

Shannen Koostachin Elementary School

School Council Meeting - Monday April 7, 2025

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Antony (on behalf of Kirsteen), Kruti, Chris Hollingsworth, Andrea, Saima, Sara, Tanna, Kylie, Asmaa, Maria Marino, Shelan, Jenna, Colleen, Jaclyn Mitchell, Kruti, Pinky

Absent: Amanda, Nazareth, Yasmeen, Lesley, Sheree, Farkhunda

Attended Virtually: Allison, Ameera, Jennifer, Stephanie

1. Welcome / Land Acknowledgment

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement read by Kylie

Opening of meeting – Antony and Shelan

2. Review and approval of last meeting minutes

Approved by Tanna and Colleen

3. Meeting Norms

- Honoring the time limits - we will be starting to use a timer system to be respectful of everyone's time after receiving feedback about going over time.
- Stay on topics - we will be trying to stay on topics as much as possible. Further discussions can be held after the meeting or in the subcommittee groups.
- Q&A periods - we have set a time for Q&As at the end of each topic. If further discussion is needed we can either establish subcommittees or add to the next agenda.

4. Principal's Report (Presented by Mrs Marino)

- Thanked Parent Council for all their support and turn out to the meeting.
- Current school enrollment 717 students
- Technology - in preparation for the EQAO tests, investment into technology is important given the board data showing that using laptops to access the EQAO testing site dramatically increases students' ability to navigate the website and score better. Mr Hollingsworth will be working with the intermediate classes to coordinate the use of laptops to support 3rd and 6th graders 2 weeks before the test for practice (April 28-May 16). EQAO tests are scheduled for May 12th-16th.
- Thanked Ms Slater, Ms Pitt and the intermediate team for organizing and distributing 65 new laptops to all the 8th graders. They created a process for students to charge and store their laptops. Grade 8 ipads have been passed down to the grade 7 classes.
- Thanked Ms Slater and Ms Reynolds for ghosting the Equity, Well-Being, and Mental Health job-embedded PD. SK welcomed visitors for a full day of co-learning. Participants attended a lesson and co-planned, co-reflected and co-assessed.
- Thanked Max Adler and the Robokind team for their work on the socioemotional skills and needs of SK learners.
- Thanked Mrs Needham for supporting exempted students from the Human Development and Sexual Health program.
- Thanked Dr Nicole West-Burns and the CCPI team. The CCPI inquiry is in the final stages now and there will be Professional Development for staff on ARAO practices and looking forward to implementation.
- School will be covering the costs of the composites and folders for grade 8 graduates. Will need to confirm the size.
- School trip forms will from now on include a section that depicts how much of school council funds were used to subsidize the trip for transparency reasons.
- Parent raised a concern regarding a kindergarten class that did not participate in the school trip. Parent to discuss the issue with Mrs Marino later.
- Grade 8 trip has not been subsidized yet. More details to follow

5. Teacher's Report (Presented by Mrs Mitchell)

- Nothing new was shared by teachers/staff
- Junior Basketball team competitions are coming up soon.

- Field Trips have started to take place
- Water Polo tournament arranged by Mrs Celeste. Mrs Marino thanked Mrs Celeste for her hard work and dedication to arranging the Water Polo event. She has got us free access to pools and free training by coaches. Proposal will be sent to the superintendent and a generic application has been sent to all schools who wish to participate. There will be several competition dates and schools participating. Some parent council members offered to volunteer for Water Polo events if needed.
- Soccer and Flag football events will continue to take place. Mrs Celeste has all the information for all sport events and opportunities

6. Treasurer's Report (Presented by Asmaa)

- Supplies in hand for next movie night : \$65
- Movie Night on Feb 20, 2025 : \$723.46
- Mabel's labels: \$90.17
- Flipgive: \$1,291.04
- Kickback Night Paramount: \$155
- Balance in hand as of April 2nd: \$5,981.93
- Trip subsidies have not been deducted yet.
- Suggestions to advertise FlipGive again in the community

7. Chair's Report (Presented by Kylie and Saima)

- Movie License - Unable to split the cost of the license with the school. School Council will purchase their own (hard copy version only) at the end of May to maximize usage. There will be around \$300 left over from the Pro-grant that must be used this year for Parent involvement events.
- Raffle Baskets—Raffle baskets letters went out today for donations. Tickets will be sold on School Cash Online as well as in person. Pizza will be sold on School Cash Online in advance, and ice cream bars/freezies will be sold in person as opposed to Food Trucks. Students will have a chance to walk around and look at the baskets to decide which they would like to bid on. School council volunteers are needed to administer the event.
- Spring Fling - Spring Fling will be postponed till next year. Difficult to plan in such short notice with graduation, June movie night and open house.

8. New Business

- Volunteers needed for Open House for sorting and wrapping the raffle baskets a week prior to Open House. Volunteers needed to review ticket purchases on School Cash Online and write names and grades on tickets to be delivered to classrooms.
- 4 volunteers will be needed for in person ticket sales, 4 volunteers for icecream and popsicle stand as well as Pizza stand. Volunteers can rotate in groups to allow them to visit their children's classrooms
- Request from Mrs Marino to have a few tables in the gym on Open House with students presenting information on the different clubs at the school for parents to visit.
- Letter for Business Donations to be sent out.
- Raffle Basket donation letter to be sent to staff.
- June Movie Night date to be determined. Possible date is June 12th.
- Volunteers for Kindergarten Open House on May 22nd are needed from 5 to 6 pm. Jenna and Allison volunteered to attend. Mabel's labels samples have been ordered to give out on the day as well as Parent Council information.
- Volunteers needed to head up a Spring Fling subcommittee to share ideas and resources in preparation for next year.
- Discussion regarding community concerns over cancellation/changing of school events. Increased bullying and intolerance amongst parents and students regarding the cancellation of school events such as the Big Crunch and the Halloween Parade. Parent wanted to clarify that the community targetted with this hate played no role in the changing of these events and blame is being placed unfairly. All celebrations and festivities should be celebrated at school and students and families will always have the choice to opt in or out of any event. Mrs Marino explained that no event was ever cancelled for religious purposes and no concerns were ever brought to school from parents of any faith. Mrs Marino explained that the Halloween parade was cancelled for financial reasons to ease the burden on struggling families. The Big Crunch was not cancelled however the assembly was and teachers were instructed to take the apples to their classrooms where students who wished could take an apple and not feel pressured to do so in the assembly if they did not wish to participate. Mrs Marino has reached out to Tastebuds to possibly change the date of the Big Crunch next year.
- Parent suggested that the school administration may help with the issue by sharing with parents in advance why such events may be cancelled or changed to avoid confusion or incorrect assumptions. Mrs Marino agreed that the idea will be taken into consideration in the future

Adjournment

Closed the meeting - Asmaa and Kruti