



School Council Draft Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday, April 15, 2024
Meeting Time: 6:30pm – 7:30pm
Meeting Location: Virtual, Teams
Meeting Link: [MSTeams Meeting Link](#)

Attendance

Katie Big-Canoe, Acting Secretary, Parent Member
Amber Giffen, Treasurer
Colleen Kelsey, Acting Chair, Parent Member
Matthew Stolk, Parent Member
Sylvie Blais, Principal

Regrets

Robert Ayres, Chair
Veronica Wilson, Parent Member
Rachel Bryan-Pulham, Parent Member
Tulay Can, Parent Member
Pamela Hart, Vice Principal
Julia Lantos, Staff Member
Cara McCrae, Staff Member

1. Land Acknowledgement (Colleen Kelsey)

- Colleen Kelsey provided a land acknowledgement.

2. Welcome & Introductions (All)

- Committee members introduced themselves.

3. Review and Approval of this meeting's agenda (All)

- The agenda for the April 15, 2024 meeting was approved as distributed (moved by Katie Big-Canoe, seconded by Amber Giffen).

4. Review and Approval of previous meeting minutes (All)

- The minutes of February 12, 2024 were approved as distributed (moved by Katie Big-Canoe, seconded by Amber Giffen).

5. Chair's Report (Rob Ayres)

- This standing item was deferred to the June meeting.

6. Principal's Report (Sylvie Blais)

- **2024/25 Enrolment**
 - There is one additional junior classroom (grade 6/7) to be added.
 - Enrolment will be approximately 675 students.
 - Ministry of Education mandates offering some virtual classrooms within TVDSB.
 - LAFI will not be part of the four virtual classrooms offered during the 2024/25 academic year.
 - Sir John A. MacDonald Public School will be the only elementary school offering virtual learning in TVDSB.
- **EQAO**



- The testing will be completed online again this year. The writing window is May 8, 2024 – June 12, 2024.
- Chromebooks will be provided for students to complete the testing.
- Grade 3 and Grade 6 will write in English and write all three components (Reading, Writing, Math).
- Practice tests, sample questions and frameworks are available on the [EQAQO website](#) and the link will be shared via the monthly parent newsletter.
- Specific dates will be communicated shortly with families of Grades 3 and Grade 6 students, however scheduled dates will not overlap between grades to ensure additional quiet writing spaces are available.
- **Peer Mediators**
 - This is a Grade 6 leadership initiative. All students who expressed interest were accepted into the leadership program and received training by Mme Hart.
 - 2 peer mediators have been assigned per Grade 1 classroom while eating.
 - 10 peer mediators will be available in the yard to support students. It was noted that this is in addition to the adult supervision already in place.
 - Kelso's Choices wheel will be provided to help younger students navigate 'smaller' problems.
 - St. Leonard's will be coming in May to offer three training sessions for 20 Grade 6 students on Peace Makers program.
- **Everyone Belongs Survey**
 - This is a voluntary survey for students from April 15 – April 30, 2024.
 - The survey is mandated by the Ministry of Education for all school boards to collect identity-based data.
 - An invitation will be sent via email using personalized links.
 - The survey will take approx. 10 minutes to complete, and questions can be skipped.
 - Parents are asked to complete the survey on their child's behalf for students in Grades K-6.
 - Students in grades 7-12 will be provided class time to complete the survey.
 - Responses are confidential but not anonymous.
 - Paper copies can be requested or can be completed over the phone by calling 519-452-2000, x20496.
- **Natural Play Area Update**
 - \$20K was received in grant funding and an additional \$9K from fundraising.
 - This will include: Log stilt 3 steps, log crossing, log snake, log climber.
 - Phase 1 of building will soon be scheduled.
- **Bookfair**
 - A bookfair is being planned for April 29 - May 3, 2024.
 - Proceeds from sales benefit our school library and items for classrooms.

7. Treasurer's Report (Amber Giffen)

- Amber Giffen provided a snapshot of the financial report, including:
 - Big Box of Cards - \$1103 profit
 - A pizza celebration is in process for the class with highest sales; Cito's Pizza will be ordered and charged back to the School Council account.
 - It was noted to ensure dietary restrictions are included prior to ordering to so all class members are included.



- Muskoka Coffee - \$196 of profit
- ONSP funding received – Approx. \$2000 (which supports nutrition/snacks)
- Monthly popcorn sales are in process. Future dates include:
 - April 26, 2024
 - May 24, 2024
 - Discussed parent volunteers are needed (e.g., breakfast program, popcorn distribution)
 - We may explore Grade 7-8 helping to support future popcorn days with the help of more parent volunteers (supervision is required by Board policy)
 - Discussed setting the popcorn sale dates well in advance for next school year; normally held during second break period (12 pm - 1:30 pm)
- Upcoming Fundraisers include:
 - Fudge sale ends April 26, 2024
 - Sweet and savory ends May 24, 2024
- Canadian Tire Registry Update (Matthew Stolk)
 - An Amazon Gift List was created; however, we are unable to move forward due to Board purchasing rules.
 - LAFI can accept donations directly from parents (e.g., outdoor items, balls, etc).
 - Next year, School Council can make a donation directly to the school and the funding can be allocated to new outdoor equipment.
- Gaga Ball Discussion (Continued)
 - We are continuing to fundraise, and a second Gaga Ball Pit is being recommended as an outdoor enhancement for the year.

8. Family Fun Night

- In June 2023, LAFI held a literacy and family fun event which had food trucks and activities.
- This year, there are multiple events being planned, including:
 - February:
 - We held the literacy night and family night (K-3 literacy)
 - May/June – Dates TBC
 - Primary concert for Grades 1-3
 - June concert for Grades 4-8
 - Kindergarten picnic
 - Grade 1 Open House
 - Kindergarten Open House
 - Grade 8 graduation

9. Other Business

- June is [National Indigenous History Month in Canada](#).
- It was recommended that LAFI explore ways to incorporate Indigenous related learning throughout the month.
- **Action:** Katie Big-Canoe and Colleen Kelsey volunteered to meet with Sylvie Blais (and teachers) to discuss further.

10. Confirmation of Next Meeting

- Fundraising Subcommittee: Monday, May 13 (virtual), 6:30 pm
- School Council: Monday, June 17 at 6:30 pm