

Shannen Koostachin Elementary School

School Council Meeting

Monday November 18, 2024

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Nazareth, Yasmeen, Lesley, Kirsteen, Kruti (proxy), Kylie, Chris Hollingsworth, Sheree, Allison, Andrea (virtual), Sheree, Saima, Jaclyn, Sara, Colleen, Tanna, Asmaa, Jennifer, Stephanie, Maria Marino.

Regrets sent: Amira, Pinky, Amanda, Farkhurda, Stephanie Gear.

1. Welcome / Land Acknowledgment

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement read by Saima
Opening of meeting – Asma'a and Steph

2. Review and approval of last meeting minutes

Approved by Kirsteen and Naz

Sara Momani – new school council secretary. Other 2 candidates withdrew their application. No voting required.

3. Kind Kodiaks

- Mrs. Ivkovic presented the Kind Kodiaks program being launched at school that focuses on the 4 core values: Compassion, dignity, Trust & Compassion.
- Kodiaks will be on the lookout for others who are demonstrating compassion, dignity, trust, and joy at which point they will grab a certificate from the bins on the wall outside the office.
- Certificates will be filled out in class and handed to the teachers.
- Teachers will submit certificates every Friday and they will be hung on the Kind Kodiaks board outside the library every Monday.
- Assemblies will be held every 2 months to celebrate the Kodiaks who demonstrated the 4 core values.
- Teachers will assist younger students with filling out their cards.
- Kodiaks who nominate other Kodiaks will also be celebrated and acknowledged.

4. Principal's Report

- *Current enrollment* is 702 students. Expected to increase to 800 students in 2 years.
- *UDL* – Universal design of Learning Math & Literacy program for grades K-8.
 - Strategic professional development training for teachers to implement the program.
 - Data on early literacy program led to the creation of a tier program to target students' literacy needs. Students will be working with the reading specialist at school to improve their literacy skills.

- UDL Universal Design of Learning UDL framework guides the design of instructional goals, assessments, methods, and materials that can be customized and adjusted to meet individual learner needs.
 - Goal is to improve literacy achievement for every student with the focus upon PD, using and exploring UFLI and Acadience for educators from K-8 captured as the Third Educator in the classroom.
- *Nutrition Program*
 - No pre-existing program at Shannen Koostachin.
 - Partnered with Tastebuds to start a 2 day snack program every Tuesday and Thursday that will include 2 key elements: fruits/vegetables and proteins/grains.
 - Very generous donation from MML Mattina Mechanical Limited who donated \$24,000 to cover an entire year.
 - Volunteers are needed to support the program. Vulnerable Sector Screening Police report is required to volunteer. Parents, caregivers and grandparents with a valid police certificate are welcome to support every Tuesday and Thursday from 8am to 9.15 am.
- *Equitable Access to outdoor play*
 - Phase 1 has been completed. Data from Sensory Preference Checklist to select resources was collected from educators and fence has already been installed to ensure equitable access to the playground while maintaining safety measures.
 - Principal is scheduled to have a meeting with an outdoor consultant regarding SOAR to create an outdoor self-regulation area anchored in safety.
 - Some of the boulders will be moved over to the newly fenced area.
 - Large tubes and beams will be available for students.
 - Project is anchored around engagement so students with safety risks can play with other students, build socioemotional connections, and not need to rely 100% on caretakers.
 - Phase 2 of the project will involve using resources and starting to familiarize students on use and purpose during Phys-Ed and introduction within current location, parental/caregiver consent and introduction to every learner in PE for familiarity and conditions for success
 - Phase 3: Outdoor space enhancement including natural logs, outdoor extensions as we introduce students in a good and safe way – Stay tuned for more partnership opportunities
- Mr Darcy is requesting another donation of mulch. The donor from last year was not available but parent council members will try to reach out to them.
- *Thank you's*
 - Mrs Marino thanked the teachers and staff members who are supporting different programs at the school.

- Ms. Goman and Mr Mulligan attended the MyBlueprint PD New platform for for grade 8 students which focuses on aligning future careers and resume building.
- Mrs Martire for organizing Kelsey's Kick Back Night.
- Welcomed new teachers that are currently attending Teacher's college that will be in various classrooms at Shannen Koostachin.

- Ms. Slater, for running the Math Academy 8:15am – 9:15am
- Ms. Slater, Ms. Pitt and Ms. Reynolds for starting our Robotics club and staff who have volunteered their time to support during NBS until the competition in December
- Ms. Baturin for the Acadience Module 3 Part 2 Release
- Mrs. Ritchie, Mrs. Ivkovic and Ms. Gallant for launching our Values Based Recognition Program: Kind Kodiaks!
- Student leaders and School Council Volunteers in making our Pizza Days run smooth. We look forward to this continued collaboration

- *Teacher Placements at Shannen Koostachin*
 - Ms. Scorgia with Ms. Slater (Grade 6/7)
 - Mr. Groskopf in with Mrs. Filoon
 - Ms. Marissa in with Mrs. Lewington Grade 3
 - Ms. Gallant in with Mrs. Richie Grade 2
 - Ms. McComb in with Ms. Mitchell (Grade 1)

- *Robotics Club*
 - Ms. Slater, Ms. Reynolds, and Ms. Pitt will be visiting Queen Mary School to explore their STEM and Robotics programs.
 - Competition will be held on December 11th. 10 students will participate from our school at McMaster's
 - Parents to drive and accompany their children to the competition due to transportation difficulties.
 - Robotics kits cost \$1,600. Hoping to grow the Kodiaks club as funding grows.

- *ARAO*
 - Five lead learners are participating in the ARAO Program (Anti Racism Anti Oppression).
 - Shannen Koostachin decided to be one of the few schools participating in this program to improve inclusion.
 - School will cover the costs of the ½ day that is not covered by the school board
 - Teachers who attend will bring back the knowledge they gain and pass it on to other staff members at school.

- *Applied & Approved Funds*
 - \$1280 has been approved for outdoor learning.
 - Application for funding for future licensing for movie nights has been submitted awaiting approval.

- Discussion of equitable distribution of funds to alleviate the costs of school excursions especially in the higher grades as transportation costs have increased dramatically.
- Subsidizing school excursions - A total of \$5785 is required.
- School is in need of a fridge and bins with lids for the Tastebuds program to store the food. A working used fridge is an option. Mrs Marino found a suitable fridge at Costco for \$800.
- Total of 35 19L bins with lids are required – 30 classrooms plus ELL, Reading and Resources rooms
- Snacks will be available in classrooms and other designated rooms to all students.
- Snacks may be stretched to cover the 5 days. Snacks will be available on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in rooms with trusting adults for students to access.
- School council members will be looking for donors who may wish to donate or subsidize the fridge and bins.
- Discussion on the best way to ask for contributions/donations – suggestions included a wishlist, donation tab on School Cash Online, direct email to parents for donations.
- Tax receipts will be provided for donations on HWDSB Donation website – Ms Mitchell to look into it further.

5. Teacher's Report

- Progress Reports/Parent Teacher Interviews
Progress reports will be sent home with students on Tuesday November 19.
Parent Teacher interviews are being scheduled. Parents to reach out to teachers if they missed a letter or email from teacher
- Mrs Gear will be picking up the first of many books donations for the school library from HPL.
- Mable's Labels is a floating fundraiser for the school. Use the school name when ordering to give Shannen Koosachin a kick back.
- Robotics team is registered to participate in the competition at McMasters on December 11. The goal is to grow the team to include all grades in the school as funding builds.
- School fundraiser before winter break on Comfy Clothes Day. Students will watch Wild Robot in the gym.
- Healthy Action Team - Grades 4-6 led by Mrs Ritchie to support bullying awareness. Activities include daily announcements, recognizing being an upstander vs a bystander, students creating handprints with anti-bullying slogans, and introducing a choice board of activities to each classroom.
- Digital announcements – a QR code will be included in the monthly newsletter for parents to access to get updates on current events at the school. School Administration to continue to send weekly updates to parents via email.

6. Treasurer's Report

- Movie Night raised \$891.32
- Current balance in School Council Funds: \$3141.35

7. Chair's Report

- *Movie Night*
 - School Council made around \$900 in profit on Movie Night.
 - Approximately \$130 worth of snack leftover from Concession stand are being stored for next event.
 - Pizza was a hit with families
 - Mandeep from Pizza Pizza on Mud Street generously offered a fundraising rate, additional discount and a donation towards the fundraising event.
 - School council would like to show their appreciation by adding a thank you message on the Facebook page as well as leaving a Google Review.
 - Licensing expires on February 25,2025. School council would like to run another Movie Night in February. Movie Night date to be determined in January School Council meeting.
- *FlipGive*
 - Raised \$488 in cashback so far
 - Suggestions to email parents again especially being close to holiday season about FlipGive.
 - Suggestions to include a Demo video or connect with school council members for assistance if needed.
- *By-Laws Sub-Committee*
 - Sub-committee is needed to create Shannen Koostachin's School Council By-laws.
 - Create own set of rules/mandates tailored to our school council – simple & concise.
 - Main criteria required in by-laws include number of meetings per year, vacancies, elections, conflict resolution and conflict of interest.
 - Review will be needed at the beginning of each year to ensure continuity
 - Volunteers for sub-committee: Jen, Naz, Steph, Kristeen, Alison and Sheree.
- *Future Meetings*
 - Discussion on voting council members that have not attended meetings
 - Voting on second allotment of funds to subsidize field trips
 - Graduation will be added to the agenda for January meeting
- *Voting*
 - Voting on subsidizing field trips.
 - Total of \$5785 is needed. Current school council funds are not enough for entire amount
 - Voting on \$2892 of school council funds to go towards subsidizing school excursions – 16 members approved – motion passed.

- *Volunteering*

- Volunteers with valid Vulnerable Sector Police Report are needed for the Tastebuds program.
- Bins are needed before program starts. Teachers have generously offered one of the fridges in the staff room until an alternative is available.
- Volunteers are required to be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 am – 9:15 am.

8. Adjournment

Closed the meeting - Colleen and Kirsteen.