

Abraham Erb Public School
School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 16th Oct. 2024, 19:00 EDT

Attendees:

From the school(3): Jodie Hancox-Meyer, Meghan Wentworth, Shelley Carey

Parents and Community Member(10): Alex Heap, Alex Korobkin, Ankit Sharma, Chidimma Onwughalu, Doris JP Li, Ivy JC Cui, Miranda Evans, Ruby Zhuang, Sirisha Puli, Viridiana Rodriguez

(Taken by Doris JP Li)

Meeting Summary

- Teacher reports highlighted hands-on science projects, cultural studies, tech use in early grades, and engaging field trips.
- The Principal's report highlighted the Terry Fox Run fundraiser, a new splash pad project, a STEM initiative, the installation of a communication board, an upcoming Winter Variety Show, and strong EQAO test results with plans for continuous improvement.
- The Treasurer's report for September shows no income, with expenses totaling \$2,928.82, leaving a balance of \$9,785.74, and an anticipated Pro Grant reimbursement pending.
- The next meeting is scheduled for November 20th.

Topics & Highlights

1. Teachers reports (attached for reference)

- **Field Trip:** Mme. McAllister, Mme. Zehr, Ms. Fox, and Ms. Skilling's classes watched The Wild Robot movie, connecting it to language and science studies, including animal habitats and technology's impact on nature.
- **Running Club:** Students trained weekly and had four representatives in the Lester B Pearson Fun Run.
- **Grade 1/2 :** Grade 1 students will visit Benjamin Tree Farm on October 31 for a pumpkin exploration activity. Mrs. Barlow's class began using Chromebooks, focusing on independent login, Google Classroom, and Reflex Math.
- **Grade 3:** Mme. Elkadri's class engaged in role-playing activities about the Anishnabee community; French Immersion class participated in the UW's workshop on plant diversity and adaptations.
- **Grade 5/6 French:** Students are building confidence in French oral communication.

2. Principles reports (attached for reference)

School Updates:

- **Unstoppable Tracy Visit:** A motivational speaker, Unstoppable Tracy, a 4-way amputee, shared her story of perseverance with students on September 27th.
- **Terry Fox Run:** The annual Terry Fox Run was successful, raising \$691.40 for cancer research, contributing to a total of over \$11,500 raised over the past 18 years.
- **Splash Pad Construction:** The City of Waterloo will construct a splash pad near the school, with completion expected in Spring 2025.
- **STEM Kits Donation:** Taru Malhotra led a girls' neighborhood STEM group, fundraising to purchase STEM kits for each Grade 3 class.
- **Communication Coreboard Installation:** A communication coreboard will be installed to assist students with limited verbal abilities or those whose first language is not English.
- **Winter Variety Show:** The school will host a Winter Variety Show on December 19th at 12:15 pm, with all students participating.

EQAO Results:

- The 2024 EQAO results show slight declines in Reading and Writing for both grades 3 and 6 provincially. However, both grades show slight improvement in Math.
- Abraham Erb's results continue to surpass both Board and provincial averages.
- The school will analyze the data and incorporate strategies to address the results.

*Please refer to **Appendix 2** for more details.*

3.Treasurer's Report (attached for reference)

- **Ending Balance:** The council ended September 2024 with a bank balance of \$9,785.74.
- **Bluetooth Speaker Purchase:** Following approval at the April Council meeting, Bluetooth speakers were purchased for each teacher, totaling \$2,928.82 in expenses.
- **Popcorn Sale Transfer:** \$68 was transferred to the Grade 6 classroom from the June Fun Fair popcorn sale.
- **PRO Grant Status:** The PRO Grant reimbursement is still pending. Paperwork was submitted, but the board is behind on processing.

4.Next meeting and agenda

- The next meeting is scheduled for November 20th and the co-chairs, secretary, treasurer, and Jodie will have a quick online meeting about a week before to put the agenda together.

Appendix 1

Teachers' Report for School Council

Wednesday, October 16th, 2024

Here is the latest for October for Abraham Erb:

This month in Ms Sullivan and Mme Morrison's Grade 2 class, we have been busy making simple machines for our science unit. We made Pom Pom catapults from popsicle sticks and elastics while learning about Levers. The students worked well together experimenting with the fulcrum and trying out different things to make their Pom Pom launch the farthest! Next we will explore inclined planes by building ramps and racing cars. Looking forward to experimenting, creating, and engineering with our Grade 2's this month as we explore the 6 simple machines.

This month, Mme McAllister, Mme Zehr, Ms. Fox, and Ms. Skilling's classes had a wonderful field trip to Landmark Cinemas to watch *The Wild Robot*. After enjoying the book at school, students were thrilled to see the story come to life on the big screen. This experience deepened their engagement with our Language curriculum by enhancing comprehension and critical thinking as they compared the book and the movie. Additionally, it supported our Science studies by illustrating concepts such as animal habitats, adaptations, and the impact of technology on nature.

Mrs. Barlow's grade 1/2 class has started to use the chromebooks. Normally this would not be a big deal, but for grade one and two students it actually is! Students at this age take a little (or a lot!) of time to learn to login independently. Eventually they will learn how to navigate Google Classroom, use Google as a research tool, listen to stories read aloud through Tumblebooks, and they will work on their math skills using board approved programs like the new Reflex Math program.

In Mme Elkadri's grade 3 social studies class, they have been learning about the Anishnabee community through role-playing activities, and the kids have been having a great time engaging with the lessons in this fun and interactive way. Also in Mme Elkadri's grade 5/6 class, the focus has been on oral communication in French, and the students have been doing an excellent job speaking to her in French with growing confidence!

Mme McAllister's Grade 3 French Immersion class recently enjoyed a wonderful visit from the University of Waterloo's Let's Talk Science program. The students participated in an engaging and interactive workshop exploring the remarkable diversity of plants. They learned about the various adaptations in common food plants and how these adaptations help plants survive in different environments.

The members of running club have been spending their Wednesday afternoons working on their running skills at second nutrition break. We had 4 students represent us at the Lester B Pearson Fun Run after school on October 16. Well done, runners!

The Grade 1 students will be headed to Benjamin Tree farm for a pumpkin exploration on the 31st! We have lots of pumpkin learning planned!

Appendix 2

Principal's Report for School Council

Wednesday, October 16th, 2024

We had a great speaker, Unstoppable Tracy, on September 27th. Tracy is a 4-way amputee and talked to our students about her experiences as a child in school and never giving up. She

was a very engaging speaker and our students learned a lot from her about perseverance and the importance of not leaving anyone behind.

Our annual Terry Fox Run was held on Thursday, September 26th. The weather was awesome, and the students had a lot of fun running/walking and collecting beads for their “fox” bracelets. Thanks to the generous support of our families, Abe Erb raised \$691.40 for cancer research. Over the past 18 years in hosting this event, we’ve raised over \$11 500 for cancer research, which is wonderful.

The City of Waterloo is going to be building a splash pad in the area between the city playground and the high school. Construction is due to begin sometime this fall and continue in the spring, with the hope that the splash pad will be operational come the warmer weather in 2025. Keep your eyes open for this!

I’d like to give a shout-out to Taru Malhotra, who ran a neighbourhood group for girls this past summer, encouraging them to explore various STEM activities. As part of this, they did some bake-sale fundraising and purchased some STEM kits for each of our grade 3 classes here at school. These materials were so appreciated by the grade 3 classes who received them and will be well-utilized for years to come.

We are having a “communication coreboard” installed outside on the brick wall by our kindergarten and primary classrooms. This board is meant to be of help to students who have limited verbal abilities, or to those whose first language isn’t English in communicating their needs. For example, a student can point to the appropriate picture to indicate that they are hurt or that they would like to change to another activity or use the washroom. We are very excited to see the positive difference this communication tool will make for many of our students.

We are excited to share that we will be hosting a Winter Variety Show again this year. Classes will be working together, and all students will have the opportunity to perform. We will be having one show on Thursday, December 19th at 12:15 p.m. to give families the chance to come and see the performance. A “save the date” announcement was sent out on School Day and more reminders will follow as we get closer to the date.

I am going to incorporate my “school” updates with Board and Provincial updates and give a summary of Spring 2024 EQAO results. The results of the 2024 EQAO testing were made public on September 26th. This was our third year of having grade 3s and grade 6s participate in the new digital version of the testing. Anyone who is interested can access results from all schools in Ontario through the EQAO website.

Provincially, both grades 3 and 6 Reading and Writing results are down slightly from last year, however both are up slightly in math. In the WRDSB, grade 3 scores in Reading, Writing and Math are down as are Reading and Writing results in grade 6. Math in grade 6 is up a slight amount. I created a one-page summary of our results from Abraham Erb and it will be included in the minutes from this meeting. We are pleased that our students continue to perform very well in Reading, Writing and Math, significantly surpassing both the Board and the province in our results. Our grade 3 results in Writing and math are down a bit from last year but Reading is up. In grade 6, we are down a bit in all three areas, but still performing very well.

In any given year, there can be some fluctuation in results dependent on the number of students who participate, the number of students with special education needs who participate and the number of multi-language learners who participate. We will be spending some time as a staff having a closer deconstructing our data in all three areas and looking at teaching next steps.

The WRDSB has both a Structured Literacy Multi-Year Plan and a Math Achievement Action Plan which we are incorporating into our practices at Abraham Erb. More detailed information about these plans can be found on the WRDSB website.

Appendix 3

EQAO Results – Overview

Ontario

Percentage of Students Achieving Level 3 or Higher

Grade 3			
	Reading	Writing	Math
2022	73.1	64.9	59.0
2023	72.6	65.5	59.7
2024	71.3	63.7	61.3

Grade 6			
	Reading	Writing	Math
2022	84.9	84.1	47.2
2023	83.7	83.6	49.5
2024	82	80.4	50.3

WRDSB

Percentage of Students Achieving Level 3 or Higher

Grade 3			
	Reading	Writing	Math
2022	71.6	62.5	57.7
2023	72.7	65.2	59.3
2024	67.9	59.8	57.8

Grade 6			
	Reading	Writing	Math
2022	85.1	85.1	48.6

2023	84.5	85.3	51.4
2024	82.2	80.9	51.5

Abraham Erb

Percentage of Students Achieving Level 3 or Higher

Grade 3			
	Reading	Writing	Math
2022	85.8	76.2	76.7
2023	84.3	84.3	76.9
2024	91	67.6	70.2

Grade 6			
	Reading	Writing	Math
2022	100	96.5	87.9
2023	98.5	98.5	84.6
2024	92.2	94.1	78

Treasure's Report for School Council

Wednesday, October 16th, 2024

Abraham Erb Public School Council Financial Report

For September 1 to September 30

PREPARED BY Ivy Cui

DATE PREPARED October 11, 2024

PREPARER EMAIL cuijianying@gmail.com

		Bank Account
1	Opening Bank Statement Balance at August 31	12,782.56
2	Add INFLOWS:	+
		Do not enter amounts in shaded area
		-
	TOTAL INFLOWS	-
3	Deduct OUTFLOWS:	-
		Do not enter amounts in shaded area
	<i>Other Expenditures</i>	2,996.82
	Transfer pop corn sale to Grade 6 class	68.00
	19 Bluetooth speaker - approved by School Council in April 2024	2,928.82
	TOTAL OUTFLOWS	2,996.82
4	Ending Bank Statement Balance at September 30, 2024	= 9,785.74

Expected Grant Receipt

2023-2024 PRO Grant	\$	2,000.00

Committed Expenditures

Multilingual literacy project (approved in 2023)	\$	360.00