

# Adam Beck School Council minutes

19 September 2019

6:30 to 9:00pm

Gym

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SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES	EXECUTIVE	NON-EXECUTIVE
Lola Scenna, Principal	Jeny Nussey (Co-Chair)	Lisa Armstrong
Caitlin Newnham-Kanas, VP	Julie Middleton (Co-Chair)	Daniel Cohen
Marc Volpato, teacher	Jeff Jay (Co-Treasurer)	Winnie Falkenstein
	Matt Gowing (Co-Treasurer)	Eugenia Flores
	Samantha North (Secretary)	Eric Healy
	Andrea Casciato	Tamara Hobbs
	Marina Cattai	Kate Mills
	Shawna Funston	Kirk Seeley
	Jennifer Haines	Fay Sicinski
	Justine Purcell	Julie Steel
	Francesca Rea	Eben Visser
	Paula Sherman	Rebekah Walker
	Heidi Visser	
	Christa jay	

## Welcome and Introductions

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Jeny welcomed the group and introduced herself and the council

## Minutes Review

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**MOTION:** Jeny asked for approval of the June minutes. Andrea proposed the motion and Jeff seconded the motion. As there were none that were opposed and no edits proposed, the minutes were passed.

## Principal's Report

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Ms Scenna welcomed everyone

- Reorganization of classes for primary students grades 1-3 English so they aren't breaking the 20 student max
- Predicted to be at 512-514 students at end of last May for this Sept. We grew to 547 over the summer with new enrollments
- Most likely to get another portable, though planning committee and surveyor needs to come out and determine. Have the option to build up on kindergarten new addition, but not there yet. Possible studio use as classroom?
- Will share the results of survey info to the parents as soon as she has it.

- Bring any concerns and requests about classrooms to Ms Scenna
- Important to bring any concerns to home room teacher first to keep them informed and often they can help answer questions best
- Volunteer Info: policies in place now requiring police check – form at office. Requires a verification check once a year to renew
- Rather than once a month principal newsletter – Friday each week instead to keep info more fresh and shorter, quicker & easier.
- Street parking: parents should avoid drop-off in parking lot as it's too small. Fence being installed at street by playground. Potentially installing gates and extending tall kindergarten fences
- Curriculum night Sept 26 – rather than filtering all into gym, an alert out to school yard through speakers
- Ottawa and Island school info night: Tues, Oct 1 for grade 5 and 6 students.
- Equity, well-being and student achievement: looking for feedback from parents about child's experience with these new measures and revising processes
- Global competencies: harvest leadership abilities and inquisitiveness of children and tailor learning to the students
- Resources of the TDSB: Mr. Volpato is special education teacher – method and resource teacher. Monthly meetings. School social worker, psych associate, speech & language pathologist, special education inclusion consultant. For students struggling and those needing more challenges. Linked to community resources that already exist, often free of charge.

## **Brief Overview of School Council, Nomination/Election Process**

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Jeny gave overview: minutes taken and provided for review to attendees of meetings

- Officers and Executive, Committee Leads: Chairs, Treasurer, Secretary
- Executive: parents who commit to attending min of 5 out of 7 meetings = 70%. Space for 20 parents/guardians on executive. Entitled to vote on any issue and the budget
- All are welcome to attend all meetings – great way to learn things you won't hear about elsewhere
- Purpose to improve student achievement

## **Introduction of New Officers and Executive**

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Jeny introduced the new 2019-2020 Adam Beck School Council consisting of:

- Julie Middleton and Jeny Nussey as Co-Chairs
- Jeff Jay and Matt Gowing as Co-Treasurers
- Samantha North as Secretary
- All positions are acclaimed.

## **Committees Overview**

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Jeny presented the many committees of the council which are listed on the website

2 main ways to volunteer: be part of the individual committee or help at the event on the date (requires police check)

- Spirit Committee: presented by Kena Flores. About 1 day a month activity eg. Creative hair day, Halloween parade, more spirit wear this year. Need parents to join the committee and help with specific activities.
- Adopt a Family: holiday time sponsor a family with Community Centre 55
- Budget Committee = school council exec
- Classroom reps: parent with child in class communicating council info and vice versa
- Grade 6 Legacy Art: council provides funding for students graduating eg. colourful silhouettes on fences around school
- Grant Application: need parents to work on researching this. Government cuts and school not a high need area.
- Potential for Equity Committee: Winnie presented. Inviting guest speaker to come in to talk to parents about race and other equity issues. Tools & resources to have difficult conversations with our children
- Holiday Celebration: Lisa presented. Nov. 23 = kick-off holiday season for school community, complimentary pancake breakfast, Santa, kick-off adopt-a-family program gift tags on trees.
- Hot Lunch: parent liaises with admin
- Mayfair: Julie M presented – annual spring party with all the bouncy castles, dream baskets. Always looking for new ideas and lots of volunteers for day-of.
- Mental Wellbeing: new this year in partnership with school admin supporting student well-being. Headed-up by Jennifer Starr.
- Monsterbash: weekend before Halloween – Kristine Holder heading-up. Need many day-of volunteers. Halloween costume party with games and activities for children. Pumpkin decorating coordinated with teachers for students in classroom.
- Movie Night: presented by Julie M – headed-up by Michelle Grahlman. 6 movie nights a year held in gym – maybe an outdoor one in the spring! Kids wear pjs and bring sleeping bags and there's pizza and snacks.
- Night on the Beach: presented by Andrea - party for parents at night to raise funds. Last year first year in the school gym rather than Balmy Beach in order to get the money from bar. Looking for more parents on committee and to attend. Start planning in Jan. Silent auction. Radical Road brewery donated the beer last year, need more things like that!
- Pizza Lunch: Tamara Hobbs heads-up. Once a month pizza lunch. Needs a lot of volunteers. Very popular with parents and students. Students love eating in their classroom. Pizza Pizza again because best deal.
- Read-a-thon: Jan/Feb – design contest for door-hanger and contest to read the most minutes and receive prizes. Michelle Lavoie heads-up. Needs volunteers to tally and help with prizes.
- Rendez-Vous Café: Jeny presented. Lisa Flood heads up. Friday morning near the end of each month for caregiver/parent and little ones after drop-off in meeting room between new kindergarten rooms after bell 8:42-9:30am. Local businesses sponsor and provide refreshments.
- School gardens: Natalie heading-up committee and Jeny presented. Planting with students in fall. Reese Fallon memory planting to come. Watering etc. Butterfly garden with grant opportunities.
- Staff Appreciation: 2 events a year of providing food to school staff. Krista heads-up, presented by Jeny.
- STEM: Francesca heads-up: chess for grade 3 students – very popular and an after school club would be great. Needs more volunteers. U of T Engineering students in classrooms working with grades 3-6. Next week Codezilla coming in for JK to grade 2 to teach coding. Dash & Dot robots, Scientists in the school provides 1 to each teacher for the day to discuss different topics. Has a good healthy budget to be spent!
- Visiting Artists: Jeny presented – working with teachers to bring in artists to classroom. Needs more parents. Eg. Bollywood dancers last year.
- Website/Communications team: Jennifer Haines et al keeping website up to date and posting. Any parents interested and know how to use Word Press who want to volunteer.

## Budget Process and Approval

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Julie Middleton provided Adam Beck School Council Treasurer's Report

- Numbers from last year: started with \$47,472 in bank and ended year with \$40,966
- Fundraisers: Pizza Lunch most popular followed by Mayfair and Night on the Beach etc.
- Expenses: Visiting Artists, Scientists in School, Kindergarten Special Project Support etc. - getting new speaker system this year!
- Projecting to bring in \$91,000
- In spring we ask for requests from parents for projects to spend budget. Pre-approve budget in June and establish final approval in Sept meeting.
- School Council Partner School = Eastview \$1,000 to spend wherever their needs are
- Education Enhancement: Innovation Fund – extra money not spent last year put here in case something new comes up this year, or something we didn't support we can vote to approve – 2 years to spend money so has to be spent this year.

**MOTION:** Julie Middleton moved we vote to pass budget, Jennifer Haines seconded. 14 for, no opposed so motion passed

## New Business

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- Andrea: parent-run Facebook page for school
- Election process: any discussions happening in school?
- Ms. Newnham says grade 6 has mock vote. Voting happens in the school and teachers often explain then what's happening
- Parent asked about school photos and if there's openness to changing the company we use. Ms Scenna says parent and school feedback to photo company poor from last year. Locked-in for this year, but potentially someone new next year.
- Jeny: Climate Strike next Friday – Council supports and makes a posted resolution.

**MOTION:** Jeny moved we adopt resolution and Executive in favour, no one opposed and motion passed.

## Mix and Mingle – Committee Sign-Up

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Sign-up for school council committees!

- Form coming on-line where you can sign-up easily for committees
- Classroom Rep sign-ups going to Julie M and she'll be in touch with everyone to confirm and will let us know if no reps in any particular rooms.

~End~