



MINUTES for KECPS School Council Meeting January 18, 2023

Members: **Amanda Johnstone** **Kellie Sheldon** **Matt Sheldon** **Caitlin Brady**
 Karen McKnight **Mara Graham** **Alison Rodgers** **Meggie Pound**
 Dawn Bunting
 Marguerite Masterson Kelly Lewis Robin Finch
 Melissa Casselman Dera Oram Wendy Thomas

Regrets: Sarah Pyke, Jean Ann McPhee, Kate Alton, Kelly Lewis, Robin Koshurba, Chantelle Coyle, Shontelle O'Connor

Others Present / Guests:

6:00 pm Welcome and Land Acknowledgement – Amanda

Let's respectfully acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the treaty and traditional territory of the Mississauga First Nations. We are grateful for our relationship with the First Nations of this territory, for their care for and teaching about the land, the water and all of our relations. As people of the Williams Treaty, we continue our journey to strengthen our understanding of our Treaty relationship and of how to move forward together in a good way. We acknowledge the contributions and accomplishments of all Indigenous people across Turtle Island, current and throughout history.

6:00 pm **Approval of January Agenda** Alison moved, Kellie seconded. Motion carried.

6:05 pm **Approval of Minutes from November Meeting** Kellie moved, Alison seconded. Motion carried.

6:10 pm **Admin Report – Marguerite / Melissa**

Happy New Year to all! We have had two bus cancellations already this year, including one school closure IN ADDITION to the school closure on the Friday before Christmas.

Updates: staffing: nothing major, but we did say goodbye to Emma Merrit, and welcomed Brian Wilson to the team. Support Staff schedules have changed and students are learning to transfer their skills among different staff.

Thank you for the Festive Fair committee and we thank Council for the Hamper that was provided for one of our families. The school wide pizza party was a great success, and the students were so thankful!

Fair Feedback: key pieces: makers market vendors space worked well. The front entrance was too crowded. Raffle baskets are always a bit hit, but perhaps the ticketing can be improved (names on back, or ripping number off?). Make plans upfront and stick to it. Games were well-loved, but it was too congested. We may have to look at opening up Sky level. Suggestion of duplicating or having more games. Pizza overall went well. Despite advertising for PRE-ORDERS, more pizza should be ordered. We need more beverages. Bake sale had so many donations! Huge success. Cookie decorating ran out (made 400), maybe have baggies to take them home next time? Winter item pickup: some like the convenience, but parking made transporting items back to

vehicles cumbersome. Can we provide a map for people upon entry perhaps, in case families want to focus their time on a particular activity? There was a ton of effort from the committee. Last minute changes can be tricky, but were made with good intentions. It's our first go at this. We need to be kind to ourselves. We now have our entry point and can work from here. Parent survey results were a bit disappointing to read, but many parents don't understand the restrictions. We will grow from the information provided. Should we provide a response to the community? Discussion: The turnout was huge, and unexpected. Such a wonderful show of support! We don't necessarily need to respond, but will of course respond if directly asked. Only 40 people responded to the survey. Those concerned about the number of volunteers or amount of bake sale items are always welcome to come help and make it better. We could be more clear that it is a fundraiser, not a Christmas/holiday concert event.

Our virtual holiday showcase: we know it's not the same as in-person, and we know the community would like a more traditional event. We are still growing into our school. We are still figuring out what we can and cannot do. The gymnasium has capacity. Having staff and parents out multiple nights is a lot to ask. We have talked about some divisions doing a winter concert, some doing a spring concert. We were also making these decisions in fall when illnesses were running high and didn't want anyone to feel like they had to come. Question: Can we host a Christmas concert at TAS? It is worth looking into moving forward as a possibility. The virtual concert was preferred for shift-workers/folks who are not comfortable being in large crowds. Some schools offer a "windows" idea, where parents go around to the various classrooms to watch students perform.

Thank you to Karen, who launched the Pizza Kit fundraiser, but she needs to learn how to proofread her kick-off letter. Our school DID NOT sell over 200 kits in the fall, but rather sold over 200 kits and used the bonus to cover shipping costs.

Parent teacher interviews occurred in-person for the first time since COVID, and caregivers had the option to meet virtually as well! Connections between educators and caregivers are vital for success! Upcoming PA day Feb 3!

Kindergarten registration is OPEN! If you know anyone who needs to register, encourage them to do so! Indoor recess is called when: -26°C is the threshold, but our site tends to be quite windy and can feel much colder. Remember to bundle up!

Supervision starts at 8:55am.

This month will be busy. Trent students will be here for social justice presentations for our grades 1-5 students. Black History month is coming up in February, and many classes are learning about various activists and historical events.

A group of educators are trying to be responsive to students' requests: GSA club (Gay-Straight Alliance, or Gender and Sexuality Alliance) is up and coming.

Next week, Jan 25 is Bell Let's Talk Day! Each homeroom is creating a self-care bingo card on Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday through Friday, they will work on completing a line their bingo card and can send it to the office for recognition! Wear a blue shirt and /or blue jeans!

Valentines Day: Kaawaate Kindness will be highlighted!

6 :30 pm Nutrition Program Report - Marguerite Things are moving along fairly seamlessly. Sometimes our Portable students are getting missed if particular helpers are absent. Adults do the sorting and packing, and some students help collect bins for their class/area to help boost their sense of responsibility and value.

6:40 pm Teacher's Report – Dera Oram Nature Nancy is scheduled for 100 min block with each class. Jimmy the Breakdancer is coming to spend two gym periods with each class.

6:50 pm Treasurer's Report – Mara Graham See attached report. Is the automatic 10% going into the Playground fund? It is not automatic. **We need to transfer 10% from each of our completed fundraisers over to the Playground fund.** Marguerite will check with Ms Ronan about Lunch Box about making ONE donation from the Lunch Box program at the end of the year.

7:10 pm Fundraising Committee Update Interested committee members, watch for an email from Amanda regarding getting organized for future events.

7:20 pm. Parent Reaching Out Grant discussion and ideas (Amanda) We have \$800. Thanks to Amanda for completing the application. We want to focus on a community event (in-person/virtual/hybrid) and bring someone in for an event about mental health/well-being. Suggestions: Aubrey Noronha (safe schools, mental health, anti-racism speaker) Make Hope Viral Tour. Is there a Kindergarten version? This is worth looking into based on word-of-mouth reviews. Marguerite and Melissa will reach out and gather more information and report back.

7:30 pm Any other business: Another pizza night? Thursday before family day weekend? We will e-vote and proceed as directed.

** typically we request AOB be shared with Co-Chairs in advance in order to plan accordingly & provide sufficient time on the Agenda)*

8:00 pm Adjourn at 7:11 pm

Dates for future meetings: Feb. 15 (virtual) April 19 May 17

Regional Council Meetings: January 31, and April 11.

NORMS for Virtual Meetings on Jan. 18 and Feb. 15

- Be on time & connected to web-ex
- Mute mic and keep video turned on
- On- task yet acknowledging that we are at home and family comes first
- Use the chat box or raise your hand to comment accordingly
- Co-Chair who is not leading the meeting to monitor the chat box
- Use a thumbs up to agree or thumbs down to disagree
- Be an engaged listener
- Be an engaged participant during group discussions/welcoming all voices to be heard
- Other?