



## School Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday, November 14, 2022  
Meeting Time: 6:00pm – 7:00pm  
Meeting Location: In Person (School Library) / Online Teams Meeting

**Present:**

Chair: Robert Ayres                      Principal: Sylvie Blais  
Vice-Chair: Hakan Karatas  
Secretary: Jenny Ingrey  
Treasurer: Amber Giffen, Hakan Karatas  
Parent Member: Colleen Kelsey  
Member: Julia Lantos  
Regrets: Cara McCrae  
Others present: four parents

**Welcome and Attendance**

Meeting called to order at 6:12 pm

**Old business / updates:**

- Declaration of any conflicts of interest: none
- Review and Approval of this meeting's agenda: no issues arising
- Review and Approval of previous meeting minutes; no objections

**Reports:**

- Principal's Report:
  - EQAO results: 2021-2022 scores now public; Provincial and School EQAO results were shared.
  - First time students have written in three years; all done online, which may have presented an added challenge
  - Thank you to two Grade 8 classes (Mme Efstratoudakis and Mme Lantos) and primary choir Led by Mme R. Welch for putting on Remembrance Day assembly
    - Some full school assemblies need to happen but approaching capacity re: fire codes; other assemblies will happen by division or level;
  - New TVDSB Guidelines for Student Dress were shared
  - To promote French language learning and oral expression; need to continue to encourage students to express in French;
    - posters circulating throughout school to address the following: to always address our teachers in French; encourage friends to express in French; try to find other words or expressions to explain our ideas; and to listen attentively in order to respond correctly
    - some exceptions re: mental health and wellness;
    - also offering simple expressions to know by end of each grade (aligned with DELF; a test to rate competence)
  - Updates on fundraising:



- front staircase lighting being replaced;
- play equipment and spider logs closed until further notice due to needed repairs as per Parks & Rec in City inspection; \$10,000 needed to repair equipment that is only 10 years old (play equipment transferred to LAFI from another school when it was 2 years old); closed until further notice.
- Spider logs to be replaced via a TD Friends of the Environment Grant, via Mme Rollins, Kindergarten Teacher, for a naturalized play equipment area
- Some discussion around assessing the lifetime of the equipment by going back to the original equipment provider, which must be board-provider; what type of equipment do we need to have a longer life? Many schools go the naturalized route; do we consider naturalized? fundraise to repair existing equipment or buy new? Decided to prioritize repairs first after some investigation
  - need to strike a committee to fundraise from School Council; Amber has agreed to look into this
  - some funds from earlier projects are available;
  - also, Spirit Wear campaign could start to fundraise before Christmas; then need to make a plan to figure out how to fulfill the remainder of funds
- Upcoming dates (see newsletter)
- Treasurer's Report:
  - \$10,000 deposited; breakfast program and snack program has about \$1500/month to spend; school council account \$1935.76;
- OSNP Report:
  - Every Tuesday and Thursday Breakfast Program from 8:00 to 8:15; a lot of kids come in; vegetable/fruit, dairy and grain product; run through office is a snack program, which is a bin in each class; replenished; stock is good; new fridge needed and purchased through an equipment grant;

### **New Business**

- Review and approval of Council By-Laws:
  - some background on by-laws: drafted by Rob, chair, a couple of years ago where nothing was provided at all; went through changes/questions provided by Jenny Ingrey and will await finalization in next meeting.
    - Some issues include making language more inclusive (not just parents, but guardians; not he/she but 'they/their'); need for clarification around who shall be a member and who must be a member; other editing for structure and clarity; also needing to address election committee as set up in May to add in extension to September if need be; also to make clear that nominations to school council are ongoing up until September and meetings are always open to school community
- Review and approval of School Dress Code
  - NOTE: TVDSB has introduced a board wide dress code; TVDSB follows along with Peel, TDSB, etc., and parent input was involved; this is the dress code now; parents now have discussions around the dress codes, to support the dress code; according to the Education Act, Ontario, Regulation 612/00: School Councils and Parent Involvement Committees. sec. 19 (1), ii., Consultation by Boards, boards are meant to solicit views of



## School Council 2022/23

school councils respecting school dress for students; thus, we are still in an advisory capacity but not meant to be redrawing our own school dress codes; rather, to support the board-level dress code; point of interest: our revised dress code from 2021-2022 supported the equity and inclusion principles of the board-level dress code guidelines. From the board-level document: “all other student dress conversations will focus on education and awareness” (p. 9), which speaks to the role of school councils to support and engage with the existing principles.

- Review concerns regarding crosswalks in proximity to school and their safety:
  - Crosswalk at Huron and Belfield; in September one student and one parent almost hit at crosswalk; parent contacted police, superintendent, board; crosswalks not observed, speed limits often exceeded; suggestion was a crossing guard; but, TVDSB passed it over as a city situation, not board jurisdiction; in City, through Traffic Engineer, goes to security company to hire crossing guards; safety of our students is paramount; have we considered a program, safe walk to school? The City has sent someone to observe the safety situation and risks to safety
  - To set up a committee from school council to investigate this but at a multi-partner level around active safe routes (<http://www.activesaferoutes.ca/>); Veronica Wilson to head committee
  -
- Status of application for fundraising for new school sign:
  - Completed and submitted application; also going to submit for playground and natural playground; as a school council will focus now on play equipment repairs (led by Amber); motion by Amber to focus fundraising on repairs; seconded by Colleen; no objections; Amber will take this fundraising sub-committee on
- Open floor for other new business
  - Parent email re: clubs and committees during lunch like debate team, bookclub, art club, for student opportunities;
  - Response? the biggest obstacle is parent involvement; for example, Cross-Country involved many staff to run practices, who need 40 minutes for lunch and 80 minutes for supervision; each staff member is maxed out for supervision; some teachers open classrooms during their lunchtime; structured break room 4 out 5 days for students to have assistance to develop social skills, quiet games, etc.;
  - thus, we need to get parents to run clubs or to do yard supervision; suggestion to put Sylvie’s message in a podcast; Boys and Girls Club providing ‘Game On’ programming in school; suggestion also to have seniors from community volunteer in our school; parents/community members just need a police/vulnerable sector check;
  - possibility for another committee? To write a parent newsletter as separate from the school newsletter: Colleen may start this

### Questions from the Community:

- Is there interest in a school yearbook? – R. Ayres would be interested in championing this!
  - Some discussion around what is meaningful and what is in our capacity as a school council given concerns listed above around lack of parent/guardian volunteers and maxed out staff capacity for supervision

### Closing:



Louise Arbour French Immersion Public School  
**School Council 2022/23**

- Next Meeting: December 12, 2022 6 pm (hybrid)
- Adjournment at 7:55 pm