CCPI SK team led by Ms Ivkovic will be presenting a spotlight on local Black Excellence. Will liaise with Lesley on potentially incorporating some of the ideas in the presentation into their work.
- *Technology* - Technology Educator Champion Ms Slater will be doing an analysis on whether it may be a better and more cost-effective option to purchase laptops for intermediates as opposed to Ipads. Staff to provide feedback on laptops vs Ipads.
- *Tastebuds Nutrition Program* - Ms Marino thanked the volunteers for all their support. Only 15 minutes was needed to prepare the 33 bins for the classrooms. Currently looking into ideas to thank the donor for their generous donation.
- *Values Based Recognition Program* - Kind Kodiaks led by Ms. Ritchie, Ms. Ivkovic, and Ms. Gallant has started. First assembly will be held on January 31st. Great involvement from students and staff members. Kind Kodiaks will be posted on the bulletin board outside of the library.
- *Equitable Access to outdoor play* - Led by Educator Champion Ms Giberson. Outdoor Learning Space application requested was not approved as there will be a need for more portables in the future in the original location. Revised application has been submitted including fencing for the horseshoe area on the other side of the playground. Donor (Grand Stone river) is still interested in donating 4 boulders. No items can remain outdoors. Ms Marino requested from Parent Council to allocate 2 of the large bins (initially donated for the Tastebuds program but were not needed) towards this project. One will be used to store outdoor Learning resources for all students and the other will be used for sensory resources for nutrition break to allow students with safety concerns to play with their friends in a safe zone. Recess Helpers will also be involved. Ms Giberson will be conducting model lessons for teachers outside.
- *Athletics* - Led by Educator Champion Ms Celeste is looking into the following tournaments for students: Water Polo, Indoor Soccer (In Feb and March for senior boys, senior girls, senior co-ed, and junior co-ed), Outdoor Soccer (In May and June for senior boys, senior girls, senior co-ed, and junior co-ed), Flag Football (grades 5&6, and 7&8), Swim Team and Track and Field (grades 3-5, and grades 6-8)

6. Treasurer's Report

Asmaa was unable to attend the meeting however there have been no events or changes since last meeting in November.

7. Chair's Report

- *By-Laws Sub-Committee*

- The By-Laws Subcommittee has been working hard on the by-laws and have created a live Google document that is available if anyone is interested in reviewing.
- Committee met over Zoom before the holidays.
- The goal is to be able to present it to the Parent Council in the next meeting for review before voting.
- *Movie Night Fundraiser*
 - Movie Night is scheduled for February 20th. Doors open at 5:15 and movie starts at 5:30.
 - Parent Council requesting that teachers do a "hands up" vote to decide on the movie. Ms Mitchell will assist with collecting data from teachers and passing it on to parent Council.
 - Pizza will be offered again. Concession snacks left over from last movie night so will not need to spend much on additional supplies.
- *Flip Give*
 - Total of \$1,525 has been earned so far. Very close to being able to cash out
 - Continue promoting the app to increase funds.
- *Approval for Pro Grant*
 - Application for Pro Grant was approved in the amount of \$900.
 - Movie license is per student. Public license costs \$.85 cents per student (limited use) costing \$870 + tax vs \$1.25 for license for students and teachers (unlimited use) costing \$983.10 + tax.
 - Looking into splitting the cost with the school for teachers to benefit from the license as well. Further discussion on the matter in next meeting
- *Other Fundraising*
 - Saima in contact with Paramount restaurant for a kickback night (similar to Kelsey's) as a Halal option to encourage further participation from the community. More information to follow. Possibility of having 2 events - Paramount and Kelsey's - to double up.

8. Adjournment

Closed the meeting - Antony and Yasmine