

Kanata Highlands Public School School Council Meeting

Minutes

January 12, 2021 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Virtually via Google Meet

Attendance

Pauline McKenna - Principal

Kristine McKeague – Teacher Representative

Council Members Present

Shari Fisher

Stephanie Desjardins

Catherine Birch

Dorothy Vernon Thaka

Taylor Hutter

Anthony Rumsey

Emilie Williams

Trina Simmonds

Gemma Forsyth

Fiona Pingyin

Regrets

Lindsay Seunghee Lee

Sally Bidal

Shyla Hunter

Non-Members Present

Layan Marei

Danesh Krishnasamy

C.Y.

Edwin Ma

Icerain Cao

B.Y Cui

Daniel Zhou

1. **Call to order** (Shari Fisher)

Meeting called to order at 7:05 by Shari Fisher.

Shari welcomed everyone and reviewed the meeting “rules”

2. **Approval of January 12, 2021 Agenda** (Shari Fisher)

Shari Fisher moved to approve the agenda as presented; seconded by Stephanie Desjardins.

3. **Approval of November 17, 2020 Minutes** (Shari Fisher)

Shari Fisher moved to approve the November minutes as presented, seconded by Emilie Williams.

4. Principal's Report (Pauline McKenna)

Happy New Year!

- I hope everyone enjoyed a quiet winter holiday
- Sorry that we are back in virtual learning/teaching
- So impressed with students, staff and parents for all their efforts and hard work
- Grateful for our positive supportive parent community!
- We hope to be back to school by the end of January

In school learning

- 4 months of success
- Students and teachers have adapted well and are fully engaged with teaching and learning
- Will continue to make minor adjustments when we return to school with health and safety
- Have begun using some equipment in phy ed. All equipment is sanitized after each use; set of equipment per class; significant workload for teachers
- Ending December with spirit days

Virtual Learning January 2021

- We recognize the stress and demands this places on families
- We appreciate your support in helping your child have the learning tools for virtual learning
- We are hoping the demands on parents will decrease and the skill level of students increases
- So impressed how quickly we all transitioned to virtual
- High percentage of students on-line each day
- Continue to reach out to your teacher with any questions or concerns as well office staff at school available to help
- Everyone is making the best of the learning; speaks to our school motto of Be Open, Be Curious, Be Kind - living it along with mindfulness and ensuring our well-being is not compromised
- Support available for families in need - please reach out to your teacher, or principal
- Encourage students to be outside 2 - 3 times per day; keep them in regular routine of school
- Try your best to decrease screen time

- How best can parents support your children through online learning?
 - o Have a designated space for working; have learning tools available; charging station; follow
 - o lunch and recess routines; get them outside; encourage child to speak to teacher if need help

Parents commented on scheduling, breaks and conflicting start and end times and how best to navigate some of those challenges

Few students absent (15 in whole school)

School Budget

Our school budget for the school year is \$ 24,964.00

- These funds support all consumables by students, and teaching items needed (ie. pencils, staplers, exercise books, art paper, supplies, etc.)
- Cover occasional teaching cost for any teachers going on school event or sporting event
- Office supplies, photocopies, paper
- Other - anything else we need to operate the school
- Occasional teachers/staff cost are being tracked and paid through the board budget rather than through school budget
- The allocation is based on the number of students in the school

Kindergarten Virtual Information Event - Monday Jan. 18th, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Parents are welcome to attend to gather information and a virtual school tour prior to registration for kindergarten. Parent only event.

School Clothing coming out soon!

5. Teachers' Report (Kristine McKeague)

Outdoor learning at KHPS

Most classes have made it outside and learned so much outdoors. It is so important to go outside for our mental wellbeing – children are happier, more creative and it develops a sense of belonging (Japanese forest bathing). Use the environment for learning. Getting fresh air.

Math: estimation, measuring, number sense, coding, finding patterns

Language: French program - kinders and primary are using language for outdoors and bringing it back to the classroom for writing. It keeps kids engaged. Gives them new vocabulary to use in their writing. Example: alphabet walk

Orienteering and Sciences: There is an orienteering course (permanent markers) in the forest that encourages students to explore. Orienteering is about learning to map, read and understand your environment - phys ed, and within learning - planet walk (go around to look at signs that have clues to guess the planets).

Learning through questioning the environment - there were many snakes during the fall within the forest, which the students were fascinated with. They have been learning to respect nature.

Art: drawing in the snow, using objects from the forest to make artwork

Collaboration and team work when out in the forest. Talking about the environment and the impact that different things have on the environment. Learn problem solving skills.

Creativity: the forest is a natural playground - coming up with different ways to play within the forest – allows creativity to grow.

Land recognition: Understanding the land that we use and the land that we are on (Algonquin territory). Learning Indigenous culture. Thanking the earth for letting them come. Being mindful about our environment and respecting the land. Using our voices to support Indigenous communities (e.g. community without water that had to leave community and live in hotels – e.g. letter writing campaign to politicians)

Parents expressed appreciation for the time outside for the kids.

6. Treasurer's Report (Dorothy Vernon Thaka)

Account Balances

1) TD Account: Major transactions (past 30 days)

Dec 23, 2020 – Cheque 98	\$	35	Pizza Refund
Dec 23, 2020 – Cheque 103	\$	105	Pizza Refund

TD Account Balance:	\$	79,839
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2) School Cash Online Balance:

Pizza day account:	-
Movie Night account:	-
Online donation account:	2,370

Total Accounts Balance:	\$	82,209
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Commitments/Allocations:

Playground Allocations	75,000
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Total Commitments/Allocations:	\$	75,000
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Total Funds available (Acct. Balances - Comm./Allocs.):	\$	7,209
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Operating Expenses	\$	6
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KHPSFINANCE@GMAIL.COM

- We were able to get e-transferring up and running with our bank account.
- No operating expenses at this time.
- Shari has \$1,135 of cheques from the Holiday fundraising to deposit.
- TechSoup - application for a grant to purchase accounting software - this grant would have to go through the School Board, so Dorothy will continue to seek out more information.
- We will hold off on looking into the accounting program options in the Fall of 2021.
- We should reach out to OCASC or other school councils to see what they do and if they have any suggestions or resources for accounting programs.

7. Fundraising (Emilie Williams)

7.1 Holiday Market & Decorating Contest Recap!

- We had 9 businesses support us - \$485 raised.
- Many were not able to participate – tough times for small businesses
- It was a lot of coordinating and if we were to do this again, we would need more volunteers helping with the coordination with the different companies. It was a lot of work behind the scenes.
- We should try to do this again and continue the partnerships and grow with this
- the restaurants raised a lot more money than the other companies.

Deck the Halls Contest

- 8 houses participated - raised \$650
- Great to see the community come together
- There was a lot of engagement

7.2 Future Fundraising Initiatives

January Fundraiser

- We will be promoting another JoJo's Pizzeria on January 27th
- 3 pizza kit options to make your own pizza with a DIY donut kit
- Jojosdiy.ca
- Proposing to send this out widely to get the larger community involved.

Other Fundraisers

Luna Crepes and Cafe - February 12th

- Valentines' Day fundraiser - February 12th - everything online - prepay, putting together a dinner package for our parents.
- The owners are a KHPS family

Recipe book idea

- the idea would be to gather recipes from our school
- we are wondering if this will be worth putting this together because it would be a lot of work and will take time to put this together – parents thought this was a great idea.
- easy, kid-friendly, family favourites
- Consider how to make it as simple as possible – e.g. create a Google Form that will allow the submissions to be in specific formats/template
- Volunteers: specific call-out for roles.
- Gemma Forsyth would love to help out!

Cleaning the community (Glad)

- hoping to find a sponsor to fund our supplies to support this project.

We are looking for more fundraising ideas - please share your thoughts and ideas.

- Taylor will be reaching out to Stubbe Chocolates in Westboro to see if they will support.
- Bath bombs for Mother's Day?

8. **Communications** (Anthony Rumsey)

- Started to update the website and renewed the domain site.
- Added analytics that show where and how people are visiting the site; where they are coming from – Twitter and FB are driving most people.
- We will create a Twitter account dedicated to the Council

9. **New Business** (Shari Fisher)

None

10. **Adjournment and next meeting** (Shari Fisher)

Shari moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm, seconded by Stephanie Desjardins.

Next meeting: February 2, 2021

ACTION ITEMS

	ITEM	RESPONSIBLE	STATUS
1	Volunteer for Lunch Program Coordinator	Shari Fisher	Done
2	Information re: accounting software	Dorthy Vernon Thaka	Done
3	School Yard Development – seek help on FB coordinating the project	Shari Fisher	Active
4	School Yard Development - reach out to Board	Pauline McKenna	Done
5	City Tree Grant Application	Stephanie Desjardins	Active - Spring
6	Fundraising ideas for 2020-21	Ana Popescu Emilie Williams	Active
7	Share information regarding School Yard Development Project	Shari Fisher Anthony Rumsey	Active