

# Adam Beck School Council minutes

25 April 2019

6:30 to 8:30pm

Studio

## Attendees

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SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES	EXECUTIVE	NON-EXECUTIVE
Caitlin Newnham-Kanas, VP	Jeny Nussey (Co-Chair)	Beth Briceno
	Karen McMullin (Co-Chair)	Linette DeGraaf
	Julie Middleton (Treasurer)	Kate Milligan
	Samantha North (Secretary)	Kate Mills
	Andrea Casciato	Paula Sherman
	Lisa D’Innocenzo	Jennifer Starr
	Michelle Grahlman	Melanie Zettler
	Jennifer Haines	
	Jeff Jay	
	Michelle Lavoie	
	Shannon Magennis	
	Francesca Rea	

## Welcome and Treaty Acknowledgement

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Jeny welcomed the group and in keeping with Indigenous Protocol provided the treaty acknowledgment for the Toronto Purchase area.

- PIAC newsletter available for taking home and postcards to petition against funding cuts to education
- May 30<sup>th</sup> Ward Meeting with Trustee
- School Council Facebook page sharing of info to parents Facebook page welcome
- Rendezvous café is tomorrow morning

## Minutes Review

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**MOTION:** Jeny asked for approval of the February minutes. Michelle G proposed the motion and Jennifer Starr seconded the motion. As there were none that were opposed and no edits proposed, the minutes were passed.

## Recruiting Council Volunteers for the 2019-2020 School Year

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Karen: 2<sup>nd</sup> last meeting of the year – next and last meeting in June.

- Treasurer, Co-Chair, Spirit Committee, Monster Bash – will post available positions on website

## Principal's Report

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Ms Newnham provide the report in Ms Scenna's absence:

- Eco Team: raised over \$2,000 from bake sale, sold buttons this week, incredible work fundraising
- Dance-a-thon brought in \$3,100 toward enriching classroom environment
- Ducks floating on pond made from puddles in playground, TDSB grounds committee came to access our drainage system, pipes all backed-up with debris and looking at putting in nets underground. Bringing temporary fix for muddy field by putting wood chips down in next few weeks.
- Pavement recess = 'walk and talk' and no sporting equipment to avoid injuries
- Purple forms went home for parents to inform school of any concerns for classrooms next year – do their best to accommodate
- Anti-stress workshop: 2<sup>nd</sup> part coming up. 1<sup>st</sup> part of a success and agenda generated by parent feedback. April 29 at 6:30
- Welcome to Kindergarten
- June 25<sup>th</sup> report cards will notify of class placement
- June 11<sup>th</sup> volunteer tea before school at 8:15
- June 19<sup>th</sup> 11:30 school BBQ
- May 2 – Spring concert
- May 29-June 1: grade 6 trip to Ottawa
- Announcement recall initiative by VP – students loved it. 5 classrooms won class parties (help funding from school council). Teachers asked for more of this kind of activity to engage students further.
- Teachers just received data for their individual classrooms on mental health survey of students done by VP looking at anxiety levels and questions surrounding whether each student has a trusted individual at school.

## Committee Updates

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**Garden:** Karen: working on grant for pollinator garden of \$5,000

- Getting soil and mulch delivered for spring planting, Wed, May 29 planting day
- Memorial for Reese Fallon – bench and flower bed in consult with family

**Staff Appreciation:** Krista Martin – potluck lunch provided for teachers by parents

**Night on the Beach:** Andrea – a really great success with all of the many changes and challenges this year - bar made really good money. Beer and food donations were amazing and helped with saving money. Lower attendance this year, sorting out reasons why and working on bumping up attendance next year. Brought in approx. \$13,000.

- Art auction – thanks to Ms Scenna and teachers, prints available for sale after event sold well too.
- Melanie Z – polled some friends and discovered parents feel event too 'cliquey'

**Mayfair:** Sunday May 26 11am – 3pm – Michelle & new co-chair Lisa D

- Need lots of volunteers for the day of, posters nearly ready, bouncy castles booked!

## MISC:

- Michelle asking about adding pictures/images to emailed newsletters from school.
- Discussion about how best to reach parents and get participation increase in events and activities – emails not being received, Facebook only used by 25% of parents, paper best tool but concerns about eco.
- May 14 – Kindergarten registration: opportunity to engage parents with council?

## Finance Update

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Julie Middleton – shared current budget numbers to date complete with excellent spreadsheets

- Pizza as supplier of pizza lunch discussed
- Marlies game – thinking about switching to another event next year eg. Blue Jays
- Grade 6 legacy art project – film, silk screening on shirts, cut-outs of people as per art installation at the Beach this year.
- Sound system improvement meeting with Mr. Mason last week
- Still more expense requests coming in from teachers to spend their \$17/student
- Forecast for end of year money in bank is positive
- May 6 budget committee meeting to review budget submissions (due Fri, Apr 26) with 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting after Mayfair
- Question about bringing forward X games again – needs a parent to submit and commit to running

## Request for Budget Increase

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- STEM: Francesca – bringing more technology, math etc. to school eg. scientists in the school topic chosen by each teacher to bring in U of T engineering student to teach, chess – grade 3s missed last year so grade 4s included this year and price went up
- Need additional \$1,000: 3 sessions instead of 2 and price increase for chess

**MOTION:** Jeny moves we give extra money, seconded and unanimous vote in favour by executive.

## New Business

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Michelle L ideas for spending Innovation Fund (parents can come to council mid-season with new ideas for events). \$2,300 in fund.

1. Cotton candy machine purchase to use for fundraising: machine, cones & flavours, sugar = \$500 total including materials for a year. High fun factor for kids.

**MOTION:** Jeny moves that we buy machine, unanimous vote to purchase – motion passed.

2. Positive Space Messages – students who are positive space ambassadors (students get together every Mon and meet, go into classrooms) need paint for murals and supplies to paint positive messages around the school on the walls = \$500/yr. Michelle L spray painting Buddy Benches at her own expense on her own time with her children.

- Jeny suggests that Michelle L works with admin to spend the money on what is determined most needed by teachers in response to mental health survey.

**MOTION:** Jeny moves that we approve – 6 for, 2 against, 1 abstention – motion passed

- Jen Starr proposes a mental health committee for next year and volunteers to chair and create proposal

3. Teacher retirement gift idea: honour their years of teaching and commitment to school. 5 year award in their name and with their input into idea for what trophy is for. \$55 - \$80/award. Plaque with names on it that stays at school and student gets a medal to keep (pending admin approval).

**MOTION:** Jeny moves that we approve approx. \$300 – 2 for, 6 against, 2 abstentions – motion failed

- Question to VP for \$ for this initiative of \$1,000 – Jen Starr will liase with school toward mental health survey results efforts to improve. Ms. Newnham’s anonymous survey included 5 questions: how do you feel arriving at school, leaving school, comfortable talking about problems, is there an adult at school you feel comfortable talking to. 15-20% not comfortable talking to homeroom teacher, but do have another adult. Tired arriving to school very common. Anxiety arriving at school. High # of children do not connect to another adult outside their homeroom teacher.
  - How do teachers address these things? Facilitate conversations with children? School responsibility to ensure every child has an adult they can talk to. eg. Talk Box initiative identifying different staff in school. Priority to emotionally support students. Not yet able to assess kindergarten students.
  - Requirement for teachers to be responsive to the data.

**MOTION:** Jeny moves that we approve motion – unanimous vote to approve – motion passed

- Jeny: Council sent letter to gov’t opposing education cuts and recommend message to staff too and read out and agreed ok to send.

~End~