

MINUTES: KECPS School Council Meeting January 16,2024



6:00 pm **Welcome - call to order by Sarah P.**

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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.

6:05 pm **Approval of January Agenda – Approved by Sarah, Seconded by Evan Phillips**

6:10 pm **Approval of Minutes from November Meeting**

Addendum by Marguerite- primary concert is a maybe.

First to approve Amanda

Seconded by Amanda N.

6:15 pm **Administration Report – Marguerite & Melissa**

Two staff members retiring this month – Kindergarten janitor staff Darryl.

Marilyn also retiring, Allison Frost – will be taking over Marilyn's role.

Anne Marie Sullivan – will be on a leave of absence for an unknown time –are currently in the hiring process for this position.

Andrea Shine – Maternity leave started as she delivered a baby boy last week. The school has hired Jessica Wollard for our librarian position. She is a familiar face as she covered for Ms. Hill's maternity leave 2 years ago.

Winter Fair.

Thank you to all council and supporters for making this successful. Happy to acknowledge the school spirit from all. The kids really enjoyed the raffle baskets. There was a recommendation made to try to spread events out a bit more in the future. The organization of the event by Amanda, Sarah, Chantal and everyone who came out to help was really appreciated. Thank you to all!

Parent teacher interviews –The feedback from teachers was that they really enjoyed meeting everyone and it was a very productive time.

Reminder to families that you can reach out to teachers at any time and that they continue to appreciate communication about students.

Term 1 reports will be coming out soon – February 16th. Our next PA day is Feb 2nd. This time is dedicated for teachers to work on report cards.

December Kindergarten Holiday Concert. Marguerite regrettably was unable to attend but Melissa did a great job MC-ing. Was a great event for all kids and families. A wonderful first for Kaawaate.

Kaawaate has been invited to participate in an advisory committee to help Canadian newcomers to support them to feel welcome and have a great sense of belonging. Students, Staff, and Newcomers are invited to participate. Any friends, neighbours, etc. who have been newcomers are invited to be a part of this advisory committee.

Anyone who needs to register for JK can do it now. Please let your neighbours/friends know if they have kids who may be attending school in the fall.

Our school Director has asked for input regarding Pediculosis (head lice) and how to avoid excluding children who have it.

The admin team is looking to host a spring art show for primary and junior classes – date TBD. Forms of visual art, to be throughout the school and in the gym for families to come view it. Robin is working with the playground committee to see about having a donation to help build the playground fundraising around this.

Colder temperatures are here and are being constantly monitored by administrators. The guideline is that at -26 degrees the school would not have an outdoor recess, but sometimes will have to adjust this due to wind as Kaawaate has a very windy playground.

Jimmy the Breakdancer and Nature Nancy were both here this week.

Jimmy the Breakdancer every day this week. Paid for by Counsel. (\$2500 PAID).

Nature Nancy 100 minutes per class. Here for 2.5 weeks. (\$434.70) Cost not written yet,

Cupcake fundraiser initially was not going well, but recent activity has made it quickly successful.

Valentines Day Feb 14 – Red White and Pink day. There will be an intermediate dance. Otherwise, celebrations are more classroom based.

Winter Carnival upcoming. (see below)

6:25 pm Nutrition Program Report – Marguerite

Doing well financially. Members helping with this are doing a tremendous job. Might have some small lasagna etc. as trying new things.

6:25 pm Teacher's Report- Jessica Darrington

Back to school in 2024 has been busy. Jimmy the Breakdancer and Nature Nancy have been here. Yoga is coming. Teachers will review at the end of yoga what they have enjoyed and what they want to do next year. Will also get some student voices as well.

Teachers are really excited for the French Winter Carnival on Feb 15th/24. On the day all classes will get to participate in a 100-minute block. During the block 10-11 classes of mixed ages will participate at a time. Some of the older students can take leadership positions. Looking for some parent volunteers as well (bonus if you speak French). The Carnival gives the French Immersion groups something to work on and brings a sense of community and a chance to share with everyone what they are learning about Quebecois culture. The teachers are open to questions/concerns from Counsel. Madame Stephanie Hughes is spearheading this project.

Rm 302 – note to say “thank you” for the pizza night.

6:30 pm Festive Fair Update and Upcoming Fundraisers

Totaled all amounts that have come in. Currently balance for this account is \$6,204.30 with no more than \$134 to still be subtracted.

Lots of very generous items for raffle items.

Success with good feedback from families.

Karen has agreed to host another Little Cesar's Pizza Kit sales night – looking around the May 24/24 weekend.

Danielle motions to move forward with this, Seconded by Evan. Motion Carried.

Epicure Fundraiser update – voted on in the Fall.

Jan 22/24 – will start, run over 3 weeks ending Feb 8th, will submit order on the 9th.

\$25 per kit, school will get \$10 per box.

Modest Goal 100 boxes.

Can do order forms for families.

Disclosure – this is Jessica's business, and there is a very small amount of commission. Marguerite will look into this with the financial advisors before proceeding.

6:30pm Guest speaker- Teresa Kingston Re: New Language Curriculum

Consultant From Literacy Theresa Kingston was invited as a guest speaker tonight.

New language curriculum came out in June 2023.

Digital Curriculum Platform: <https://www.dcp.edu.gov.on.ca/en/curriculum/elementary-language>

Language, Grades 1-8: A Guide for Parents: <https://www.dcp.edu.gov.on.ca/en/language-guide/related-links>

The new curriculum was based on evidence to empower students with an understanding of how language is used to communicate; especially with reading and writing as this is a human-made invention

and does not come naturally to students. This therefore requires assistance for students to learn how to understand reading/writing.

The new curriculum looks at a range of texts including digital and media texts. This helps to build life skills and spark language and literacy knowledge and skills.

What is outlined in the new curriculum is a lot of specificity in what needs to be taught, therefore lots of development for educators is ongoing as the new curriculum rolls out in the first year. This requires teachers to learn alongside students in the classroom and to let go of some older practices that may no longer be most effective with the new curriculum.

The new curriculum considers learners who are unique thinkers with diverse identities and lived experiences, learners as story tellers, and learners as skill-builders.

There are specific and overall expectations within the curriculum called “strands”.

Strand A – Literacy Connections and Applications

- Overarching strand – focusing on transferable language and literacy skills.
- Never taught in isolation.

Strand B – foundations of language

- “Heartbeat of language”
- Allows kids to “crack the code” of language.
- Requires systematic, explicit instruction about the sounds that are in the words. (eg. The word “SHIP” is comprised of the sounds “sh” “l” “p”
- As kids get older, look at how words are made of different parts, and some of these parts have meaning to them. May help to understand new text and builds proficiency as readers as the text becomes more difficult.
- Foundations of language continuums:
 - Language Foundations Continuum (Gr. 1-4)
 - Language Conventions Continuum (Gr. 1-0)
 - o Building skills from lesser complexity to greater complexity and continue to develop these skills in later grades.

Strand C – comprehension: understanding and responding to texts

- C and D together is where comprehension comes to life.
- Where students can apply foundational skills to oral comprehension and written comprehension.

Strand D – composition: Expressing ideas and creating texts.

- C and D together is where comprehension comes to life.
- Where students can compose oral (story telling etc.), and written composition where they write in different forms and styles.

All strands are now very interconnected as they reinforce and strengthen each other. By integration of the strands this will help to encourage improved literacy learning.

Therefore, language is not just in the language curriculum, but extends into all areas (eg. Science).

Review in the link above – information to parents “why is my child learning this” and interactive glossary to help understand some of the new language in the curriculum.

There is also a literacy page on the KPR website to help support parents as well.

Shout out to teachers who have been dedicated to learning the new curriculum very quickly. Kaawaate has two literacy coaches (one each for English and French) to help support the staff learning, which not every school has access to.

Important components of literacy learning include:

Phonetic awareness (sounds)

Phonics (connecting sounds to print)

Fluency

Expression/Vocabulary

Comprehension

7:00 pm Treasurer’s Report - Jessica Copeland and voting on any requests.

Festive Fair – great success

Plan to move all funds into the general account apart from the \$503 from Pizza Sales to pay for the drink sales and dollar store (approximately \$128 to be paid).

Motioned by Amanda, seconded by Evan. Motion carried.

Primary / Junior Arts night: 23 classes. Looking at purchasing supplies for this (eg. canvases, 3D art etc.) Administration is requesting approximately \$100 per class.

Date TBD – in the spring for the art night.

Grade 7/8 Ms. Pink design club is also looking for up to \$500 for supplies for her group’s art. She will get more specifics about the cost once this is known.

Can review in February once we have more information from Staff about what they are needing.

There is an option to ask parents/guests for a donation during the night. Council will need to decide if the money is to support the art night itself to get some funds back or if the money would be used for the playground fund.

Looking ahead, the admin team is also looking for some support for Grade 8 Grad in the upcoming years. Fundraising has been pulling from the same community and there is a concern that so many requests for donation/contribution may overwhelm the community. This year’s grad is covered but they may need assistance for next year. Finances would be used towards purchasing awards for graduation night, or for the end of year trip which is getting more expensive each year.

Application to parent reaching out grant for Yoga has been approved and is going forward.

Caitlin – recommendation for giving money to each classroom for “experiential learning” – can go towards room resources, art supplies, etc. for each classroom at the beginning of the year as a discretionary budget based on the class’s needs.

Next Steps:

- Review money available presently for art show/design club.
- Use this years budget for this year’s budget
- Look back into putting money into experiential learning for the classrooms.

7:30 pm Regional Council Update- Caitlin and Robin

There are a few schools with capacity issues, ours is the most significant.

Lots of options were discussed for our school.

The plan is to go ahead with the recommendation to restream – see the email sent by the board.

There is a discussion of “holding schools”. – New subdivision kids would be redirected to a different school until capacity issues are resolved. Also discussed rezoning.

Board Financial department presentation by Colin – lots of schools in Peterborough are dealing with playground replacement funds. The board is recommending that all schools set aside 10% of all fundraising each year is banked over 15-20 years as this is the expected lifespan of a playground. Recommendation that future counsels continue to keep a playground account open for future needs.

Tax rebates are available for anything that is taxed for fundraising. This is not for the full amount of the tax but is close to it. It is not placed directly back into the account but can investigate how this works. There will be more details on this available before the Feb 6/24 meeting when the minutes are available.

7:51 pm Playground Update

Robin is still looking into business support for the playground. We now have stickers for any business who would like to support the playground financially.

The playground committee is only Robin and Tara. If anyone wants to join, please reach out to Robin if you are interested. Robin’s email can be put back into the Parent Peek of the Week again.

7:53 pm PRO grant update

There were no volunteers to run any programs, so the admin team asked to support running a wellness/yoga night. There are a few different things happening and it is currently pretty fluid about what is going to happen. We are anticipating a springtime date for this event, tentatively booked for May 8/24 as this is the week we have WOW Yoga booked for the students.

It would be for families and kids – sign up will be on a google doc.

The cost for a yoga instructor <\$1000, some budget for refreshing drinks, and perhaps some yoga mats. Also considering a yogurt parfait making station.

7:50 pm Any other Business

Ski club info went out in Dec? – is this moving forward? It was planned to be the Fridays in February. There is an EDSBY Ski Group, the forms arrived yesterday, which needs to be signed by our superintendent but looks like this is going to happen.

8:00 pm Adjourned by Sarah,

Next School Council Meetings: February 20 virtual, April 23 and May 21

Regional Council Meetings: Feb. 6 and April 16

23/24 School Council Members:

Last Name	First Name	Voting Memeber
Adey	Heather	y
Alsamour	Inas	
Blakelock	Clara	y
Brady	Caitlin	y
Burrell	Erin	y
Copeland	Jessica	y
Coyle	Chantel	y
Darrington	Jessica	
Elston	Camilla	y
Elston	Beth	
Finch	Robin	
Graham	Mara	y
Howson	Danielle	y
Howson	Eric	
Johnstone	Amanda	y
Koshurba	Robin	y
Latif	Shehreen	y
Lewis	Kelly	
Lubbock	Katelyn	y
McKnight	Karen	y
Montopoli	Reanna	y
Nyboer	Amanda	y

Palermo	Elizabeth	y
Phillips	Evan	y
Pyke	Sarah	y
Reinhart	Connor	y
Reinhart	Grace	y
Sheldon	Kellie	y
Spiney	Dawn	
Williams	Mike	
Willson	Emiline	y
Yates	Jessica	y