



School Council Draft Minutes

Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025
Meeting Time: 6-7 pm
Meeting Location: Hybrid (in person, ONE World and MSTeams)

Attendance

Katie Big-Canoe, Vice-Chair & Acting Secretary
Amber Giffen, Parent Member
Matthew Stolk, Parent Member
Pamela Hart, Vice Principal
Sylvie Blais, Principal
Katie McKenney
Becky Brown
Tausha Rendell
Trisha Dey Czepiela
Nana Ama Tiwaa-Boateng
Ying (Sarah) Li
Eryk Slawinski
Ponmalar Ramasamy
Tolu Adewara

Regrets

Colleen Kelsey, Chair
Erma Schadenberg, Treasurer
Jannelle Yoon, Parent Member
Maly Bun-Lebert, Secretary
Kyla Kennedy, Parent Member
Veronique Forbes-Mellis, Parent Member
Julia Lantos, Staff Member Representative

1. **Land Acknowledgement** - provided by Katie Big-Canoe
2. **Welcome & Introductions**
 - Returning and new members introduced themselves.
 - This meeting served as both last meeting for 2024/25 and first meeting for 2025/26
 - Thank you to our outgoing Chair, Colleen Kelsey for her service to our School Council.
3. **Review and Approval – Agenda and Minutes**
 - Motion to approve the agenda – *Moved by Katie BC, seconded by Matt. CARRIED*
 - Motion to approve minutes of June 3, 2025 meeting – *Moved by Matt, seconded by Katie BC. CARRIED*
4. **Review of Board By-Laws – moved to next meeting**
5. **Fundraising Committee update**
 - List of fundraisers coming up. Aiming to run one a month, plus monthly popcorn.
 - OSNP fundraiser (Fresh from the Farm will be first fundraiser – order must be in mid-October). Other fundraisers will largely mirror those offered in 2024/2025 year.
 - Must decide what we are fundraising for in addition to primary goal (sound equipment).
 - Some options for use of fundraising funds:
 - FDK team is hoping to get shelving for shed
 - Instrument Repair
 - Recognition and Rewards – stuffies for students
 - Broken windows on the greenhouse



- Team equipment
- **Action:** Katie BC to connect with Bernardo karate to confirm which TVDSB schools have participated in their fundraiser

6. Confirmation of Council Members (Sylvie Blais)

- The new 2024/25 School Council Members and roles are:
Katie Big-Canoe, Chair
Tausha Rendell, Vice-Chair
Maly Bun-Lebert, Secretary
Amber Giffen, Treasurer
Becky Brown, Parent Member
Trisha Dey Czepiela, Parent Member
Ying (Sarah) Li, Parent Member
Katie McKenney, Parent Member
Eryk Slawinski, Parent Member
Matt Stolk, Parent Member
Nana Ama Tiwaa-Boateng, Parent Member
Julia Lantos, Staff Member

7. Confirmation of Upcoming Meetings

- November 18, 2025
- January 20, 2026
- April 21, 2026
- June 9, 2026

8. Principal's Update (Sylvie Blais)

- **School Vision**
 - Created a school vision with goal to promote oral expression in French. Are students:
 - Listening attentively so that they can understand & respond effectively?
 - Speaking in French to teachers?
 - Encouraging friends to speak in French?
 - Trying to find words or expressions to convey their ideas without using English?
 - If staff see that students are always trying to speak French, they can get a level 4 due to effort. The ability to convey their ideas is what is important – perfection is not the objective.
 - Students are also incentivized by J'aime parler Francais program.
- **Safe and Inclusive School Plan**
 - Continuing to work on key priorities and goals
 - Focus is on building peer-to-peer relationships
 - Goal is to provide students with the knowledge to better understand the impact of word choice, and the tools to effectively problem solve social conflicts with their peers so that all students feel safe, understood, and accepted.



- **Revised Strategic Plan**
 - Asked by school board to share revised strategic plan
 - Some key areas of focus include: student achievement in literacy, math, and science; student mental health; students' feelings of safety and belonging.
- **School Re-organization**
 - Had to collapse a junior class due to lower enrolment of students who left LAFI (e.g. moved to English schools or moved out of boundary)
 - This is common but unfortunately results in shift for timetabling/supervision schedules
 - One teacher was displaced as new enrolment numbers meant we did not qualify for additional classroom, as stipulated by provincial class size guidelines
 - Student learning needs were taken into consideration when moving students to new classrooms
- **Truth & Reconciliation committee**
 - Led by Mme Albert, committee created a school-wide collaborative project on a hallway bulletin board to recognize National Day for Truth & Reconciliation
 - Grades K-3 – depict what school should be like for children
 - Grades 4-6 – share responses to their learning about residential schools
 - Grades 7-8 – share actions that they can take toward Truth & Reconciliation
- **What's going on at LAFI**
 - **Events**
 - Meet the families October 9, 4-6pm
 - Photo Day – September 29
 - National Day for Truth & Reconciliation Assembly – September 30
 - Terry Fox – October 3
 - **Activities**
 - New gym floor
 - Vegetable garden
 - Parent portal set-up
 - **Extra-curriculars**
 - Cross-country – Springbank park (central region)
 - Dungeons and Dragons (Grades 4-6)
 - Junior Choir (Grades 3-6)
 - Soccer

9. Other Business

- Fundraising Committee – Meet Oct 16.
Action: Katie BC to send Matt and Amber list of parents who have expressed interest in fundraising committee.
- Next meeting: November 18, 2025 6-7pm Hybrid

Motion to adjourn. *Moved by Katie BC, seconded by Matt 7:21pm.*