



Minutes for KECPS School Council Meeting- September 21, 2023

6:00pm

Council Members: (bold for voting member):

Heather Adey, Inas Alsamour, **Clara Blakelock**, **Caitlyn Brady**, **Erin Burrell**, **Jessica Copeland**, **Chantel Coyle**, Jessica Darrington, **Camilla Elston**, Beth Elston, Robin Finch, **Mara Graham**, **Danielle Howson**, Eric Howson, **Amanda Johnstone**, **Robin Koshurba**, **Shehreen Latif**, Kelly Lewis, **Katelyn Lubbock**, **Karen McKnight**, **Reanna Montopoli**, **Amanda Nyboer**, **Elizabeth Palermo**, **Evan Phillips**, **Sarah Pyke**, **Connor Reinhart**, **Grace Reinhart**, **Kellie Sheldon**, Dawn Spiney, Mike Williams, **Emiline Willson**, **Jessica Yates**

Land Acknowledgement was read.

6:20pm- Elections and Establishment of voting council

-Marguerite provided a description of the positions and reviewed nominations

-New council elected- voting not required as there were no conflicting nominations.

Co-Chairs- Amanda Johnstone, Sarah Pyke

Secretary- Grace and back up Danielle

Treasurer- Jessica Copeland

Regional Council Representatives- Caitlin Brady and Robin Koshurba

-24 voting members- 13 votes will be required to proceed

-Reviewed other roles of council- staff representative will be Jessica Darrington (non-voting)

-Marguerite and Melissa provided info. on the school this year- 793 students, 34 classes, 22 English classes and 12 French Immersion now spanning SK-Grade 6, 4 portables

-44 teaching staff, 7 ECE's, 7 kindergarten classes, 17 support staff, 3 secretaries, 4 custodians, one VP and one Principal

-Trent childcare is attached to the school- Kelly Lewis and Robbin Finch on council representing the childcare- separate space for the daycare, use of the school for before/after school care

-4 portables- fourth portable went where the old playground was, the equipment was able to be moved and is usable. Marguerite explained that playground equipment cannot come out of the school budget, it all comes through fundraising, we have to set aside \$ every year for repairs and fixes, the move cost council \$95 as the Board did cover most of the cost.

-Question from member- why did this playground get moved but previous one did not? Unsure the reason behind this.

-3rd year of KECPS, successful start up, transitions have gone smoothly, everyone is in a good groove, very positive space and everyone seems excited to be here, first year without covid policies in effect

-Open House scheduled for Thursday, September 21- dividing up to reduce the number of families in the school at once- families with kindergartens are 6-7, Families with Junior/Intermediate students are 7-8 and if you have children in both 6:30-7:30pm

-We have focused on the importance of names this year- even Kaawaate East City Public School and proper pronunciation- Ojibwe word for shining waters because of the connection to the lift lock and water. Taking the same approach with student names- ensuring we know the correct name and pronunciation for students

-parking/kiss and ride seems to be better in general, it is very busy but manageable. Reminder to use the front doors before 3pm for pick up only, 12 busses come in by 3pm and there is no space for other vehicles

-Focus on school mental health- programs in place and posters in place to remind students of strategies if needed

-School moto- Learning to Lead, Ready to Grow, Stronger Together, intentional conversations occurring with teachers and students about how we can action these items at grade appropriate levels

-3 Fire Drills in the fall and 3 in the Spring, did one so far and it went very well, 2 lockdown drills will also be done with Peterborough police and the school liaison officer- Officer Dan, he comes in at times to build connections with students. When a lockdown with police is occurring, we usually put a sign on the door advising of the Lockdown drill as you will not be able to enter at that time.

-Also do hold and secure when the threat is external - for example a bear in the yard, a risk in the community nearby, etc.

-2 crossing guards for the school- one on Hunter/Armour and one on Armour/McFarlane

-Communication at school is key- school announcements daily, virtual announcements on Mondays, Melissa and Marguerite doing these from different classrooms, Land Acknowledgement is read and connection is made, Edsby is a key communication tool, Parent Peek at the Week posted on Edsby, KECPS also has school twitter, school website, and sometimes information is also emailed out.

-Verifications forms will contact info. and other important info. was sent home for families to review- please sent these back ASAP! It is the way the office as the most up to date contact information.

-Lunch Box program- different items you can order- subs, frozen yogurt, pasta, pizza, and booster juice are the current options. The funds this generates go right back to council. Delivery comes during second break, and student leaders delivery to classrooms.

-We try to balance inclusivity and the need to fundraiser- we did two school wide pizza parties last year we are hoping to do again this year

-Lots of extra-curricular activities running- Art club, soccer, cross country, ukulele, Intramurals for all three divisions, when you feel you belong and have something to look forward to at school it makes the experience so much better! Something for everyone is the goal. Teachers all volunteer their time for this. Clubs/Teams info is on the announcements and sometimes on PPW

-The four divisions- Kindergarten is known as Yr 1/Yr 2, Primary is 1-3, Junior is 4-6 and Intermediate is 7-8.

Question-if someone in the community wanted to run a team or club for students is that an option? Yes, would need to submit criminal record check, etc. Reach out to admin if you are interested.

-criminal record checks are required for any volunteering in the school- including class trips. Letter need to submit with your criminal record check request will be posted on PPW and you can print off and attach. The Executive members of council also need to submit criminal record checks.

Terry Fox run/walk- scheduled for this Friday, virtual assembly was done with two staff members- everyone invited to submit a toonie for Terry if able. Could also donate through the website and select the school, your child can also add their own fundraising page linked to the school online.

-School Cash Online- no longer sending cash into the school, safest way is to use school cash online, the school is not typically accepting cash any longer.

-Orange shirt date- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation- to honor the survivors of residential schools and to reflect on this history- September 28 it will be recognized at KECPS as it is September 30 which is a Saturday, and the 29th is a PA day.

-First Friday of every month is Kaawaate Friday- wear school clothing or school colors.

-The school is divided into three levels- Earth (first), Tree (Second) and Sky (top level)

-Photo Day October 18th

-Nature Nancy- the school funded Nature Nancy for classes in the fall as part of outdoor education- she has arranged programs for classes ranging from team building to science to physical education.

-School fundraising plan is due by end of October. We will discuss at October meeting.

Nutrition Report-Marguerite- trying something different this year, nutrition bags set up throughout the school, any child can access these without feeling uncomfortable, but teachers do encourage students to eat their lunch first, teachers also have extra items in the room that can be used if needed for when the nutrition bags are gone, some donations from the Kawartha Food Share- pick up every 2 weeks typically and is done by staff/Amanda.

-Weekend Kit Bags- some families who need extra support over the weekend are given a bag of food items to get them through the weekend, volunteers run this program and sometimes council supports with funding

Teachers Report- Jess Darrington- introduced herself and advised that it is nice to have a teacher at council to bring forward the teachers' perspective on things, logistics, etc. Looking forward to the year ahead.

Treasurer's Report- Marguerite- last year 10% of all fundraisers went to the long term playground fund, request was made for a report outlining how much each fundraiser has made in the past so we can make informed decisions when deciding what to proceed with

-There is a need for items such as basketballs, skipping ropes, etc. It does not last as it is used so frequently. Also request for restocking the Lice kits the school has on hand. Motion for \$1000 for playground equipment- first Caitlin, second Robin, motion carried by vote. Motion for 10 lice kits to be purchased- first Caitlin, second Amanda, motion carried by vote.

-We have already committed to Little Ceasers Kits and Karen McKnight is running this. We also are looking at another family pizza night at Papa's Pizzaland which Dawn has agreed to organize. We need to

vote on poinsettia's as we have to confirm a date. Last year it raised about \$1500. Motion to move forward with poinsettia sales- Caitlin first, Robin second, motion carried by vote.

Playground Committee update- Karen McKnight- not ready to present info. at Open House this week, currently have over \$25,000 raised of goal- anywhere from \$100-150 k for playground, poll was done 5 or so years ago and the community wanted a natural playground (similar to Ecology park/Beavermead options); however, natural playground items are very costly, whatever the cost is it is almost twice as much for installation, playground committee is looking at a three phase process. If interested in joining the playground committee please reach out to Robin Koshurba at r_brady@live.ca

-Question- if there is any interest in Climate Action Committee. We will give space on the October agenda to present the idea for this- example given- fundraising through climate lens, schools carbon footprint review, etc. We will add to next agenda.

-Melissa- Spirit wear will be going up for sale, the school does not profit off the sale of school spirit wear. School water bottles will also be for sale- playground specific fundraiser. Some concern noted with the accessibility of the water bottles- the screw caps are very challenging for some students, Amanda can go back to review the options. Discussion about two sales- with more limited options as we have to commit to a selling a certain number. Agreed for fall we will offer a hot cup option and a water bottle with a spout/straw option- Motion moved- Erin first, Conner second, motion carried.

Question- can we look into other colors for spirit wear besides white/grey. Melissa will look into this to see if this is an option for the spring sale.

Question- booster juice options are all similar, high allergen ingredients, can other options be explored? Melissa to look into this.

Fundraising Committee- please indicate on your name tag if you are interested in joining the fundraising committee. We will meet before the next full council meeting to create a list of ideas and bring forward to full council to vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.