
School Council Meeting Minutes (Draft, Not Approved)

Abraham Erb Public School

February 19, 2020 - School Library 7:00pm

Members Present: Amy W., Becky L., Carolyn M., Hanan A., Jean H., Jennifer K., Lindsay K., Leena S. (Minutes), Melinda H., Tamara C., Tracy M., Vaidhehi K.

Absent: Alison P., Danielle G., Farzana D., Julie I., Lee R., Mitra P., Nasim P., Seun S., Sheila S., Shishir B., Vera J.

Guests (signed in only): None

Agenda item: Welcome **Presenter:** Jennifer K.

Discussion:

- Territorial and Land Acknowledgement delivered by PK.
- AW motioned to approve the January minutes. JK seconded. All in favour.
- JK reviewed January action items. All were closed.

ACTION ITEMS:

- PK to send reminder about food days not continuing at the end of the month and note about rescheduled Pizza days.

Agenda item: Principal's Report **Presenter:** Pam K.

Discussion:

- Ying Chen, EA, extended leave, Mrs. Fields staying in her place.
- Mrs. Wentworth extended leave, Mrs. McCarthy staying until her return.
- Mme Peron maternity leave begins in March, Mme Schultz hired until the end of year.
- Mrs. Guckenberger begins maternity leave in June.
- Despite strike instructional days are business as usual. PK acknowledged frustrations of both teachers and parents.
- BL asked if students can be informed that school will be closed the next day. PK will announce at the end of the day in effort to help parents/grandparents in the community who are not informed.
- HA asked if disputes not settled will the strike escalate further. PK could not speculate.
- PK communicated that there will be no report cards. Teachers can still share how students are doing via regular communication methods and parents/caregivers can reach out to teachers as needed.
- CM shared link child care funding from the government during strike action:
www.iaccess.gov.on.ca/parentappweb/parentapp/index.shtml
- PK discussed committed funds that have been spent and unspent to understand how much money in budget. More details in the treasurer's report section below.

- JK recalled that teachers asked for new pinnies and that Council was waiting on more details.
- Kim Radersma, Workplace Equity Officer at the board, will be coming to the April meeting to share information on employment equity aspect of hiring. Workplace census (that speaks to the cultural, social and demographic makeup of the workforce) was conducted in April 2019 - results can be found here: <https://www.wrdsb.ca/blog/2019/11/04/results-of-the-wrdsb-workforce-census/>
- JK asked about communication regarding emergency drills to parents and caregivers to reduce potential anxiety among students. PK shared how drills are communicated to teachers and students to prepare students. PK agreed to communicate what drills occurred at the end of the day via School Day.
- Generally, 6 fire drills are conducted throughout the year: 3 in the fall, 3 in the spring, 1 lockdown drill, 1 hold & secure, 1 tornado, also 1 of the 6 fire drills includes a bomb threat drill.
- 4 UW Science workshops that were scheduled in February fell on a strike action day and will be rescheduled.

ACTION ITEMS:

- PK to follow up with Mr. Snyder about ordering pinnies along with more details to request money from the School Council.
- ALL - please think of questions for Kim's visit in April.

Agenda item: Treasurer's Report

Presenter: Carolyn M.

Discussion:

- Scientists in School was paid \$205 and Pita Pit cheque came in for \$186.75
- Expecting another \$205 to be paid to Scientists in School and \$450 for French Resources.
- Funds available is \$11857.62
- Pro grant approved. Originally planned STEAM night not expecting pro grant approval and possibly doing more activities besides UW Engineering. Considering ongoing labour dispute the decision was made to have UW Engineering Science at \$500 and no other vendor (UW is able to reschedule if strike action coincides). Need \$200 for refreshment. As a result \$1000-\$1300 will be put back into budget.
- Inspirational Wall Art will be pushed to next year so another \$2500 to give back to the budget.
- Conservatively estimating \$3000-\$4000 raised at the fun fair.
- AW shared idea for a buddy bench at our school as a way to spend funds. The buddy bench is used at school parks for finding friends to play with . \$1500 max depending on installation. Suggestions were to choose benches of good quality, longevity and cautions shared about vandalism.
- CM recalled idea for water refill stations. PK will get pricing. This is a good idea to move on since not affected by labour disputes.

ACTION ITEMS:

- AW to take on buddy bench exploration and will come back to Council with research.
- CM to send playground contacts to AW on buddy bench.
- PK to follow up with facilities on water refill station idea including cost.

Agenda item: Other General Updates**Presenter: Jennifer K.****Discussion:**

- Spirit wear will be available for sale again and led by MH & SB. Online store will be open for 3 weeks in March. MH will investigate adding pink items.
- Safe travel committee formed to look at parking issues: LS, AW and CM as needed.
- JK motioned to cancel the next Council meeting in March to accommodate STEAM night for March 25. Seconded by MH. All in favour. Please note STEAM night will be held on March 25 and there will be no School Council meeting that night.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:21pm

APPENDIX #1: Log of Open Action Items

Noted: Closed items are only noted here if the item was in open status at the beginning of the meeting

Action	Person Responsible	Deadline	Status	Meeting Raised
Ask for feedback from staff on the Winter Variety Show.	PK	Feb. 19	CLOSED	Jan. 22
Send a School Day note about the end date for pizza and pita.	PK	Feb. 19	CLOSED	Jan. 22
Add a section to February agenda to re-estimate spending.	JK	Feb. 19	CLOSED	Jan. 22
Suggest alternate ways to spend money that would not require volunteers or teacher assistance. abrahamerbschoolcouncil@gmail.com	ALL	Feb. 19	CLOSED	Jan. 22
Provide feedback on mental health support system in elementary school system via email to Sheila S (sheila@sloot.ca).	ALL	Feb. 19	CLOSED	Jan. 22
Send reminder about food days not continuing at the end of the month and note about rescheduled Pizza days.	PK	Feb. 28	NEW	Feb. 19
Investigate “buddy bench” idea.	AW	Apr. 15	NEW	Feb. 19
Send playground contacts to AW.	CM	Mar. 25	NEW	Feb. 19
Follow up with facilities on water refill station idea, including cost.	PK	Apr. 15	NEW	Feb. 19
Follow up with Mr. Snyder about ordering pinnies along with more details to request money from the School Council.	PK	Mar. 25	NEW	Feb. 19
Submit/think of questions for Kim’s visit in April.	ALL	Apr. 15	NEW	Feb. 19