

Adam Beck School Council Minutes

21 October 2021

6:30 to 8:30pm

Video Call

SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES	EXECUTIVE	NON-EXECUTIVE
Ms Scenna Mme Bettas-Protopapas Ms Mavrou	Julie Middleton Shannon Magennis Alex Ashton Christa Jay Jeff Jay Jeny Nussey Jenny Struyk Jing Yao Lisa D’Innocenzo Liyan Ting Melissa Lanuza Michelle Grahlman Paula Sherman Samantha North Teresa Miller Winnie Falkenstein	Melissa Lanuza Shannon Gibson Jessica Hillgrove-Stuart Jenny Charlesworth Laura Timms Kristin Ociepa Michelle Weeks/Prince Linette DeGraaf Natalie Muccioli Stephanie Miskew Jennifer Haines Sean Briggs Julie Harwood Martha Miller Laura Newell Aaron McIntosh Kathryn Tenkate Jeremy Hartman Mimi Rego Heidi Visser Emily Chan Rebecca Naves Melanie Zettler Tamara Hobbs

Welcome

Julie Middleton – welcomed everyone and introduced Shannon Magennis – new co-chair!

Land Acknowledgement

Shannon gave the land acknowledgement.

Minutes Review

MOTION: Julie asked for approval of the September minutes. Melissa Lanuza proposed the motion and Christa Jay seconded the motion. As there were none that were opposed and no edits proposed, the minutes were passed.

Committee Updates

Julie and Shannon gave an overview of committees and how to apply to volunteer (see school council website):

- Covid rapid testing – Jessica Hillgrove-Stuart - started before Thanksgiving with a number of families involved. Supplies dwindling and some families with businesses donating tests.
- Monsterbash – Julie - colouring contest sheets going home with students or can be printed from school council website and submitted to Ella Minnow for prizes. Different coloured outfits for each day next week (excluding Monday as it's picture day)
- Adopt-a-Family – Melissa – looking into community needs and then will reach-out to volunteers.
- Classroom Reps – Julie – help disseminate info from School Council. Still need a few more reps to volunteer.
- Spirit – Christa – 2nd Thursday of each month is Spirit Day for wearing school colours.
- Garden – Natalie – 2 benches newly installed on school property after many years in the making. The 1 along Swanwick is the Reese Fallon memorial bench with plaque installed to be presented privately to the family. Plan to plant butterfly bushes around bench. Finding age-appropriate ways to explain it to the students.

Treasurer's Report and Budget Update

- Jeff Jay and Liyan Ting – off to a great start with DJ dance party by Spirit committee with cost of \$565
 - Funds have come in for last year from on-line shopping
 - Website expense of \$274
 - Corrected Sept fundraising budget of approx. \$20,000 – needs revising as the reality of how little fundraising we can do eg. no pizza lunch. Chairs, treasurers and secretary met to brainstorm ideas to revise spending to take into account our inability to raise funds originally budgeted.
 - 2 proposals for trimming the budget:
 1. Parent Donations \$2,500, parents contribute more to STEM initiatives, reduce Equality Donation
 2. Parent Donations \$2,500, parents contribute to Visiting Artists & STEM, reduce Equality Donation
 - Mme Bettas suggested asking for open donation with suggestion of minimum. Which Julie explained is the plan for Parent Donations.
 - Jeny suggested perhaps requesting more money from parents so that the Social Justice program might get to some students.
 - Andy suggested silent auction with parent donations on-line (on top of Night on the Beach)
 - Teresa Miller suggested on-going cash injection from parents attached to specific events it will fund throughout the year.
 - Natalie queried if all committee leads should consider tightening budgets further.
 - Ms Scenna indicated everyone is pushing for pizza lunch and hot lunches to go ahead and she remains hopeful the rules will open up.
 - Mme Bettas suggested a note to parents requesting each family donate \$10 so we don't have to slash budgets and be clear about what programs funds will be used for.
 - Teresa and Jenny Struyk in agreement that we keep Equality Donation and ask for donations from parents.
 - Aaron queried if donations to school council are considered charitable donations = yes.
- MOTION:** Julie suggested we vote to approve Proposal 2 and launched a poll through Zoom. All voted in favour and motion passed.

Meeting Topics – Brainstorm

Julie suggested we brainstorm potential speakers to join future school council meetings without a budget.

- Mindfulness workshop next month by former Adam Beck parent.
- Looking for someone to join again in the spring.
- Shannon recalled previous Toronto public health worker joined – Ms Scenna will look into. Possibly on the topic of anxiety.
- Lisa D’Innocenzo – social media presentation
 - Telus again or someone who works in IT, cyber security. Melanie Zettler and Aaron McIntosh to look into further
 - Julie Harwood suggested school trustee Michelle Aarts husband who did a talk in the past
- Natalie – dental hygienist friend regarding dental health

Principal’s Report

Ms. Scenna:

- Thank you and congratulations to all parents and students for following rules and keeping school Covid safe.
- Re-organization of classrooms occurred in Sept due to short-fall of number of students expected (41 students less). Instructed to remove the 3/4 English class, which was an unusual and upsetting request. Appreciate feedback and advocating that took place.
- School Improvement Plan (equity) – reiteration on morning announcements about not making negative comments to each other. Building a culture of acceptance and belonging in school.
 - Centre for Urban Schooling guide Equity Continuum – includes rating scale system to look through school for race & racism discussion. Staff inquiry: How might we impact students’ cultural awareness and sensitivity when we use culturally relevant pedagogy?
https://www.easywebdesignsolutions.com/georgemartell/email27/Culturtally_Engaged_Pedagogy.pdf
 - Equity, Student Achievement and Well-Being: some students interested in accelerating learning while others may need to take a step back. School is here to accommodate where needed. No mandate to adjust the curriculum technically.
 - School is a positive space where all are welcome
- Thank you for DJ Mike Harding Dance Party, Reese Fallon Memorial Bench.
- EQAO 2022 will proceed for grades 3 & 6 – just an assessment, won’t appear on report cards.
- CCAT between Nov. 1 & 19 grade 3 screener process – may occur on-line.
- Halloween parade process – rules coming down slowly. Would like to have children parade around neighbourhood. Occasional workers and teachers rather than parent volunteers. Offer alternatives for students who aren’t participating in Halloween.
- Honouring Remembrance Day Nov. 11th without opening doors for families. Recording and compiling movie/slide show in classrooms to share with community.
- Report cards & virtual interviews
- Photo day happening this Monday – staff all fully-vaccinated, to take place in gym 1 class at a time. Sibling photos at a later date.
- Wasps on playground – had some spraying done, rotting wood problem, outdoor snacks attracting wasps. Caution tape around wood and hoping to have them replaced soon with urgent request.
- Outdoor classrooms – no ETA yet. Ms Scenna could use parents emailing in their requests.
- Melanie asked about hot lunch return – decisions being made now. Also about extracurricular sports

New Business

- Julie - need for new Co-treasurer as Liyan Ting moving away.
- Athletic field turf – Sean Briggs – research with companies and other schools who have put in turf fields. There are eco-friendly options. Would resolve “Lake Adam Beck” problem in field. Quote of \$400,000. Would require a long-term fundraising effort.
<https://www.designturf.ca/our-services/athletic-surfaces/>
 - Laura Timms suggested water garden option installed by Credit Valley conservation group (but doesn't work in TO)
 - Martha Miller queried hybrid option of track and field
 - Mme Bettas reminded of potential for build above new kindie yard that could destroy efforts made on field.

~End~