

IPS School Council Meeting 2024 04 09

Today's follow up owned by

- Jeff Kearns
- Gary Pieters
- Abi Wren
- Jen Yeung

Previous follow up owned by

- Michael Miller
- Gary Pieters
- Samira Zarghami
- Abi Wren
- Jason Applebaum
- Lindsay Stephens

Attendees	Regrets
1. Abi Wren	8. Tracey Baker
2. Samira Zarghami	9. Lindsay Stephens
3. Jen Yeung	10. Jennie Lai
4. Jason Applebaum	• Michael Miller (not at school today)
5. Karen Rothfels	
6. Jeff Kearns	
7. Maria Khan	
• Gary Pieters (Principal) (4:45)	
• Eleonora (parent)	

Quorum

7 of 10 parent council members, > 50% of council, +Principal +1 parent

Achieved: >50% members, >50% parents

Johnny Tkach has resigned his position on Council, still happy to volunteer!

Agenda:

- Approval of March minutes – Co-chair
- End of year celebration – Events chair
- Year six celebration update - Principal
- Lunches back in gym update – Principal/Co-chair
- Fundraising updates (Purdy's & Spirit wear) – Treasurer
- Next fundraising activities - Treasurer
- Teacher update - TBC
- Principal update - Principal
 - Questions received;
 - Teaching staff changes
 - 2024-25 classes
 - EQAQ info night request)

Welcome – Abi, called to order 4:20pm

Motion to approve previous minutes

- Proposed: Jeff, Seconded: Samira
- General vote in favour, no dissent, motion carried

End of year celebration

- Investigating moving from WIA (burned down) to QCYC
 - Need shelter if rain, space to play/activities, seating
 - Catering or kitchen already available?
 - **Jeff** meeting with QCYC in person TW if they approve us using their space
 - QCYC meeting 2024 04 09 to approve
- Inflatables for year end party are \$1500 delivered
- Sherbourne Common: if have liquor need fence, toilets - becomes not financially viable
- Use school property? - ask **Gary**

Year 6 celebration

- Working on yearbook
- Tue April 16 grad photo day
- Grad ceremony
- Who's leading it so School Council can help?
 - Jessica Grant is gr 6 teacher until end June
 - Gary's sent e-mail to grade 6 class (only) March 4
 - Next time put in weekly update? Is good news, suggesting sharing it more broadly
 - Gary likes if we do the same thing as last year: dinner @ school, day @ Centreville, overnight stay with activities, grad ceremony
 - Who's on grad committee?
 - Next steps: **Abi** reach out to Jessica
 - Would the grade 6s want to help with a fundraiser where the funds would be directed to the grade 6 grad? Considering the coffee fundraiser

Lunch back in gym

- This is something the parents want
- Gary says no lunch in the gym this year
- Gary says School Council is advisory but ultimately decision is Gary's
- Food trolleys instead?
 - **Gary**: will ask cafeteria what they'd need to make that possible, will do that tomorrow
 - Nutrition people on-site tomorrow; Shelly Lucas
 - If purchases are required e.g. trolleys & plates, School Council can support that

Fundraising update

- Purdy's earned \$732.38 on ~\$3k sales, Meaghan's class is winner
 - We'll get a cheque from Purdy's to deposit
- Gary won't let us take money out of SC TDSB account for \$100 prize? (\$50 from Council, \$50 parent sponsor)
 - **Jen** following up with **Gary**
 - Asking Meaghan what type of gift card she wants
- **Gary wants to be copied on all e-mails to teachers**
- Spirit wear total raised is total \$1371.83, is in TDSB SC account
- Jen investigating other ideas e.g. coffee sales (cups & packaged), community bake sale
- Auction looking for more items!

Treasurer's report

- FYI community-raised funds in non-TDSB non-IPS SC Tangerine account = \$1823.94
- If combined, maximum funds available (TDSB + community) is just shy of \$4k
- Jen investigating alternative bank accounts

The Lighthouse Foundation

- New directors of The Lighthouse Foundation recognized on CRA website!
 - Jeff Kearns, Abi Wren, Jen Yeung, Shannon Clancy

Principal update – Gary Pieters

- Questions received:
 - Teaching staff changes
 - Gary: yes, grade 6 teacher has been hired,
 - 2024-25 classes: -1 class next year vs. this year based on projected enrollment decline
 - Travel Safety - have there been any new hires? (plans for reaching necessary staffing before nice weather and busy ferry? Would reaching out to parents to volunteer be an option?
 - Gary: 2 new people offered, 1 accepted job: Andrew Kwan, started a month ago; 2nd candidate declined
 - Gary says this is all in the week-at-a-glance
 - Library and special-ed: Do students have access to library time and access to ESL support?
 - Context: Ms. Lana was/is doing this, but also covering grade 6 and other classes for absent teachers if a full day substitute is not available
 - So day-to-day it can depend: Gary tries to keep all spots covered but due to TDSB-wide staff shortages everything isn't always available every day
 - EQAQ (info night request)
 - Gary sent links to TDSB-wide seminars in April 1 weekly roundup
 - **Gary** to send home info on prep to grade 3 & grade 6 parents
 - Kasia Blaszak ("Miss B" gr 2/3) last day was a few days ago
 - Kate Valiquette is the new teacher!
 - Gary has escalated to the TDSB for advice on this:
 - Meeting notes from last meeting can't go on the school's website since they're not an official School Council meeting (due to his absence)
 - Note subcommittee meetings or informational meetings e.g. event planning don't have to have Principal or chair at them
 - School Council should be able to share meeting notes with the community in the interest of transparency – a focus for Council after poor transparency & accountability in recent years
 - Gary: nothing should be sent to his staff without cc'ing him
 - Can't exclude him since it's bad optics
 - Doesn't support the board's commitment to inclusion
 - Note: TDSB Equity & Inclusion policy here: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/The-Classroom/Equity-Inclusion>
 - Excerpt:
 - “ We strive to make all students and staff feel welcome and accepted in their school so they can be successful and reach their full potential, regardless of their background or personal circumstances.
Through the work of the Equitable and Inclusive Schools team, the Board ensures that fairness, equity and inclusion are essential principles in our schools and are integrated into all policies, programs, operations and practices.”
 - Council reminded Gary that after he didn't join Samira e-mailed & called him but he didn't respond

- **Gary** calling TDSB IT tomorrow to have him and teachers (and possibly Gibraltar) added on School Messenger. Will save a communication step and help ensure he's not accidentally missed in future communications
- Trustee & superintendent were at school today, met with staff, visited classrooms, left feeling very satisfied with the learning that's taking place & facilities & space itself
 - Talked to them about the ferry schedule
 - Talked about playground equipment that still needs replacing/repair
- Garden donations:
 - \$2k donation from airport for soil & etc.
 - \$7500 grant for gardens
 - TDSB article about this: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/home/ctl/Details/mid/43823/itemid/276>

To do

1. **Jeff** meet with QCYC re: IPS using their space for end of year celebration
2. **Gary** advise if school property can be used for end of year annual celebration
3. **Abi** follow up with Jessica Grant re: organizing grade 6 end of year events
4. **Gary** advise next steps on food trolleys in place of lunch in the gym
5. **Jen** follow up with **Gary** re: why pre-approved Purdy's fundraiser gift cannot be awarded
6. **Jen** continue developing her great fundraising ideas
7. **Jen** continue investigating bank accounts
8. **Gary** send home prep info for grade 3 & 6 EQAO

To do from previous meetings

9. **Michael** – gather input from teachers re: lunch back in the gym & trolleys
10. **Gary** - send guidelines on how to make annual end of year celebration a school event again
11. **Samira & Abi** get someone to coordinate with Mr. B & Miss Carrie for how school council can support grade 6 graduation celebrations/activities, and grade 5/6 annual fundraising for graduation trip
 - SUBSEQUENT UPDATE: Miss Carrie now on leave, ask Gary who is leading these events so School Council can determine how to support
12. **Jason, Abi, Lindsay** work on by-laws

To do items from previous meetings since addressed

13. Samira – ask Gary for his update to include in notes
 - Done after last meeting
14. Gary – provide written Principal's report for inclusion into notes
 - Nothing provided, update provided at today's meeting
15. Gary – get back to School Council re: move back to communal lunch in the gym
 - Gary advised this is his decision to make, and it will not happen this year

Call to adjourn: Jen, seconded Samira
Meeting ended 5:50pm

Minutes written by: Jason Applebaum (edits: Abi, Jen Y)
Minutes approved by: Abi, Jen Y