

Abraham Erb Public School

January 18, 2023 - Google Meet, 7:00 p.m.

Agenda item: Welcome and Territorial Acknowledgement **Presenter: Ivy Cui**

Agenda item: Approval of Nov. 16 Minutes **Presenter: Ivy Cui**

The Council approved the November 16, 2022 meeting minutes.

Agenda item: Teacher’s Report – attached for reference **Presenter: Meghan Wentworth**

Questions raised at the meeting:

1. Will the school organize any programs for grade 5 and 6 students in support of the math competition, as it has in the past?

Answer: Madame Perron organized the caribou contest with the grade five and six students. However, due to the privacy concern brought up by the school board that is no longer possible. Meghan will confirm with Madame Perron on her plan and report back to the school council.

2. Why there was only one class chosen to participant on the workshop at the Canadian Glass and Clay Gallery.

Answer: There were limited spots available and they were filled on a first-come, first-served basis, historically the junior classes have done many trips to the clay and glass gallery. This is just a unique opportunity just available for the one class.

Agenda item: Principle’s Report - attached for reference **Presenter: Jodie Hancox-Meyer**

Agenda item: Treasure’s Report – attached for reference **Presenter: Vasudha Raghunathan**

As of January 20, all costs anticipated for 2022 have been paid.

There was a brief discussion on WEFI account, if anybody donated money to the school as a charitable donation through WEFI, only the principal has access to it.

Agenda item: Council-led family engagement **Presenter: Jodie/Ivy**

Thank you to the Principle who collected the information on an in-person magic show with “Five the Magician” by using the Parent Involvement Funding grant (\$500). This will be a 45 minute show in the gym. The show will be on Thursday, February 16th from 6:30 - 7:15 p.m.

Agenda item: Book fair recap

Presenter: Julie Island

The School Council members would like to extend their sincere thanks to Julie Island, the volunteers, and all the families that took part in this year's book fair. It had great success. Total amount of \$4,370.70 will be delivered to the school to support various learning programs.

Total Gross Sales: \$7,875.80

Net: \$7,326.16 (Gross – tax)

Fair Rewards: \$4,395.70 (60% of the net)

- \$25.00 delivery fee

Total rewards amount for the school and staff: \$4,370.70

**Agenda item: Spirit wear campaign
Hancox-Meyer**

Presenter: Jodie

To be discussed and resumed in the fall

Agenda item: Replace Secretary

Presenter: Ivy Cui

Previous secretary is unable to fill this position; the School Council is looking for a new secretary to fill the position for the remainder of the academic year.

We would like to thank Fang for her hard work in the past months and wish her all the best.

Next meeting: February 15th, 2023

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Teachers' Report for School Council

Wednesday, January 18th, 2023

- Many teachers have used their funds from the scholastic book fair to purchase new resources for their classrooms - classroom libraries have grown and students are excited about the new books - thank you.
- Students are participating in the Forest of Reading program organized by Mrs. Mueller. The books are available in the library and on Sora. If students read a certain number from their category they will be able to cast a vote for their favourites.
- Intramurals have stopped for the first term and we look forward to bringing them back in the second term. They were a huge success
- New clubs and teams are starting with Term 2 - There is a Junior Stretch and Breathe Club being run by Miss Fox and Mrs. Carey and Mrs. W will be starting an art club - both will run at lunchtimes.
- Our next Spirit Day will be on January 27
- The grade 6's are looking into various popcorn fundraising initiatives to off-set the cost of grade 6 camp. Popcorn will be sold on Tuesdays at first break. The cost per bag is still TBD and the start date will be announced on School-Day.
- We have a new class set of yoga mats now available for use during phys. ed
- Students in Room 26 will participate in an exciting workshop at the Canadian Glass and Clay Gallery. It is an intergenerational art project involving students and seniors supported by the Seniors Community Fund. The project involves two parts:

On February 17 - students will create a clay artwork inspired by the seven grandfather teachings with indigenous artist Naomi Smith. Then, on March 29, there will be an exhibition opening and viewing of the finished artwork. Friends and family are welcome to attend from 11-12.

We look forward to creating art and learning from a local Indigenous artist

Principal's Report for School Council

Wednesday, January 18th, 2023

School

- Administrators have just been informed that the Ministry of Education will be providing \$500 to each school to support parent engagement. This is known as the Parent Involvement Funding grant. No application is necessary. Perhaps later in the meeting we can discuss how this funding might be used for a parent/community engagement event.
- All JK, SK and grades 2, 3 and 4 students underwent dental screening through Region of Waterloo Public Health yesterday and today in the library. Information about this was sent out to all families impacted and families had the option to opt their child out if they weren't interested in having their child participate. This was a larger than usual cohort that got screened due to the program being paused for the last couple of years due to Covid.
- Our Week of Giving in December was a huge success, and we were able to donate many new clothing items, toys, toiletry and food staples to the 519 Community Collective, a local non-profit charitable organization. We are so thankful to our Abraham Erb school community for their generous support of this initiative.
- I am happy to let you know that as of last week, the City of Waterloo has been successfully able to put full time permanent crossing guards in place at both the intersection of Erbsville and Laurelwood (Ray) and American Beech and Laurelwood (Janice). The City will also be doing a parking "blitz" on Laurelwood Drive through police and bylaw services with a focus on those who are not adhering to parking regulations along Laurelwood Drive on the school side of the street. A School Day blast was sent out last week to inform families that this would be occurring.
- Our Scholastic Book Fair was a huge success at the end of November. I'd like to give a huge thank you to Julie Island for coordinating the fair, and to the many volunteers who gave so willingly of their time to make the fair run smoothly. I know that Julie will be speaking to the Book Fair later in this meeting. With the proceeds from the Book Fair, our staff have each been allocated some money to purchase items from Scholastic, including books and other classroom supplies for their classrooms, which all our students will benefit from.
- We are excited to have 3 Early Childhood Educator students from Conestoga College joining us several days a week in all 3 of our Kindergarten classrooms for their practicum placements through the end of April. Our DECE staff will provide excellent mentoring and learning opportunities for these students.
- Kindergarten registration started on January 16th. Families with children born in 2019 are eligible to register their child to begin JK in September of 2023. We will be holding an Open House for all new Kindergarten students on Monday, June 12th from 6 – 7 p.m. Also, we will be encouraging all pre-registered Kindergarten students to visit our library any weekday morning to borrow books so that they can start to feel comfortable in their new surroundings.

Board

- WRDSB Psychological Services is continuing to offer Lunch-and-Learns for caregivers. These sessions are offered via Zoom and are held on Wednesdays from 12:15 – 12:45 p.m. Sample

topics include teen mental health and emotional regulation and co-regulation. More information can be found on the WRDSB website.

- This coming Friday, January 20th is a PD Day and there will be no school for students. All extended programs will also not be running on that day. Staff will be participating in a variety of professional development, assessment and evaluation activities, along with mandatory health and safety training (e.g., first aid, Behaviour Management Systems).
- All elementary students will be receiving their Term 1 Report Card on Wednesday, February 15th. This report will cover student achievement from the beginning of September to the end of January.
- There will communication sent out soon from the WRDSB to families about the changes to the French Immersion program starting in September 2023. In summary, there will be no students from SK entering Grade 1 French Immersion in the fall as per the recommendations from the Board-wide FI Review that has taken place. All current and future SK students will be entering the core Grade 1 program (we will no longer have any grade 1 French Immersion classes). They will receive twice the number of core French periods that they currently receive. Families of interested grade 1 students will then have the opportunity in the winter of 2024 to register their child to begin Grade 2 French Immersion in September of 2024. In addition, moving forward, all grades 2 – 8 French Immersion students will receive 58% of their day in French language instruction (vs. the current 50%).

Province

- At the beginning of December, CUPE ratified an agreement with the government. As you are likely aware, the WRDSB doesn't not have any employees represented by CUPE.
- The 4 major teachers' unions are still in active bargaining with the government. So far, there no further information about the progress of those negotiations.