

Kanata Highlands Public School School Council Meeting

Minutes

February 2, 2021 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Virtually via Google Meet

Attendance

Pauline McKenna - Principal
Natasha Smith – Teacher Representative

Council Members Present

Shari Fisher	Ana Popescu
Stephanie Desjardins	Lindsay Seunghee Lee
Catherine Birch	Sally Bidal
Taylor Hutter	Emilie Williams
My-Lien Bosch	Shyla Hunter

Regrets

Anthony Rumsey	Dorothy Vernon Thaka
Trina Simmonds	

Non-Members Present

Rudolph Kwesi Awotwi
Mariana Sandirasegaram
C.Y.

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

Meeting called to order at 7:02 by Shari Fisher.

Shari welcomed everyone and reviewed the meeting “rules”

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

Anthony sent his regrets, therefore, no communications update

Shari Fisher moved to approve the agenda as amended; seconded by Shyla.

3. **Approval of January 12, 2021 Minutes** (Shari Fisher)

Shari identified a couple of typographical errors: the date should be 2021 not 2020! And the time the meeting was called to order was not included

Shari Fisher moved to approve the January minutes as amended, seconded by Stephanie.

4. **Principal's Report** (Pauline McKenna)

Learning through the Equity lens at KHPS

KHPS School Council and KHPS School/Board Priority

Promote equity in council discussions, activities and events with a view to recognizing biases and stereotypes to better see the needs of others and ensure inclusion of all perspectives

Indigenous, Equity and Human Rights Roadmap

Eliminating Barriers to Success 2020-2023

The OCDSB has a strong commitment to human rights, equity and inclusion. While many steps have been taken to identify and address the systemic and structural barriers that prevent everyone from participating, excelling and feeling valued in the OCDSB community, there remains much more to learn and to do.

Feb 12 - .5 day focus on equity learning

At KHPS I am learning about equity by...

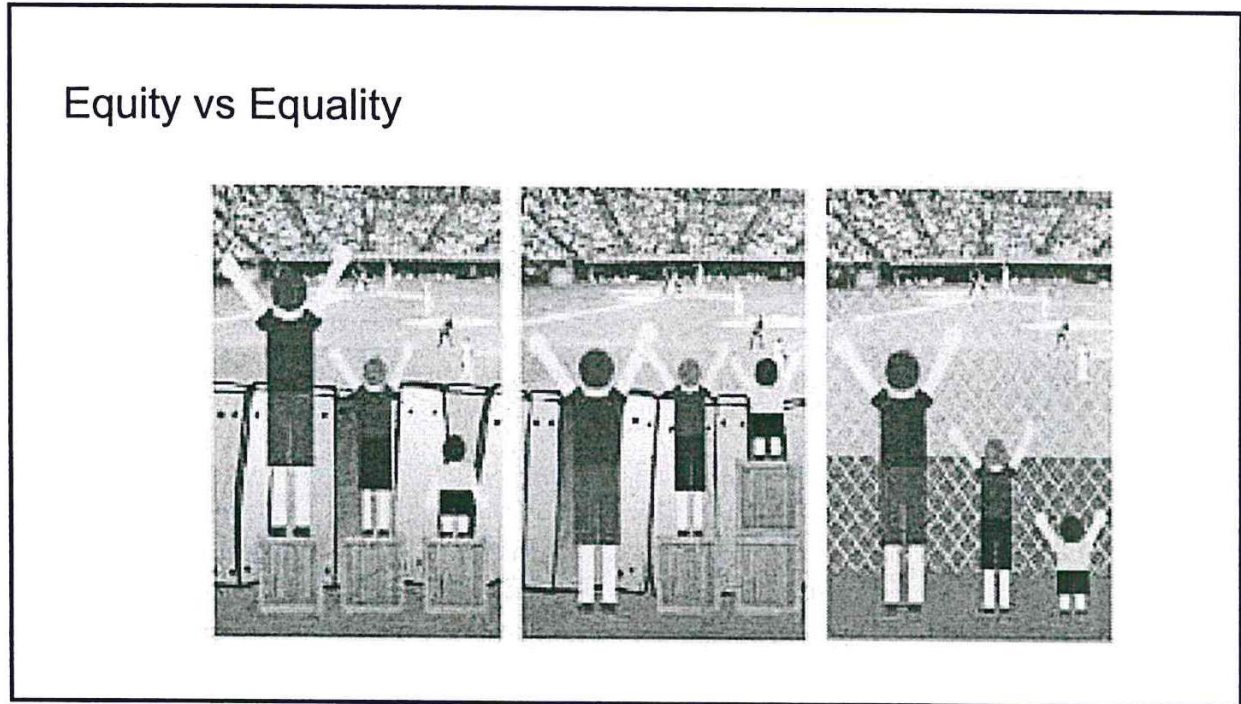
- Be OPEN
- Listening
- From the inside out approach - cultural proficiency
- Unconscious bias
- Webinars - Equity Literacy Institute's 10-hour racial equity facilitator training; OPC microaggressions; Parents of Diversity, Nicole West Burns - Culturally Relevant Pedagogy, 4 BIG Questions (twitter)....
- Books, online resources
- Equity is at the forefront of all my decisions

How do I make equitable decisions?

1. Identify stakeholders - what racial/ethnic groups may be most affected by this decision/issue? And engage with them. (e.g., Be Open, Be Curious, Be Kind)
2. What factors may be producing and or perpetuating racial inequities? (e.g., how we select resources for our school)

3. Consider impact - who will be negatively affected? How to minimize the impact? Positively affected? (e.g., teachers have a lot of resources, how to promote and use ethically appropriate resources, parent responses)

4. Identifying Success indicators? (e.g., what is being used, student responses)



Next steps...

How can we work together to ensure our decisions are being made through the equity lens?

How can we work together to dismantle the systemic barriers to racism?

What are the barriers at KHPS? What do you need from me? From KHPS?

Parent comments:

- Diversity should be involved earlier in the process
- There are very few male teachers in the school. We are trying to hire more, but male teachers are rare in elementary schools.
- There may be language barriers. Council did a survey last year and 20% of the response said that they needed translations. Board is trying to find a way to get a translation to get more accessible. (Mandarin and Arabic was most needed from last year's survey)
- One parent shared that from a personal experience language can make you feel very shut off

5. **Teachers' Report** (Natasha Smith)

Natasha continued with the equity discussion from a teacher's perspective

Parents for diversity – a group that parents could join to learn more

Continuing our learning:

Book clubs with educators

- The SKN we're in
- Decolonizing

Workshops

- Language Matters
- Racial Equity Facilitator series
- Parents for Diversity
- Making Bannock and learning about colonization
- Indigenous Canada: U of Alberta
- Discussion with Jesse Thistle

And other books of interest

- Read alouds with students

We embrace our difference:

"The things that make me different are the things that make me" Winnie The Pooh

This is demonstrated in the school:

Reading book that showcase different people:

- Planet Omar
- My heart fills with happiness
- Say Something

Using a diverse calendar to start conversations

Challenging the "norm"

- 2/3A class did a snowman activity to show that we are unique
- Reading books:
 - Boris Brindamour et la robe orange – about a boy wearing orange dress
 - Rouge – about a crayon who make a blue. Outside is red, but inside can be blue

Recognizing and celebrating our physical differences

Creating examples that don't always model ourselves

Visiting and listening

- Visiting mosque, temples, and churches – pre-Covid
- Receiving visitors and listening at the Gr. 1,2 classes for indigenous – during Covid

Orange shirt day/Pink shirt day, telling how it started

Creating the future

- Poster from Gr6 students

Working on Reconciliation

Pauline is leading by example – pushing teachers to examine own biases, etc

6. Treasurer's Report (Shyla Hunter)

Account Balances		
1) TD Account: Major transactions (past 30 days)		
Jan 6, 2021	\$	1 Interact e-transfer test DVT
Jan 18, 2021 - Deposit	\$	1,134.77 Fundraising
Jan 18, 2021 – Cheque 108	-\$	189 Website hosting
TD Account Balance:	\$	80,786
2) School Cash Online Balance:		
Pizza day account:	-	
Movie Night account:	-	
Online donation account:		2,540
Total Accounts Balance:	\$	83,326
Commitments/Allocations:		
Playground Allocations		75,000
Total Commitments/Allocations:	\$	75,000
Total Funds available (Acct. Balances - Comm./Alloc \$ 8,326		
Operating Expenses	\$	195

KHPSEFINANCE@GMAIL.COM

7. Fundraising (Emilie Williams)

January Fundraiser:

Jo-Jo's Pizza Kit Night - \$144 raised.

Some got wrong instructions, if happens next time, it would be better to post it on the website. Pizza was easy to make. Thank you to everyone for sharing/posting on Facebook and Twitter!

February Fundraiser

Early Valentine's Day with Luna Crepes & Café February 12th.

Order anything or Pre-order family meal for \$55

Luna's will donate 15%

Upcoming events:

March Domino's Pizza Night

March/April Recipe Book

April Glad "Clean Up the Capital"

May Mother's Day Self-Care

Other ideas:

Chris – Will share the classmate parent's info who teaches yoga.

Shyla – Mother's Day gift basket

Ana – Bidding for each other's gift basket/stuff to let go out of the house.

Virtual cleaning auction.

Send fundraising ideas to:

emiliedwilliams@gmail.com

8. New Business (Shari Fisher)

Question from a parent: Is there going to be any change to choose between in-person and virtual school?

Answer: Board says it'll be an individual decision, there won't be any open date for all students to choose from. It is logistically difficult to switch; however, if the transition is needed, email or call the school.

9. Adjournment and next meeting (Shari Fisher)

Shari moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:26, seconded by Stephanie Desjardins.

Next meeting: March 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	Done
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	Ongoing
7	Share information regarding School Yard Development Project	Shari Fisher Anthony Rumsey	Ongoing