

Adam Beck School Council – Minutes of the Meeting
20 September 2018
6:30 to 8:30pm
Gymnasium

Attendees

SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES	EXECUTIVE	NON-EXECUTIVE
Kent Yee, Principal	Karen McMullin (Co-Chair)	Mauricia Ambrose
Lola Scenna, Vice-Principal	Jeny Nussey (Co-Chair)	Lisa Armstrong
Jarrod Bines, Teacher Rep	Julie Middleton (Treasurer)	Marina Cattai
Francoise Charest, Teacher Rep	Samantha North (Secretary)	Tania Cordoba
Marc Volpato, Teacher Rep	Andrea Casciato	Mariangela Cosci
	Lisa D’Innocenzo	Linette DeGraaf
	Michelle Grahlman	Christina Gordon
	Jeff Jay	Natalie Muccioli Emery
	Julie Steel	Eugeia Flores
		Jennifer Haines
		Elizabeth Harvey
		Patricia Keays
		Melis Lanoue
		David Lee
		Alison MacPherson
		Andrew MacPherson
		Shannon Magennis
		David Otter
		Sébastien Pecqueur
		Aimée Smith
		Oliver Walters
		Melanie Zettler

Welcome and Passing of Minutes

Karen McMullin welcomed the group and gave an overview of the agenda. Explained the minutes and approval process and noted the great adambeckcouncil.ca website.

- ✓ MOTION: Karen McMullin asked for approval of the June 2018 minutes. Julie Middleton proposed the motion and Andrea Casciato seconded the motion. As there were none that were opposed and no edits proposed, the minutes were passed.

Principal’s Report

Mr. Yee welcomed everyone and noted the difficult summer for the community and commended our togetherness during the aftermath of the Danforth shooting and Reese Fallon's death.

- Introduced Teacher Representatives in attendance: Mr. Bines, Mme Charest, Mr. Volpato
- A lot of changes over the summer, new teachers, Michelle Defazio left and new OA temporarily Irene Smith
- New Big screen in hallway of school: contains announcements, info about school council, upcoming events eg. creative hair day, cross country meets etc.
- Parent Concern Protocol: parents should communicate with teachers first and develop that relationship first before going to Principal/VP
- Volunteer information: police criminal record check required to volunteer at the school, forms available at the office with \$20 certified cheque/money order. Very simple and quick declaration 1 year later at the office to renew. Ask the office if you're not sure when your 1 year expires. Police check has to be done through TDSB.
- Street Parking: no parking in front of school even when doing quick drop-offs at Community Centre 55, neighbours complaining. Swanwick is our designated area for parking. No space in school parking lot. Consider walking if you live close enough.
- Curriculum night: school is not reorganizing classrooms this year, we are at 524 students. Wed. Oct. 3 bbq. Hamburgers or hot dogs, drink & bag of chips for \$6. Having the bbq catered to free up teachers. Gather right on time and then dispatch to classrooms
- Platinum Eco School – Mr. Bines says we are aiming to achieve this for our 3rd year. Our eco club works from Oct – June. 2 major audits from TDSB - their eco team walk through the school. We are constantly running programs and communicating with parents.
- Sept Events: Art club, drama club, sports (most things start out around grade 4). Cross country starts at grade 1. Terry Fox run. Mr. Bines will have his beard shaved off and Mme Zorzit a buzz cut! if we raise \$5,000.00 = almost double of last year.
- Upgrading our electronics: purchasing more ipads and laptops getting more into Lego robotics and focus on STEM
- Visiting artists
- Facility upkeep: gym is air conditioned. Parents offering to get fans as school was extremely hot. Mr. Yee thanked the teachers for making things more comfortable.
- Fundraising: water fountains upgrade to allow easy access for filling water bottles and potentially offer filtered water. TDSB guarantees they do water testing every year of water fountains, but not classrooms.
- EQAO results for Grades 3 and 6 last year – went up from the previous year. Reading writing and math. Grade 3 FI is only math. Level 3 and level 4. Reading = 89%, Writing = 93%, math = 78%. Grade 6 reading 95%, writing 92%, math 60%. We are doing well by the board.
- 2 big fundraisers school puts on = QSP and Dance-a-thon (=not school council initiatives)

Agenda Items

1. Brief Overview of School Council

- Overview of each member's role on council: Co-chairs, secretary, treasurer, executive *every parent of the school is a member of the council
 - Council mandate
 - 5 key objectives of Council
 - Council Budget Committee and process
- Election Process and Introduction of New Executive

Karen McMullin asked for a raise of hands for those who want to be on executive and sign-up

2. Budget Process and Approval

Julie Middleton presented 2017-2018 Year in Review **(please refer to the attached budget documents)**

- Julie explained the slides detailing money in bank at beginning and end of year
- Pizza lunch is our top fundraiser, followed by Night on the Beach, Mayfair...
- Summary of expenditures 2017-2018: line by line details of \$ spent on what
- This year's budget based on what happened last year and input from parents for new ideas
- 2018-2019 – had carry forward from last year explains why the number is so high this year at \$97,633.000
- Fundraising numbers projected for each Committee event
- *upgrading sound system in gym = Integrated Arts – Capital Purchase
- Community Outreach managed by Mme Bruce
- Innovation Fund: if parents have new ideas earlier in year some funds aside for that
- Phys Ed: new Adam Beck banner, volleyballs, curling, recess bags
- STEM: chess workshop, technology upgrades support
- To reach Julie Middleton: abschoolcounciltreasurer@gmail.com

- ✓ MOTION: Jeny Nussey as a member of the executive put forward approval of the budget and Michelle Grahlman seconded, everyone in favour of passing budget.

3. Report on Lunch Program Research

- Melanie Zettler presented the results of last year's survey which resulted in majority of parents in favour of a hot lunch program
- 5 TDSB approved vendors, lots of schools have program
- Logistical concerns being addressed along with the pros & cons of each vendor. All aim to provide a healthy hot lunch, address allergy concerns, same-day prep, nut and seed free facility.
- 2 of 5 serve buffet-style: kid brings plate/tray and line-up and food dished-out and every child eats same thing. Other 3 vendors give you a chance ahead of time to choose the meal and food given to child in aluminum container

- Questions from parents: Does food have to be hot? Some include snacks and drinks. Is there a difference in price? Minimum lunches you have to order? \$6/lunch approx. Minimum people who have to sign-up for it to go ahead? 1 company said minimum of 30 lunches. Possible to have a trial? Can this become a fundraiser for the school? Those who can't afford the lunch program options? Nutritional differences between offerings? Have to purchase the tray? Require a spot in the school to set-up a warmer.
- Mr. Bines reminded everyone that we need to ensure waste removed by provider or kids take containers home.
- Mr. Yee says at previous school done once a week. Worked well because they had a cafeteria. Plastic containers all removed by company. Good if leftovers taken home as parents see what/if they ate. Mr. Yee suggests we do a trial
- Next step: conversation with council and school to look at options. Parents very optimistic. Teachers keen too.

*Jeny Nussey noted the meetings aren't usually this long – so don't be scared off!

Committee Overview

- Jeny Nussey asked each committee member to describe their particular committee and sign-up pages posted around gym for parents to show their interest in joining committees.
 - **Monsterbash** presented by Karen McMullin: annual Halloween fundraiser. Big event raises about \$5,000.00 that goes back into school. Oct 27 4-7pm. More activities for younger kids: slime factory, pets, reptiles. Teachers come in costume, donations of food. Wrist bands for \$20. Recommend parents accompany kids as it's very busy. Asking for volunteers to set-up the night before and any amount of time you can offer. Work with a skeleton crew and need new blood!
 - **Movie Night** presented by Michele Grahlman: there will be 6 movie nights this year, set-up a bit before it starts and kids come in their jammies with pillows and sleeping bags and parent supervision. Doors open 6:30, movie starts at 7pm. We sell pizza, theatre popcorn, candy.
 - **Mayfair** presented by Michele Grahlman: very large fundraiser, bouncy castles and need a lot of volunteers. Not enough supervision at bouncy castles last year which received complaints. Free tickets for dream basket draw if you volunteer!
 - **Night on the Beach** presented by Andrea Casciato: fun event for parents, silent auction, wine raffle, dancing. Need volunteers and parents to come out!
 - **Grant Applications:** someone mentioned their husband might do it. Indigo, music, pro and whatever else there might be – someone to research and find more opportunities.
 - **Visiting Artists** presented by Jeny Nussey: bring someone in so that every child in every grade gets an opportunity to learn from an artist. Parent asked if we already have artists

chosen. Mr. Mason has some ideas. Nothing booked yet, requires approval by council first.

- **Readathon** presented by Karen McMullin but Michelle Lavoie has handled the last few years. Kids keep track of the minutes they read books and win prizes.
- **Fundschrift**: buy giftcards and school council gets a percentage back. *Needs a committee lead.
- **Garden committee** presented by Jeny Nussey, but Connie is chairing. Maintain gardens, new benches in playground last year, watering. K to grade 6 work with kids. Little bears placed outside kindergarten area. Mr. Yee says kids play in yard and take part in upkeep. Butterfly garden. Parents maintain during summer. 3rd bench on its way.
- **Communications** - Julie Middleton: Facebook page requires volunteers to keep-up with info.
- **Staff Appreciation** presented by Karen McMullin (Krista Martin handles): committee that provides snacks at holidays and end of year luncheon for teachers.
- **Pizza Lunch** (Tamara Hobbs handles): 2 ways to volunteer: in the kitchen the day-of or in the classroom. Approx. 30 min commitment. Parents can sign-up through munch-a-lunch on-line to volunteer for 1 session or all. Kids love seeing their parents there giving out the pizza.
- **Spirit Committee** presented by Julie Middleton: eg. Creative hair day, Marlees game, organize Halloween parade. Ice time for family night, selling mugs and key chains, pink Be a Buddy shirt, school spirit events.
- **Rendez-Vous Café** presented by Jeny Nussey: 1 Friday a month near end of each month at entrance to newer kindergarten rooms meeting area, coffee with a sponsor and muffins and meet other parents/care givers. Needs sponsors.
- **Holiday Party** chaired by Lisa Armstrong. End of November to launch holiday season, complimentary pancake breakfast, local artists artisan market, Dad band, choir, arts & crafts, adopt-a-family program launches including wishlist for approx. 5 families in need, canned food drive. Feel good event.

New Business

- Elizabeth Harvey noted Trustee message re: supporting school regarding old health curriculum. Mr. Yee noted email from TDSB regarding health curriculum already received. Educators have to follow curriculum. School council could organize ourselves as parents to approach government. Mme Charest says the union fully supports teachers in continuing to teach old curriculum. Teachers' job

to teach curriculum provided by ministry, but if they choose not to union will support them. Would teachers like a letter from parent community to support their decision? How political does school council want to get given there may be differing opinions? Elizabeth Harvey posted email from outgoing trustee on Facebook page

- Julie M pointed out difference between Adam Beck parents Facebook page vs. Adam Beck School Council page
 - Mr. Yee says controversial topic in the news
 - Mr. Bines says any support from parents welcome.
- Elizabeth Harvey asked about safety of kids who have heard about gun violence: if anything further than lockdown drills being done to ease fear of guns in some kids.
 - Mr. Yee again mentions community coming together. We have a social worker and psychologist on staff/hand to offer counselling and direct families where to get support. Lockdown happening this week. Hold & Secure. Preventative measures so children understand safety. Teachers explain purpose.
 - Ms. Scenna says share concerns with home room teachers. Mr. Volpato or Ms. Scenna can recommend referral if necessary. Mr. Yee says school talks about safety regularly eg. Walking to school, bicycle safety. There are services for parents to help deal with children's concerns too. School council can bring in specialist to talk to parents. If confidentiality required that can be done.
 - Parent Involvement Advisory Committee meant to be here tonight. Govt rep volunteer in each ward. PIAC or CSC rep opportunity and info provided.

4. Mix and Mingle - Committee Sign-up

~End~