

Kanétskare School Council

Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2024

Members present:

Chair: Jennifer Walsom

Vice-Chair: Cindy Stranak

Treasurer: Carly Felton

Secretary: Katherine Hollands

Principal: Joanne Hall

Voting Members: Natacha da Silva, Megan d'Andrade-Bush, Helen Burnett-Nichols, Tom Flood, Meaghan Eisenberg, Jennifer Coon, Esme Rambert, Louai Moghrabi, Eisham Aboulkarim, Jennifer Wallace, Darina Vasek, Pam Ekins, Tiffany Herron, Jennifer Castle-Timms

1) Introduction & 2) Election of Council

Joanne Hall started off our meeting by introducing herself and explaining the role of School Council for the benefit of new and returning members. Attendance was taken and attendees indicated whether they would like to be voting members on council. Joanne also explained the role of each of the elected positions and the following names were put forward, voted on, and passed:

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For the 2024-2025 school year there are 18 voting members of council, so 10 members are required to meet quorum.

3) Principal's Report

Joanne provided the principal's report. Kanetskare will not be re-organized this year, allowing teachers to get off to a good start with their classes. There are currently 16 classes including 5 French, 10 English, and 1 Sage Quest class. There are currently 401 students enrolled in the school, which is on par with the previous year's number.

Joanne gave a communication update. There was feedback last year indicating there was not enough communication from the school. This has been addressed by the creation last year of a welcome letter, which was sent home in September of this year. There was also a school-wide assembly on the first day of school to introduce staff, set out expectations, and introduce kids to the school. The daily announcements are also now visible on TV screens in the school hallway

and on the school website. Joanne confirmed that the school website now has a translation function available in multiple languages to improve communication with families. Also new this year are agendas which allow for better communication between families, students, and teachers. The school's cost of these agendas as of today will be approx. \$1,500. There will also be a sticker added to the agenda that allows parents to access the school website with a QR code. Another improvement to communications is the dedicated ESL teacher that will be at Kanetskare 2.5 days per week to work with new students.

Joanne discussed the School Improvement Plan (SIP), whose main focus is to try to get students more engaged, and to improve Literacy and Math skills. There are currently 3 focus areas around literacy and math; a Struggling Readers group, a High Impact Instruction Practices group, and a MathUp group. Joanne hopes to provide an update on the SIP at the November Council meeting.

There are several teacher-driven clubs at the school, including the Celebration Club (focus on holidays, holy days, spirit days to give students a fun reason to participate), the Healthy Action Team (led by a Public Health Nurse that focuses on mental health and well-being), the Positive Spaces Group (focuses on any kind of inclusion activities around the LGBTQ+ community – last year had success working with their counterpart club at Dalewood school), and the Events Team (focusing on larger fundraising events like school dances, trips, and graduation).

Joanne gave an update on the fundraising request from the music teacher Ms Hau to install sound equipment. The cost to install is estimated at around \$3,500. Ms Hau wondered if School Council could help fundraise through poinsettia sales and Domino's Pizza fundraising cards. This led to a discussion of fundraising in general. Joanne discussed the notice that went out to families requesting donations for DPA equipment, with the goal being each class having access to their own supply of balls and other small recreational equipment. The notice will be re-sent to families, perhaps inviting them to bring donations with them on Meet the Teacher night on October 10th.

Esme Rambert plans to spearhead the larger fundraising events, including working with the Events Team. Esme suggested that a hierarchy of needs would be useful in order to know where to focus fundraising efforts and allocations. The top two priorities for fundraising are currently updating/replacing Technology and updating the Library. Eisham offered to donate 5 backpacks to School Council to use as part of fundraising efforts. There was talk of a Novel Study Drive so the school can have a supply of current popular novels that can be used for classes and for kids. Jenn Castle offered to put together a list of requested books. This book drive might be done in conjunction with the Scholastic Book Fair. Used book donations are also welcomed by the school. The school's Fundraising Plan is due to be submitted to the School Board in mid-October. Joanne will meet with Cindy Stranak, Jennifer Walsom, and Esme Rambert to discuss.

4) Teacher's Report

The Terry Fox Run, Walk, and Stroll happens on Friday September 27. Funds raised are currently \$500 short of the school's goal. Hopefully additional donations will come in before the event is over.

Joanne gave an update on sports and clubs at the school. Intramurals have begun and tryouts and practices are listed on daily announcements. Several of the school clubs have also begun. New jerseys have been ordered for the school teams, and SpiritWear and Graduation Wear is in progress. Order forms will be sent home to families in the next few weeks.

Cindy shared a Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) update, explaining what it is, and pointing out that the Ministry of Education is currently collecting parent input via an online survey that will directly inform how the curriculum is built going forward. Everyone should go online and complete the survey! The survey can be found at ontario.ca/page/survey-equipping-students-life-skills

5) New Business

The next meeting date is set for Thursday October 17 at 6:00pm.