

# Kanata Highlands Public School

## School Council Meeting

### Minutes of Meeting – April 2, 2019

Location: KHPS Library

Time: 7:07 – 8:55pm

<b>MEETING CALLED BY</b>	Shari Fisher and Spencer Callaghan (Co-Chairs School Council)
<b>TYPE OF MEETING</b>	KHPS School Council Meeting
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Katie Robb
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	Parents of students attending KHPS Sue Brown, Kristine Gavrel-McKeague - Teaching Staff Representatives Pauline McKenna – Principal

#### Parent Members Present

Anna Ahmad	Katie Robb	Spencer Callaghan
C.Y.	Kelly Lewis	Stephanie Desjardin
Fiona Pingyin	Meghan Schuler	Trina Simmonds
Jason Sadrian	My-Lien Bosch	
Jingjing Zhang	Shari Fisher	

#### Regrets

Anthony Rumsey	Jennika Maheral	Sreerekha Verma
Devinder Kaur Trehan	Catherine Birch	Dana Platias
Bushra Fazel	Jen Chandler	

#### Item 1 – Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm

Shari Fisher

#### Item 2 Approval of April 2, 2019 Agenda

Shari Fisher

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Communications Update</li> <li>• Teacher Reps are Sue Brown and Kristine Gavrel-McKeague</li> </ul> <p><i>Shari moved to approve the agenda as amended; seconded by Meghan Schuler</i></p>
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#### Item 3 – Acceptance of March 2019 Minutes & Action Items

Shari Fisher

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<i>Shari moved to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Spencer Callaghan</i>
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## Item 4 – Principals Report Q and A

Pauline McKenna

<p>DISCUSSION</p>	<p><b>Spring is here!</b></p> <p><b>News from our Board - OCDSB</b></p> <p>The Ministry of Education announced a number of changes to public education. This included changes to class size funding; changes to curriculum; changes to technology in education; and changes to hiring practices - <a href="#">read more</a>. While the announcement signaled a change in policy direction, more detail is required in order to fully understand the financial implications and implementation details. While we anticipate more information in April, the school district has some contractual obligations to plan for school based staff for next year. Some of these decisions will be made at Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, March 26th. It's challenging to make decisions without all of the facts, so we are proceeding cautiously. As we learn more, we will be able to refine our decision making and share more information with the community.</p> <p>Parents might be interested to know that the Ministry has extended consultation on some of these changes to May 31, 2019. You can access the consultation information at the following links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">Class Size Consultation Guide</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">School Board Hiring Practices Consultation Guide</a></li> </ul> <p>Class Size Changes</p> <p>The government has announced changes to class sizes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● K-3 no changes to caps or average class size, but reduction to Early Childhood Educator (ECE) funding ratio;</li> <li>● Grades 4-8 – change in average class size funding to 24.5 students to teacher ratios (from 23.84);</li> <li>● Grades 9-12 – average class size requirements adjusted from 22 to 28, with a board wide average of 28; some funding will be provided to offset the impact of these changes as they are phased in over next four years.</li> </ul> <p>We are working to assess the impact of these changes, but will not have clarity until provincial funding announcements are made. It is reasonable to expect that the changes will result in an increased number of large class sizes. At the elementary level it could lead to an increase combined grade classrooms, particularly in schools where enrolment is lower and/or running multiple program streams. At the secondary level, it may result in a reduction of the number of sections per school which could reduce course offerings/ options for students.</p> <p>Our teachers and education workers are incredibly committed to the important work that they do to support student learning and well-being. We will continue to work with all staff to provide the best learning environment possible for all students.</p> <p>The OCDSB believes in the importance of modernizing public education. Schools should be vibrant learning spaces which foster innovation and creativity. Updates to curriculum and technological infrastructure are important elements of a modernization</p>
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program and the OCDSB supports updates to curriculum, particularly in math, health and physical education, financial literacy, STEM and Indigenous education. While explicit reference to a focus on equity and well-being were absent from the recent announcements, the OCDSB remains committed to its focus on equity, inclusion and well-being.

### **Mindfulness with Erin McCarthy**

Erin is a professor, speaker, author and mindfulness teacher. After completing her undergraduate degree in French and Philosophy at Trent University, she went on to complete a Ph.D. at the University of Ottawa, comparing western and eastern views of the self. A professor of philosophy at St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY since 2000, Erin now divides her time between her work as a scholar-teacher at the university, conference engagements and her mindfulness teaching both on her campus and in the Ottawa area. Her teaching and writing bring together eastern and western philosophies and practices to cultivate human flourishing, joy, and ease.

Here is a link to Erin website if you would like further information about her.

<https://www.erinmccarthy mindfulness.com/about>

Erin joined us at our staff meeting today for a training session with staff. She focused on talking about how to deliver core breathing to our students and then how in follow up with an inquiry after to teach students to explore how they know their body is calm. What does it feel like? Etc.

Erin will be providing mindfulness workshops to all our students on Tuesday April 16 & 23rd. The focus of the workshops will to be helping our students understand what does calm mean to their bodies and how it feels. This is an important aspect so that students can feel how their bodies are reacting to both stress and when they feel calm. They will discover new ways to calm their mind and body for learning. Each division of the school is contributing \$300 from their student volunteer funds to help cover some of the cost for the workshops. The rest will be covered by school budget. We are looking forward to our learning with Erin.

### **Our professional learning at KHPS**

1. Our grade 1 and kinder inquiry continues on learning the benefits of the teaching strategy of think-pair-share. Teachers have noticed that in kindergarten students are much more comfortable and vocal when they are engaged with TPS. Students are now able to do it with each other without explicit instructions. Teachers are having students use TPS, when they are in the forest or when they want to share something that they have created; the teacher has them turn and share with a partner. This allows for more development of vocabulary both in English and French and students are building their self-confidence. Memory games are being played to help students remember what the other student has said so they are better able to share.

2. In Grade 1, the teachers have noticed that students are better able to communicate their thinking if they are drawing a picture of writing down a word to

help them remember. Listening skills have improved as students are better able to remember what the other students has shared. For students that are introverts or shy, this allows them to participate in a more comfortable environment. Small group teaching has been very beneficial as well.

Moving forward teachers are going to try to focus more on students drawing or jotting a note to help with listening and remembering so they can share fully with the large group.

The gathering of teachers also led to a discussion on how better we could improve the transition from SK to grade 1. Ideas to get the students together: are Reading buddies, Makerspace, Forest, Stem activities, Show what the kinders are learning, Playing outside (11:15 - 12:00), Build a bird nest and finding ways to bring learning for the SK students upstairs. As well, the teachers hope to create a video that can be shared with all SK parents to help them better understand the expectations of grade 1 and how to prepare their child.

### **Math Learning**

Our math focus of STAR, with a focus on thinking strategies continues to be practiced in our classrooms. Two teachers are taking some time next week, to develop another order of math resources for our school \$1500 as part of a district funding. Our math teachers will get together in late April to review students work and collaborate on learning. Our teachers are also beginning their planning and developing schedules for EQAO.

### **French Teachers**

As you know our French teachers created a written French continuum in January and we plan on meeting early June to review it again and see the progress made by students.

### **My Learning - Principal learning :)**

I am taking an on-line course on *Foundations 1: The Bio Domain: Body-Brain Connections, Stress and Self-Regulation*. This is facilitated by the Mehrit Centre. The MEHRIT Centre (TMC) is a social enterprise, established by Dr. Stuart Shanker (D. Phil.) in 2012 to work towards a vision of calm, alert and flourishing children, youth and adults. Our mission is to ground learning and living in mindful self-regulation. Decades of research have shown that self-regulation is the foundation of healthy human development: mental health, learning, resilience, emotional safety, caring relationships, and vibrant, peaceful families, schools and communities. TMC works to mobilize science-based and practice-informed knowledge about self-regulation to develop learning experiences, strategies and resources that will benefit all children, parents, teachers and leaders, schools, communities, and ultimately, society itself. The first module is focusing on relationships, the nature of stress, the problem and effects of excessive stress, self-reg and impacts to our brain are just some of the topics covered. There are four modules to complete and I look forward to continuing my learning.

Thanks to Trina for organizing a successful bingo event for many to enjoy and for continuing our fundraising for our playground.

## Item 5 - Teachers Reports

Sue Brown, Kristine Gavrel-McKEague

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The teachers provided an update on what was happening around the school at each grade level. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kinder - The Woodpecker class was learning about Indigenous artist, Norval Morriseau</li> <li>○ Grade 2-3 – Scientists in the School – Grade 2s worked with some simple machines while Grade 3s completed various experiments with a variety of forces</li> <li>○ Grade 4 and 4/5 math – exploring EquatIO, an online math tool where students can create mathematical equations and use virtual manipulatives on the site</li> <li>○ Grade 3 music class is playing the ukulele!</li> <li>○ Singing club – preparing some songs for a showcase in early May</li> <li>○ Grade 5 health – analyzing nutrition labels and ingredient list to make decisions about which foods are healthy, using this knowledge to create their own food products and market them!</li> <li>○ Grade 6 – learning about the components of the Solar System and the impact space research has had on our society; they brought the theme of space into their French lessons and are creating non-fiction books about their fictional extraterrestrials</li> </ul> </li> <li>● The teachers also talked about how environmental issues are highlighted at KHPS including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Forest walks / hug a tree</li> <li>○ Re-using paper (GOOS paper = Good On One Side)</li> <li>○ Recycling markers and batteries</li> <li>○ Using recycled material in art and science projects</li> <li>○ Participating in worldwide events such as World Water Day, Earth Hour, Earth Day and Outdoor Classroom Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Grade 1 celebrated World Water Day by examining the importance of water for humans and animals, the effects of plastic in our oceans (Water Brothers video) and made a promise to try to protect our waters by using less plastic, recycling, re-using materials and toys or turning off taps</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Planting seeds</li> <li>○ Walk for Water - Leadership club will organize a walk for water in April/ May to pass on knowledge they've been learning about the importance of water to other students and to raise funds to build a well in a developing country</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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## Item 6 – Treasurer Update

Jason Sadrian & Jingjing Zhang

DISCUSSION	<p>Jason shared a recent financial report.            In Summary: Total Balance - \$64,759            Total Allocated - \$39,320            Total Available - \$25,839</p>
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## Item 7 - Fundraising Update

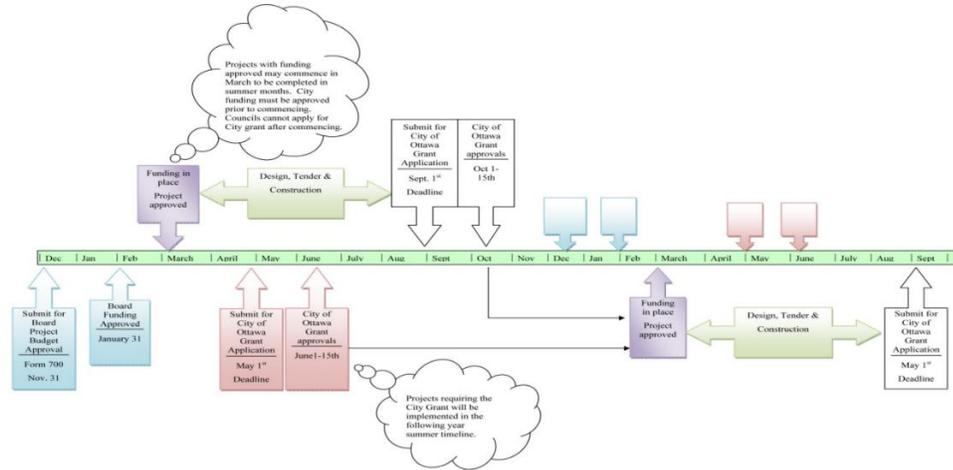
DISCUSSION	<p><b>7.1 Bingo Night Recap</b> (Trina Simmonds)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Fun was had by all</li> <li>● 23 Raffle prizes were available (more than the 15 requested by the Legion), approx \$650 raised through the raffle</li> <li>● Total of approx \$2300 raised. Great job Trina!!</li> <li>● We are reserved for March 2020</li> <li>● Some ideas on how to improve for the future</li> <li>● leftovers of some canteen items will be sold at the BBQ</li> </ul> <p><b>7.2 BBQ Update</b> (Meghan Schuler &amp; Kelly Lewis)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Will be selling water, juice boxes, coffee at the event. No freezies as we have the Merry Dairy in attendance</li> <li>● Request to allocate up to \$600 to cover floats, drinks, photo booth, balloons and face painting (\$160 for face painter).</li> <li>● Asked to consider a gift to Yaki</li> </ul> <p><i>Shari called a vote on allocating up to \$600 for the BBQ; All in favour</i></p> <p><b>7.3 Mailout</b> (Spencer Callaghan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Spencer presented the mock up of the postcard that will be mailed out. Expected cost is approx \$120.</li> <li>● Aim is to send out in about 3 weeks</li> <li>● Website presented (<a href="http://khpscouncil.ca/donate/">khpscouncil.ca/donate/</a>)</li> <li>● Agreed to update the goal numbers to \$125,000 with a total fundraised to \$50,000</li> <li>● provide an explanation on cost of playground and why it costs so much (for example, we can't build it ourselves)</li> </ul>
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## Item 8 - Playground Update

Meghan Schuler

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Meghan presented a plan for the playground including a workup for the yard and an estimate of costs           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In order to lower costs we will use trees for shade instead of sails</li> <li>○ Estimated cost is \$107,000 plus the cost of 2 huts at \$7,000 each. We will get an updated estimate.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Alongside our fundraising we can apply for funding from the city (Min nor Capital Grant) and school board (Form 700) – Application deadlines are May 1 and Sept 1</li> </ul>
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- Meghan shared the following possible timeline:



*Shari called a vote on allocating \$17,500 to the playground project to get to a total allocated of \$50,000*

**Item 9 – PRO Grant - Online Safety Workshop**

Spencer Callaghan

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Media Smarts willing to do a workshop but cost is approx \$750, look at course geared to both parents and kids.</li> <li>● Given the cost, questions were raised as to whether, given our historically low turnouts this was money well spent? Spencer and Shari agreed to contact other schools in the area to see if they would like to combine resources and numbers; however, Council members agreed to proceed regardless</li> <li>● An alternative will be a mindfulness session or HeartMath purchases</li> </ul> <p><i>Shari called a vote on allocating up to \$800 for an online safety workshop; All in favour</i></p>
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**Item 10- New Business**

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Shari will send out the Principle’s Profile for review. Discussion will occur during May meeting</li> <li>● Constitution requires review - Katie and Christine agreed to conduct the review</li> <li>● McDonald’s and Boston Pizza fundraisers have been put on hold.</li> </ul>
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**Item 12- Adjournment and next meeting**

Shari Fisher

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Next Meeting May 7, 2019</li> </ul> <p><i>Shari moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Kelly Lewis</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Meeting adjourned 8:53</li> </ul>
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**ACTION ITEMS – 2018 - 2019**

<b>ITEM No.</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
1	Purchase playground chalk and toys – no chalk available, will use money for snow toys	Anna Cole and Fiona Pingyin	December	CLOSED
2	Follow up on date options for McDonald's and Chapters fundraising events Update: Awaiting McDonald's dates	Spencer Callaghan	January	CLOSED
3	Get quote for an arrange installation of Buddy Bench	Pauline McKenna	November	CLOSED
4	Get more information on pricing on the stage and shade for kinder yard	Pauline McKenna	December	CLOSED
5	Confirm ability of companies to have their name on specific pieces of playground equipment	Pauline McKenna	January	CLOSED
6	Confirm availability of school for January 30, 2019 workshop; February 22, 2019 movie night	Pauline McKenna	February	CLOSED
7	Check if there was a teacher willing to take on the creation of the mailout letter and artwork by a student	Pauline McKenna	March	CLOSED
8	Find source for online safety workshop	Spencer Callaghan	April	CLOSED