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# School Council Meeting Minutes

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## Abraham Erb Public School

March 17 , 2021 - Google Meet, 7:00pm

**Members Present:** Amy L. (minutes), Danielle G. (moderator), Farhad H., Hanan S., Jennifer K., Megha B., Melinda H., Meghan W., Mitra D., Tamara C., Tracy M., Vaidhehi K., Vera J.

**Absent:** Lee R.(regrets), Leena S. (regrets), Farzana D., Vashti L., Masoomah R., Julia M.

**Guests (signed in only):** Mira H-E.

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### Agenda item: Welcome

**Presenter: Jennifer K.**

#### Discussion:

- Territorial and Land Acknowledgement delivered by JK.
- VK motioned to approve February minutes. MH seconded. All in favour - yes. Approved.

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### Agenda item: Math Curriculum

**Presenter: Mrs. Wentworth**

#### Discussion:

- PK: Welcome to Meghan Wentworth a teacher at Abraham Erb who will be discussing the new math curriculum.
  - Mrs. Wentworth is currently teaching grade 6 for the Distance Learning Program and has a large group of students from Abraham Erb.
  - She started her career at Abraham Erb as an EA and then moved into the role of a teacher in 2015. After a brief stint at another WRDSB school, she returned in 2018.
  - She has been an integral part of the ABE ERB team, especially with all things technology: technological support, technology deployment plan, new technology management.
  - She has also been a leader in supporting school-wide event planning such as graduation.
- Teachers are still getting used to the new math curriculum and are all still learning. The new curriculum is as of 2020 (last revised in 2005).
  - Was created after consultation in 2018 to help improve student achievement.
  - Part of a 4 year plan to help improve performance in math, help students solve everyday math problems, and increase student employability for the jobs of tomorrow.
- Focus is on social-emotional learning, numbers, algebra, data, spatial sense, and financial literacy. The social-emotional learning strand goes through all the other 5 strands.
  - Note that the social-emotional piece is paused in distance learning as it is unclear how to evaluate and incorporate it into the program at this time.
  - More time on new and key concepts, more user-friendly language. There are fewer expectations and the focus is on key concepts.
  - Real-life applications: Teachers are given sample problems to give to the students.
  - There is a new focus on coding, even in kindergarten.
- Social-emotional learning is about:
  - How to approach concepts in a positive manner
  - Helping kids with anxiety around math
  - Focus on general facts to increase overall math confidence.
- Note that the things taught in the old curriculum are still part of the new curriculum. It's just been reorganized.
- The new curriculum has only one mark for math, while the old one had a mark for each strand.

- The new curriculum has a heavy emphasis on number facts (e.g. addition, subtraction, fractions, etc.), solving real-world problems, and using different models and tools to solve. Trying to show many different tools as students learn differently.
- New this year, teachers across Ontario were all given a sample long-range plan to follow. This has been very helpful to the teachers as they have a clear plan that spans the year and is consistent throughout the province.
- Can find full documentation online by searching Ontario 2020 Math Curriculum. Broken down by grade so can easily see the new expectations.
- Questions:
  - VK - Please explain about what the social-emotional piece means.
    - MW - Helping kids develop a positive growth mindset, address anxiety they might have about math, and help them break down problems into smaller ones and encouraging them to persevere and get through it. The evaluation is all observational, there's no specific grade.
  - VK - How can you report on each individual strengths and weaknesses if it's combined into one mark?
    - MW - Teachers will add this information in the comments section. The social-emotional piece will also be addressed in the comments section on the report card.
  - JK - How do you determine what tools to use?
    - MW - Tools are now suggested in the long-range plan given by the government. These recommended tools are very helpful. In the past, teachers would need to research this themselves. That said, teachers can (and still) do look for ideas on their own.
  - FH - Why has the assessment been changed to one mark for all math?
    - MW - Not sure. Might be because we want to look at math as a whole picture instead of breaking it down by subject. Parents should focus less on the mark itself and look to the comments to see their child's strengths and areas for growth.
  - FH - Where does coding fall in the curriculum?
    - MW - Coding fits in the Data strand.
  - VK - Is there something for parents and volunteers so we can provide help in a meaningful way?
    - MW - Read through the documentation online. The expectations are quite clear, particularly from a non-teacher lens. Also, it's always helpful to check in with the teacher.
- PK - Long-range plans have provided consistency across the schools and boards.
- PK - This is the first year of us exploring the expectations for the new math curriculum. Note that there has not been professional development that would normally take place due to Covid. Teachers have a broad understanding, but training has not yet been provided.
  - PK - Note that the expectations and marking guidelines are provided by the government, not at the school board level.
- Links to more information:
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## Agenda item: Principal's Report

Presenter: Pam K.

### Discussion:

- Important dates:
  - Easter Break - April 2nd-5th
  - Spring Break - April 12-16
  - Next board meeting - April 21st
  - Victoria Day - May 24

- PD Day - June 4
- Grade 6 Grad - June 24 (unconfirmed)
- Last day for Students - June 28
- PD Day - June 29
- Bottle filling stations have officially been financed through capital funding.
- Last year graduation was inconsistent across the board. There is now consistent direction from the board. The date for high school graduation has been set board-wide for June 24th. Unclear which day will be for Grade 6 as some parents might have children at both school levels.
- A student census will take place on March 31st.
  - Mandated for all schools across Ontario. The school board is to support the process for the students and parents and make use of the data. Opportunity to learn about students and identify the gaps.
  - All students will be invited to participate. Will be available online and on paper for in-person and distance learners. Will be available in different languages too. For children in kindergarten through grade 3, the parent will participate on the child's behalf.
  - For grades 4-12, the students will participate at school during school time.
  - More information will be coming soon.
  - JK - Does the survey include religion, ethnicity, and/or culture? Concern about younger students being able to understand and answer these questions.
    - PK - Unable to answer right now as does not know the questions at this time. PK is hoping the teachers will be provided with guidance on how to help students in a neutral way.
  - TC - Will help be given for children who have difficulty reading?
    - PK - Options will likely be provided to those students who need assistance.
  - VK - Will there be anything related to self-identification? This type of information is very private and confidential.
    - PK - Unable to answer right now as does not know the questions at this time. Is developed in consultation with the Freedom of Privacy Protection Act, so likely this will be deeply considered.
- MB - JK enrolment?
  - PK - Will send current info.
- As of right now:
  - 291 total distance learners, 297 total in-person learners

**Action Items:**

- PK - Send current JK registration number.
- \$
- \$

**Agenda item: Treasurer's Report**

**Presenter: Farhad H.**

**Discussion:**

- No change.
- \$6000 approved for water bottle filling station has been returned as the board has funded the filling stations in full.

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**Agenda item: Spirit Wear  
K.**

**Presenter: Jennifer**

**Discussion:**

- PK - Did a survey to the staff if they had any ideas or requests for how the parent council can support them. PK had an idea about water bottles as some children don't have one. The school has been providing those students with disposable cups as they are not allowed to give bottled water as per board policy. Wondering if we could consider this from a universal access standpoint and keep in mind that kids have had a difficult year. It would be nice to give a real usable water bottle as a spirit lifter, and it would provide fair universal access.
  - JK - This would be approximately \$8400 to provide a bottle for all staff and students (\$15/bottle for stainless steel).
  - AL and MH like this idea.
  - DG - We just got \$6K back so this would be a similar alternative. MB - Agreed.
  - TM - Likes this idea. Could consider colour coding based on grade.
  - FH - Timing? End of the school year or the start of next?
    - JK - Need to research the needed lead time.
  - PK - Consider asking parents to donate to a fund for future purchases.
  - JK - There seems to be general interest by the council. Suggest starting with the current spirit wear vendor (Wilson and Wilson), but don't need to go with them.
  - Subcommittee members: JK, TC, MH, MB. Michelle Logan and Yen Evers will be teacher representatives.
- JK - Is there interest in opening the spirit wear store? Could not give the opportunity to try on or see the options in person.
  - Water bottles were not offered in the past in the store. The spirit wear vendor does offer several options.
  - There was not enough interest raised by anyone to support opening the store to parents and adding water bottles.

**Action Items:**

- The water bottle committee will meet to come up with options and cost estimates for a Council vote at the next meeting.

Next meeting: April 21st

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Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:25 pm

## 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
Send video link Food for Kids links. -> Done.	JK	March 2021	CLOSED	Feb 24, 2021
Send draft WRAPSC letter. -> Done.	JK	March 2021	CLOSED	Feb 24, 2021
List of dates for meeting for the rest of the year. -> Done.	JK	March 2021	CLOSED	Feb 24, 2021
Calendarize meeting invite for the rest of the year. -> Done.	PK	March 2021	CLOSED	Feb 24, 2021
Send current JK registration number. ->26 Registrations to date.	PK	April 2021	OPEN	March 17, 2021
The water bottle committee will meet to come up with options.	JK	April 2021	OPEN	March 17, 2021