

Abraham Erb Public School
School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 20th Nov. 2024, 19:00 EDT

Attendees:

From the school(4): Jodie Hancox-Meyer, Meghan Wentworth, Shelley Carey, Kayla Schnarr

Parents and Community Member(5): Ankit Sharma, Doris JP Li, Ivy JC Cui, Taru Malhotra, Sirisha Puli

(Taken by Doris JP Li)

Meeting Summary

- Teachers' Report: Highlights included a Gratitude Assembly featuring a "Gratitude Tree," Grade 1 skating lessons at RIM Park, the Kindness Squad's "Week of Giving" initiative, Junior Choir performances for the Remembrance Day assembly, and the launch of a Multi-Cultural Club to celebrate diverse cultures.
- The Principal's Report: Key updates included plans for splash pad construction with temporary parking disruptions.
- The Treasurer's Report: No income or expenditures for October, leaving the balance at \$9,785.74.
- Cultural Awareness Program Proposal: A \$500 PIC Grant will support activities aligned with Ontario Heritage Week, aiming to celebrate cultural diversity and foster inclusivity through heritage celebrations, language days, and art showcases.
- The next meeting is scheduled for January 15th.

Topics & Highlights

1. Teachers reports (attached for reference)

School Events & Programs

- **Gratitude Assembly:** A meaningful presentation by Mr. Snyder and Mme McAllister's class, culminating in a "Gratitude Tree" where students share thankfulness.
- **Remembrance Day Contributions:** Room 29 organized and led a successful assembly. Room 15 created peace-themed art exploring global symbols of peace.
- **Skating Lessons:** Grade 1 students participating in skating sessions at RIM Park, grouped by ability for skill development.

Clubs & Initiatives

- **Kindness Squad:** Preparing for a "Week of Giving" (Dec 9–13) to support Food4Kids and local families.
- **Multi-Cultural Club:** 25 students celebrating diversity through art, stories, and guest speakers.
- **Volleyball Club:** Students developing teamwork, sportsmanship, and skills.
- **Junior Choir:** 75 students rehearsing for winter performances and May 2025 Kodaly Festival. Focusing on harmony, sight reading, and choral techniques.

Library News

- **Express Yourself Display:** Students to showcase favorite books in library displays starting in the new year.
- **Book Fair:** Running December 2–4; proceeds benefit classrooms.

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Please refer to *Appendix 1* for more details.

2.Principles reports (attached for reference)

School Updates:

- **Remembrance Day:** Students led a respectful assembly with performances and artwork.
- **Splash Pad Construction:** Begins soon; parking disruptions expected. Use side streets for drop-offs.
- **Bus Training:** Students practiced emergency evacuations on November 13th.
- **Vision Screening:** SK students to participate on November 26th.
- **Book Fair:** December 2–4; proceeds support classroom materials.

Board Updates:

- **Take Your Kid to Work Day:** Three Grade 9 students joined staff on November 6th.
- **Lunch and Learns:** Next session on November 27th covers attendance issues.
- **Grade 8 Nights:** Secondary schools hosting events; details on the WRDSB website.

Province Updates:

- **Parent Grant:** \$500 automatically provided for parent engagement or student learning projects.

Please refer to *Appendix 2* for more details.

3.Treasurer's Report

The account balance remains unchanged at \$9,785.74 as of October 31th, 2024, with no income or expenditures recorded for the month.

4. Multilingual Literacy Project Update:

A \$360 budget initially allocated for a multilingual book project led by Madame Morrison is proposed to be reallocated to Mrs. Easton's similar initiative due to delays in the original project. Mrs. Easton plans to start a multilingual book club during the nutrition break, allowing students to write and publish books in multiple languages. The council supports reallocating the funds for publishing, laminating, and binding costs, ensuring the project's purpose remains intact. When Madame Morrison's project resumes, a new funding request can be submitted. Taru expressed willingness to assist Mrs. Easton as needed. The council agreed to move forward with this reallocation.

5. Cultural Awareness Program Proposal

The Cultural Awareness Program celebrates the diverse cultural backgrounds of students, families, and staff, fostering inclusive, mutual respect, and pride. Aligned with Ontario Heritage Week (February 17-23, 2025), it features activities like heritage celebrations, language days, and art shows to promote learning and connection. Supported by a \$500 PIC Grant, the program aims to strengthen community bonds through shared cultural experiences.

6. Next meeting and agenda

- The next meeting is scheduled for January 7th and the co-chairs, secretary, treasurer, and Jodie will have a quick online meeting about a week before to put the agenda together.

Teachers' Report for School Council

Wednesday, November 20th, 2024

Gratitude Assembly

Mr. Snyder and Mme McAllister's class recently led a meaningful Gratitude presentation for the school community. Their presentation emphasized the importance of thankfulness and included inspiring messages, a skit, videos, a book reading, gratitude quotes, and a song.

After the presentation, the entire school was invited to participate in a special activity: each student was asked to write something they are grateful for on a paper leaf to add to our "Gratitude Tree" in the front atrium. This visual reminder of thankfulness is growing every day, and we encourage you to stop by and see what our students at Abraham Erb are grateful for.

Grade 1s are **learning to skate** again!! For 4 sessions starting in November and going into December room 13, 10 and 7 will head to RIM park to get introduced to all the fundamental movements needed to learn how to skate. It's a great program because they divide the kids into the same ability groupings, that way everyone, no matter what the level, can learn something new. The volunteers are all certified and very patient. Ms Monette, Mrs Watson and Mrs Barlow are excited to see how their students do! Lots of resilience is needed and it's great to see the kids persevere.

Mrs. Easton and Mme Elkadri have started a **Kindness Squad**. They are currently working on posters for the week of giving. The week of giving will run from Dec 9-13. Food and money donations will be going to the Food4Kids programs. This program provides food for kids in the schools. Bags are sent home every Friday with students. Schools apply for this program on behalf of families. There is currently a six month waitlist for students to start getting food once they apply. All other items will be delivered to schools in the area to support families during this winter season.

Room 29 with Mrs. Skilling did an absolutely fantastic job at the recent **Remembrance Day assembly**. They worked very hard putting everything together from the decorations, writing the script, planning all the different parts, and presenting in front of the whole school. Everyone in room 29 had a part in it and they did great! It was a huge success. We may or may not have had Timbits to celebrate the next day ;P

For our **Remembrance Day art project**, Room 15 chose the theme of peace to guide our work and reflections. As a class, we researched various peace symbols from around the world, discussing their meanings and significance. We then incorporated these symbols into our artwork. This project was not only creative but also a great critical thinking lesson, as students explored diverse perspectives on a universal theme.

Library News from Mrs. Mueller

In the new year, we will be starting an Express Yourself! Which will be a set of library displays created by our very own students. Students will choose their favourite books from our library and put them on display with their own signage to promote their favourites to the rest of the school. We will be changing displays up to 2 times a week to allow for the popular participation.

Book Fair will be in the library, and library visits will run like any other week to accommodate the regular visit schedule and the fair itself. Signs are up displayed for the book fair all around the school.

The students have been enjoying the **volleyball club**, led by Mr. Snyder, Mrs. Skilling, Mr. Walker, and Mme Elkadri. They are learning quickly and improving so nicely—it's amazing to see how they absorb new skills! Beyond mastering volleyball techniques, the kids are working on encouraging one another as a team and developing excellent sportsmanship skills.

ABE ERB JUNIOR CHOIR - with Mrs. Zehr, Mrs. Korir, Mrs. Plaum, Mrs. Morrison and Mr. Walker

The halls are alive with the sound of Music! Jr. Choir rehearsals are now underway. Tuesdays and Thursdays after school, our choir has begun to learn and perform a selection of 11 songs that we will be performing at various events throughout the school year. Recently, the choir performed a beautiful rendition of "Where Have all the Flowers Gone" (by Peter, Paul, and Mary / The Kingston Trio) for our Remembrance Day assembly, and we are currently practicing a few selections that we will be performing for our Winter Variety Show in the last week of December. At this point, we have approximately 75 Grade 4, 5, and 6 students involved.

This year our singers will be participating in the Kodaly Festival with several other school choirs, and there will be a large group performance (including 40 of our own singers) at the Centre in the Square in May 2025 (more details to be released in the

new year). This is why we have changed rehearsal times from nutrition breaks to after school - so we can have more time to learn and practice the 10-song setlist. Students will be learning more about warm-up and breathing techniques, sight reading, singing in harmony, and choral performance.

We are looking forward to singing at an event near you sometime soon!

Lastly Mrs Carey and Mrs.Schnarr have started the **Multi-Cultural club** at Abraham Erb! There are approximately 25 eager students from all Nationalities ready to celebrate, teach, and learn about the various cultures all throughout our school. Throughout the year there will be guest speakers, art created, stories read, posters, announcements and so much more throughout the year. We are even hoping that parents get involved and participate in conversations or be a guest speaker in our club!

Appendix 2

Principal's Report for School Council

Wednesday, November 20th, 2024

School

We had a lovely Remembrance Day assembly on November 11th. It was lead by students and many classes played a role in organizing the event. There was beautiful artwork displayed, our choir sang and one of our students played The Last Post on his trumpet as well. The students really "rose to the occasion" as an audience and were so attentive and respectful during the assembly.

As you are aware, The City of Waterloo is going to be building a splash pad in the area between the city playground and the high school. Construction has been delayed but is due to begin soon and will continue all winter long. There will be some disruption to the upper parking lot with the presence of construction vehicles so families who use this lot for drop off and pick up are advised to find another location on a side street. More details will be sent out on School Day when they are available.

All of our classes participated in Bus Evacuation Training provided by Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region and assisted by our very own Abraham Erb Safety Patrollers on November 13th. Classes watched a video ahead of time and then got to practice boarding and evacuating a school bus. This will ensure that all students have some knowledge about what to do in case of an emergency when they are on a bus.

Our photo retake day was today. Any students who were absent on our first photo day or those who were not happy with their first photo had the chance to have their photo take (again) in our library.

On November 26th our Senior Kindergarten students will be participating in a vision screening program here at school. This is a service provided through a partnership with the WRDSB, the University of Waterloo Optometry School, the Region of Waterloo and the Lions Club.

Once again, we will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair in our library. The fair will be held December 2nd to December 4th and details about this have been sent out on School Day and posted on our website. In addition, all students will be bringing home a paper flyer and letter. A big thank you to parent Julie Island who is organizing the fair and all of the volunteers who will be helping. Proceeds from the Book Fair are used to supplement classroom learning materials in each of our 17 classes.

Board

Wednesday, November 6th was Take Your Kid to Work Day. Grade 9 students across the WRDSB were encouraged to explore the workplace of a family member by attending the day with them. We had 3 grade 9 students who are children of staff members spend the day with us here at Abraham Erb and this was a fantastic learning experience for all.

WRDSB psychology staff are hosting “lunch and learns” for interested families during the month of November. More information about these is available on the WRDSB website. The next session will be held on Wednesday, November 27th and the topic being presented is “Addressing Attendance Concerns.”

All WRDSB secondary schools are hosting Grade 8 Information Nights for current grade 8 students and their families. A schedule of these events by school is available on the WRDSB website.

Province

All schools across the province received notification recently about the 2024-2025 Parent Involvement Funding Grant (PIC). This grant, in the amount of \$500, comes from the Ontario Ministry of Education, and is automatically deposited into each school’s Schedule A funds to support projects that can include parent engagement, the school improvement plan or initiatives that support the optimization of student learning and achievement. There is no application required for this – the \$500 is automatically given to schools and schools are required to keep the appropriate “paper trail” for audit

purposes. I believe we will be having further discussion about these funds later this meeting.