

Kanétskare School Council

May 23, 2024 - Meeting Minutes

Members present:

Megan Evans - Chair (Secretary & Treasurer)

Joanne Hall – Principal

Janine Durajlija – Teacher Representative

Cindy Stranak, Louai Moghrabi, Esme Rambert, Kathy Hollands, Eisham Karim, Fleur McGeoch -
Voting Members

Joanne Hall started off our meeting with the principal's report. We got an update from the superintendent regarding our mascot & logo which has been in limbo for the past two years. The school board's Indigenous consultant took the issue to the IEC (Indigenous Education Council for Hamilton). They made it clear that if we continue using a coyote as our school mascot, that would harm our relationship with the Indigenous community. Animals possess important meanings in Indigenous culture which just don't align with being a school mascot. They gave us a list of 5 suggestions for a new mascot which will honour our commitment to respecting Indigenous culture, all of which are related to our school name which means by the bay. The principal will explain all of this to the students and present the 5 options to them so they can vote on a new mascot. Once we have the mascot, we are allowed to proceed with designing a logo. The only restriction is that the logo not be cartoonish. We are very optimistic we can have both the mascot and logo in place for the start of the coming 2024-25 school year.

Joanne also provided a bit more context around the climate survey which the schoolboard will be administering after EQAO testing next week. There was a board-wide email to parents about the survey a few weeks ago. Some parents raised concerns about the sensitive nature of some of the questions and Joanne explained that everyone taking the survey has the option to opt-out (if students opt out, they will be directed to a fake survey so none of their peers know they opted out) and teachers will be prepared to provide support to any student who may feel triggered by a specific question. All survey responses are completely confidential. At no time will students enter any identifying information into the survey.

The school will be hosting an open house for incoming students and their families the evening of May 30th.

The direct donation funds we raised have been spent on new musical instruments which will arrive for the start of the coming school year. As a reminder, we raised over \$3,000. Thank you!!

The Kanetskare Café which ran at the Spring Open House was an amazing success. Thank you to everyone who donated food and/or time. We raised a total of \$1,550! This money has been earmarked to purchase new comfortable seating in the library. Because of the long lead time on a furniture order, these will show up sometime in the next school year.

The school will be participating in a bicycle safety course for grade 6 students later this month. It has taken quite a bit of time and effort by Janine to arrange this, but we are happy to finally get this program running. There will be a nominal cost to participate and information will go home soon about it. This is a fantastic opportunity for grade 6 students to sharpen their bike riding skills and learn very important safety rules.

We have had a parent step forward and offer to begin running a Scholastic Book Fair next year at Kanetskare. Parent's whose children attended Earl Kitchener are already familiar with this event. Scholastic books sets up a mini-bookshop in the school which will be staffed by parent volunteers. Children can browse and purchase age-appropriate books during the sale and the school earns a percentage of the profits to spend on books to fill the school library. We are very excited to get this going at Kanetskare.

Grade 8 graduation plans are underway. We need volunteers! Please reach out to Megan Evans (evansmeganbethany@gmail.com) if you have any time to spare. Students voted on a theme for the dance which is Red Carpet. We intend to decorate the gymnasium for the dance as well as provide food for the students.

Cindy shared a PIC Update from their last meeting where they highlighted all the different pathways the school board offers to high school graduation. The school board is extremely motivated to support student success and graduation. If you are interested in learning more, please visit the HWDSB website: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/secondary/programs/>

This was the final meeting for this year's school council and Megan's last year as council chair. We will leave a record of all the work we have done with the school so that next year's council can access it.

Thank you for a great year!