

Abraham Erb Public School
School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 18th Sep 2024, 19:00 EDT

Attendees:

From the school: Jodie Hancox-Meyer, Meghan Wentworth, Shelley Carey

Parents and Community Member: Aditi Mukherjee, Alex Heap, Alex Korobkin, Ankit Sharma, Ayca Vural Akder, David Orth, Doris JP Li, Iryna T, Ivy JY Cui, Miranda Evans, Ruby Zhuang, S Puli, Taru Malhotra, Vaidhehi, Viridiana Rodriguez, Wenxiong Zhang.

(Recorded and taken by Doris JP Li)

Meeting Summary

- Election of School Council members and their roles was completed.
- Teacher reports covered student leadership activities, such as bus and safety patrols, junior running club, and popcorn sales.
- The principal's report highlighted a smooth start to the school year, completion of fire and lockdown drills, upcoming motivational speaker event, and pizza days starting soon.
- The treasurer's report showed an increase in the financial balance from June to August 2024, primarily due to fundraising activities.
- The next meeting is scheduled for October 16th.

Topics & Highlights

1. Election of council roles

Please find attached the list of School Council members and their roles

2. Teachers reports (attached for reference)

Student Leadership & Activities

- **Bus and Safety Patrols:**Students received training at Budd Park and are now performing duties at the roundabout and on buses before and after school.
- **School Helpers:**Other student helpers have started their roles, assisting throughout the school in various capacities.
- **Junior Running Club:**Grade 4, 5, and 6 students have joined the Fall Running Club, exploring different routes during their second nutrition break on Wednesdays.
- **Popcorn Sales:**Mrs. Wentworth's Grade 5 and 6 class will begin selling popcorn to raise funds for the Grade 6 trip to camp.

Classroom Highlights

- **Room 10 Grade 1:**Students are preparing for the Terry Fox assembly by making posters, doing announcements, and participating in the run with fox charm bracelets.
- **Grade 5/6 French Immersion:**Students focused on collaboration with team-building games like hula hoop passing and dodgeball with chart paper.
- **Grade 3 French Immersion:**University of Waterloo's "Let's Talk Science" program will present a workshop, Root of the Matter, teaching students about plant adaptations and survival strategies.

School Events & Programs

- **Library:**Students are beginning to take books home. Dual-language books are available to support English learners. Overdue notices will be sent in October, and the school is looking forward to scheduling a Book Fair with Parent Council support.
- **Field Trips:**Mrs. Frey's and Mrs. Schnarr's classes will visit Steckle Heritage Farm to learn about agriculture, heritage, and respect for the land.
- **Forest School:**Junior classes will soon begin Forest School, exploring and learning in the Blue Beech forest section near the school.

3.Principles reports(attached for reference)

School Updates:

- The 2024-2025 school year began smoothly, with 17 classes and a total of 395 students.
- Fire and lockdown drills have been completed, with students showing great cooperation.

- Motivational speaker Unstoppable Tracy, a renowned 4-way amputee athlete and speaker, will visit on September 27th.
- Panago Pizza partnership continues with pizza days on Fridays, beginning on September 27th.
- Photo Day is scheduled for October 1st.
- PD day are arranged on the Friday, October 1st ,and Friday, November 1st
- EQAO results will be sent home when received.

More details about board updates and province updates, please find attached below for reference.

4. Treasurer's Report(attached for reference)

- From June to August 2024, the school council's opening balance was \$10,123.56, and the closing balance was \$12,782.56.
- Fundraising activities, including pre-sold tickets, onsite sales, and a silent auction, generated a total inflow of \$7,017.40, with major expenses amounting to \$4,358.40, covering food, activity supplies, and PRO grant projects.
- There is a planned expenditure of \$360 for the Multilingual Literacy Project, and a \$2,000 grant for gym equipment is expected.

5. Q&A

Q:When the running club will kickoff?

A:This week was the initial sign up to garnering to see how many people were interested. And then she was going to work with some of the support staff that she had volunteered to kind of work out a schedule in which it will happen. Permission forms and information forms would probably be sent home within the next week or so.

Q:Is Nutrition for Learning coming back soon ?

A:Nutrition for Learning is back up and running again. We will have our first snacks available next Monday. Snacks are available during the second nutrition break and anybody who needs it is encouraged to access it.

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6. Next meeting and agenda

- The next meeting is scheduled for October 16th and the co-chairs, secretary, treasurer, and Jodie will have a quick online meeting about a week before to put the agenda together.

2024-2025 School Council Members		
		Yes: 18 No:
Name	Position	Yes/No
Ankit Sharma	Co-Chair	Yes
Viridiana Rodriguez		Yes
Doris JP Li	Secretary	Yes
Ivy JY Cui	Treasure	Yes
Aditi Mukherjee	Voting Member	Yes
Alex Korobkin	Voting Member	Yes
Miranda Evans	Voting Member	Yes
Ruby Zhuang	Voting Member	Yes
Alex Heap	Non-Voting Member	Yes
Ayca Vural Akder	Non-Voting Member	Yes
David Orth	Non-Voting Member	Yes
Iryna T	Non-Voting Member	Yes
S Puli	Non-Voting Member	Yes
??(not present)	Non-Voting Member	Yes
Vaidhehi Kumar	Community Rep.	Yes

Teachers' Report for School Council

Wednesday, September 18th, 2024

Things happening throughout September:

The Bus Patrols and Safety Patrols attended a training session at Budd Park on Monday. They received instruction on how to perform their job as well as some information about dealing with first aid or emergency situations. They have all received their safety vest and will be at the roundabout near Laurel Heights, before and after school, or assisting on the bus, for the rest of the year.

All other school helpers have also begun their jobs and are helping out throughout the school in a variety of jobs. (**Mr. Snyder**)

Room 10:

Room 10 Grade 1 students are hard at work getting ready for the Terry Fox assembly, where they will be singing a song while their artwork cycles through on a slideshow. They are making posters to advertise our fundraising campaign and will be contributing to our morning announcements regarding Terry Fox. For the run this year, students will be given a bracelet with a fox charm and will add a bead for every lap they complete to celebrate their participation.

We are doing something special each day in room 10. We have Magic Monday ("It's not magic, it's SCIENCE!"), where we do some kind of science experiment or investigation. We have Tongue twister Tuesday, Wonder Wednesday (where we research something the students have been wondering about), Thankful Thursday (where we write a thank you card for someone special), and Funny Friday (where we tell jokes). Kids are enjoying coming to school to see what our newest learning experience will be!

Jack and Jill (two of my zebra finches) will be joining us this year. They will arrive shortly, and we will observe their daily needs and behaviours and will watch as they raise their babies.

The Junior students are getting ready to run! Grade 4's, 5's and 6's have been invited to join Abraham Erb's Fall Running Club. We will run at 2nd nutrition break on Wednesdays and look forward to exploring different routes through our yard and right around Abe Erb.

At the end of October, Mrs. Frey's and Mrs. Schnarr's classes will be learning about agriculture, heritage and respect for the land at Steckle Heritage Farm. We're looking forward to the opportunity to get outside and learn more about community farming.

Popcorn sales will be starting at the beginning of October. Grade 5 and 6 students in Mrs. Wentworth's class will be running the sales. All proceeds will be to send the grade 6's to camp. Last year we were able to table about 70% of the cost off for each student.

Junior classes will be beginning their forest school within the next few weeks. Classes are venturing out together to do some explorations and some learning in the Blue Beech section of the forest. We're so lucky to have such an expansive natural area so close to the school.

Grade 5/6 French Immersion:

Over the past two weeks in our French class, we have been focusing on collaboration and cooperation by engaging in fun, hands-on activities and challenges. The students have been playing games like passing a hula hoop without using their hands and working together in groups to pass several dodge balls using large sheets of chart paper. It's been wonderful to see them shift from individual thinking to using teamwork and strategies to complete these activities.

Grade 3 French Immersion:

In October, University of Waterloo's Let's Talk Science program will be visiting Room 25 for a workshop called, Root of the Matter. Students will learn about the adaptations within known food plants, and how plants survive different scenarios (e.g. drought, frost, pests).

From Mrs Mueller in the Library:

Library books are slowly starting to go home with students, we are testing out the responsibility of taking out and returning books before we increase loan numbers. We are assisting classrooms where we can with our dual language availability of books for our students who may currently be in early stages of learning English.

All classes have been provided orientation on learning how the library operates, the rules to follow and how to take care of books they are borrowing.

Overdue notices will start to be distributed to families in October.
Would love to hear from Parent Council on potential dates for Book Fair plans

Principal's Report for School Council

Wednesday, September 18th, 2024

School

We've had a very smooth start up to the 2024-2025 school year. We have a total of 17 classes and our population currently sits at 395 students.

We've also welcomed a handful of new staff members (teachers Mrs. Schnarr, Mme Elkadri, Ms. Rigg and Mrs. Korir, Educational Assistant Miss Rose and Early Childhood Educators Ms. Rinzema and Mrs. Ross).

We had a fun "welcome back" assembly on Monday, September 9th in the gym where we practiced singing our school song, practiced our new cheer and then went out on the back field for a huge scavenger hunt. The kids had a ton of fun!

We are excited to have motivational speaker Unstoppable Tracy (<https://unstoppabletracy.com/>) coming to us on Friday, September 27th and all our staff and students will get to see her speak. Tracy is a 4-way amputee and is an internationally acclaimed international speaker, best selling author and a decorated athlete. I have seen Tracy speak before and she is incredibly inspirational and really good with young audiences. Her message, in a nutshell, is that "anything is possible!"

We have taken advantage of the nice weather and have practiced our fire drills and a lockdown drill so far this year. The students at Abraham Erb are so cooperative and take these drills very seriously. They do a fantastic job.

We are going to continue our partnership with Panago Pizza this year and offer pizza days on Fridays. The ordering information is out on School Day. Our first pizza day will be September 27th.

Our Meet the Staff Night on September 11th was very well-attended and we appreciated the enthusiasm of all of those families who were able to come and visit.

Photo Day is coming up on October 1st. We will be using Edge Photography again. Every student will have their individual photo taken on this day. Class photos will happen later in the year. We also have a photo re-take day booked for November 20th for students who were absent on October 1st or for those who weren't not happy with the quality of their first photo.

Board

A groundbreaking ceremony was recently held at the site of the new South Kitchener elementary school on Thomas Slee Drive. This yet-to-be-named school will have space for 591 JK – grade 8 students and is scheduled to be open for September of 2025.

As many of you are likely already aware, our neighbouring Laurelwood P.S. had a 6.4 million dollar addition completed for the start of the school year. 184 student spaces were created.

The WRDSB has scheduled Professional Development Days for Friday, October 11th and Friday November 1st. There will no school for students on either of these days.

Province

Ontario has a new Minister of Education. Todd Smith (who replaced Stephen Lecce at the beginning of June) resigned from his position and Jill Dunlop was appointed as the new MOE.

The province's new cell phone ban is in effect in all Ontario schools. In a K – grade 6 school like Abraham Erb, we are not really noticing any change from our past practice. Any students with cell phones continue to be expected to have notification turned off and phones must be stored in student backpacks for the entire day, including at nutrition breaks. The most “growing pains” with this new policy are being experienced from grades 7 – 12 where new expectations differ significantly from past practice.

EQAO results should be available soon. Individual reports for all students who wrote the test last year will be sent home with them as soon as we get them.

Treasure's Report for School Council

Wednesday, September 18th, 2024

Abraham Erb Public School Council Financial Report
For Three Months From June 1 To August 31, 2024

PREPARED BY Ivy Cui DATE PREPARED September 11, 2024
PREPARER EMAIL cuijianying@gmail.com

		Bank Account
1	Opening Bank Statement Balance at June 1, 2024	10,123.56
2	Add INFLOWS:	+
		Do not enter amounts in shaded area
	<i>Fundraising Revenue</i>	5,817.40
	Tickets Pre-Sold (via school day)	1,566.00
	Silent Auction	1,245.00
	Onsite Ticket Sales	2,446.40
	Cash Donation	480.00
	Costco Gift Card	80.00
	<i>PRO Grant Funding (2022-2023)</i>	1,200.00
	TOTAL INFLOWS	7,017.40
3	Deduct OUTFLOWS:	-
		Do not enter amounts in shaded area
	<i>Fundraising Expenditures</i>	517.62
	Food Cost	437.62
	Game Parts Replacement	80.00
	Activities Supplies - 127.90 (Hadas+Sirisha+Ivy)	-
	Web Hosting Auction Software - 124.15 (Hadas)	-
	Additional Food and Game Supplies - 112.24 (Ivy)	-
	<i>Other Expenditures</i>	3,840.78
	Mad Science Night (2023-2024 PRO Grant)	2,124.93
	School Sports/GYM Supplies (Previously approved by School Council)	917.37
	ABE Spirit Wear Family Support (Previously approved by School Council)	166.01
	School-Day Fees (WRDSB pays to School-Day for all cash and credit deposits)	152.47
	Transfer of the Cash Donation to School's WEFI account	480.00
	TOTAL OUTFLOWS	4,358.40
4	Ending Bank Statement Balance at August 31, 2024	12,782.56

Phys Ed equipment spending notes

Expected Grant Receipt

2023-2024 PRO Grant	\$	2,000.00

Committed Expenditures

Multilingual literacy project (approved in 2023)	\$	360.00