

# Kanata Highlands Public School School Council Meeting

## Minutes

Oct 5, 2021 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Virtually via Google Meet

### Attendance

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Pauline McKenna - Principal  
Shawn Hocking - Vice Principal  
Kristine Gavrel-Mckeague – Teacher Representative

### Council Members Present

Bushra Fazal	Shivani Kaushik
Dorothy Vernon Thaka	Stephanie Desjardins
Emilie Williams	Suyog Motghare
Lindsay Lee	Taylor Mullineux
Lindsey Osborne	Trina Simmonds
Ryan Mylrea	Zehra Haider
Sally Bidal	

### Regrets

Anthony Rumsey  
Gemma Forsyth

### Non-Members Present

Andrew Yoo  
C Y  
Christina Aubry  
Roula Osman  
Sanchita Handa  
Shari Fisher

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

Meeting called to order at 7:05 by Stephanie Desjardins.

### 2. **Welcome and introductions** (All)

Shari welcomed everyone and reviewed the meeting “rules”

Everyone on the call introduced themselves.

**3. Approval of October 5, 2021 Agenda** (Shari Fisher)

Suggestion to change section “New Business” to “Round the table” to be inclusive  
***Shari Fisher moved to approve the agenda as presented; seconded by Stephanie***

**4. Approval of June 1, 2021 Minutes** (Shari Fisher)

***Shari Fisher moved to approve the June 1, 2021 minutes as presented, seconded by Stephanie.***

**5. Election of Council Members for 2021-2022**(Pauline Mckenna)

Pauline explained the benefits of being a part of the council.

All parents are welcome at all meetings and share their voices, but can't vote if not members.

Invited all those present to identify their interest in being members of Council in the chat

Bushra Fazal  
Dorothy Vernon Thaka  
Emilie Williams  
Lindsay Lee  
Lindsey Osborne  
Ryan Mylrea  
Sally Bidal  
Shivani Kaushik  
Stephanie Desjardins  
Suyog Motghare  
Taylor Hutter  
Trina Simmonds  
Zehra Haider

[Note: Anthony was not able to attend the meeting but indicated he would like to be a member of Council as well]

Role description for the executive is available on our Facebook group – private group for our parents

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/KanataHighlandsPS>

For those who would like to take a greater role, certain positions are available as part of the executive: Chair/Co/vice, Treasurer(s), Secretary, Fundraising Chair(s), Communications Chair(s)

Chair: Stephanie Desjardins – Acclaimed

Vice-Chair: Sally Bidal - Acclaimed

Treasurer: Dorthy Vernon Thaka – Acclaimed

Secretary: Lindsay Lee – Acclaimed

Fundraising: Emilie Williams & Lindsey Osborne to share responsibility - Acclaimed

Communications: To confirm whether Anthony Rumsey wishes to continue, Lindsey Osborne candidate if Anthony is not taking the responsibility

Constitutions and by-laws are available on the website

**Constitution:**

[https://www.khpscouncil.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Constitution-and-Bylaws-Oct-2016.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0vm\\_Hi\\_Lz\\_k2bCwH8k5802z1NBfIV-S53x2nbf64VYbXyJcMs\\_KcFOuw](https://www.khpscouncil.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Constitution-and-Bylaws-Oct-2016.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0vm_Hi_Lz_k2bCwH8k5802z1NBfIV-S53x2nbf64VYbXyJcMs_KcFOuw)

**School Yard Development Project:**

<https://www.khpscouncil.ca/fundraising/donate/>

**6. Principal’s Report** (Pauline McKenna)

Welcome back, thank you for being here to support our school community. Thanks for making this such a smooth start to the school year. Appreciate all the interest and commitment to the school council...could not do it without you all!

Welcome to our virtual school council meeting, as this is the way we will be conducting our meetings this year. I am hopeful that in some ways this might make it easier for families to participate.

Thanks to our school council for 2020 - 2021 - especially to Shari, Stephanie, Emilie, Anthony and Jennifer as our executive committee.

**Election Process**

Why should you be a member?

- Voice on what is happening at school and decisions that are made
- Link between your child learning and school
- Lots of fun
- Networking and meeting new people in your community
- You are making a difference

1. If you would like to be part of school council the expectation is that you attend our monthly meetings. If you are not able to attend you must send an email to the chair, in order to continue your role on the school council. At the meetings, you would have the opportunity to provide input into council activities and hear about school events, etc. Once the council has been elected, any member shall be eligible for election or appointment to an executive position.

#### Member in Good Standing

A member in good standing is someone who has not resigned or is not deemed to have resigned by their absence for 3 consecutive meetings without notice to the Chair.

Council Members shall:

Attend Council meetings regularly. (See By-law #1)

Participate actively in the work of the Council.

Support the work of the Council in the community and bring forward to Council views of others along with their own.

Encourage the participation of all KHPS Parents/Guardians to hopefully ensure representation of our School community's diversity, as well as other people within the School community.

2. Remember all parents are welcome to attend school council meetings, even if they are not part of school council. Always welcome!

3. If you would like to be a member of council please type your name in the chat and we will record that you would like to be on school council.

4. From the list of school council members we need to elect members to positions.

5. We need positions for Chair or two people to be co-chairs or chair and vice chair, secretary, treasurer, fundraiser coordinator, communications; we will also need other members for various roles through the school year, for example lunch programs, etc.

6. Shari will give a brief description of each role.

7. If you would like to be the Chair or co-chair, please indicate in the chat. Same process for secretary, treasurer, fundraiser coordinator, communications.

- Any nomination for a parent of a student enrolled in an OCV school shall only be allowed where an insufficient number of parents of students attending in person have put their names forward for election.

## **School Report**

We have 435 students this year. We have approximately 35 students in the virtual school.

- We have 20 classes
- Staff had done an amazing job with adjusting their teaching practices to meet the new format of leaning; it is great to have so many students back in the building - Some changes from last year, we do not have the desk shields, students are able to share materials, like books and math manipulatives and we are back in the makerspace; books are being signed out through the book mobile; gym is happening outside and some days in the gym depending on weather
- Health and safety is our number one priority; all decisions are based on keeping our students in school; vaccinations do help!
- We will be following the same process as last year IF we have a positive case - Met with our OPH nurse this week and we were given PCR swaps for students and staff to use
- Parents will be given the option of using one of the kits if their child has COVID symptoms and they have to be picked up from school
- Parents can do the test outside or in the car with their car and drop it back off at the school and OPH will arrange a courier for pick up
- The tests are only good for 24 hours.
- If we have a positive case and a number of students need to be tested on day 7; then parents can come to the school to get a test and then drop it off at the school in lieu of going to the testing centres
- OPH is hoping this will provide more convenience for parents and to decrease the wait times at the testing centres
- If there is a positive case, the entire class will be at home until day 11; with no symptoms can return on day 11
- OPH is asking parents to note when your child is taking the bus or being driven to school, as exposure on bus can require a student to isolate themselves - OPH would consider where the child is sitting on the bus, how long they were on the bus, etc. to determine who might be exposed
- Exposure is considered to be 48 hours before signs of symptoms
- Equity continues to be a focus - understanding our students and who they are, honouring their voice in their learning, ensuring the curriculum is relevant to them; building their understanding of their role as a citizen of their community at Highlands, in Kanata, in Ottawa, in the world; they have the power to change our world to be better and to dismantle our racist systems; adults and students have much learning to do with equity

- At each of our staff meetings, we spend time learning and reflecting on equity; today we focused on the following to questions and actions needed
- Mindfulness and connection with students and among students; well-being
- Outdoor learning has been a significant part of our learning experience; happy to say we are back in the forest!
- Please continue to check for ticks daily; as they are found in all kinds of nature - Thank you for your cooperation with the staggered entry and exit of students; it appears to be working well
- Encourage you to follow up on twitter as we share much of what is happening daily through our tweets

Curriculum - what does it look like when you are learning through a pandemic; what about missed learning? How is my child doing? Are they behind?

- All good questions to be asking and we have been asking and working through this new environment as well; it is our first pandemic too
- Yes there has been missed learning - we are in a pandemic
- What are we doing about it?
- PD focus on literacy and math
- Focus on diagnostic assessment - what does your child know? - There was a lot of learning through virtual; some more than others - equity - Teachers have been working one on one with students with support from special education teachers to determine where your child is at in language acquisition and math
- Our Plan - to move students forward based on their learning profile and needs - Students learn at different rates for a variety of reasons
- Differentiated instruction is key - teachers will adapt instruction to suit the strengths, interests, learning styles and readiness of their students - This might mean adjusting the content, process, product or environment - Communication is key - teachers are communicating weekly or daily (twitter) with parents and making suggestions for follow up at home IF you want to - Reach out to your teacher if you have any questions
- Progress reports come out early November

Virtual Learning

- Be ready to switch to virtual learning if needed
- Know how to sign in and access learning

Every October Islamic Heritage Month is recognized in Canada. This is an opportunity to learn about the history and culture of Ontarians of Muslim heritage, as well as to appreciate the significant contributions made by the Islamic community. We welcome families and students to share their contributions with our school members. Feel free to reach out to your teacher.

We are thrilled and grateful for everyday we get to come to Highlands to work. So appreciate being with your children! Thank you for trusting us with them!

Presentation to Shari - for her outstanding work in being our chair or co-chair for 5 years! I want to express my sincere appreciation to Shari. I couldn't have opened the school without her. She has contributed so much to our school community. We are grateful for all her contributions and she will be missed. Best of luck Shari as the co-chair at Huntley, they are lucky to have you.

**Question 1:** what are the symptoms for the child to require testing?

**Answer:** On the school website- there's a list of symptoms that requires testing

If happens to pick up your kids – note in whether you are picking up your kids or not for tracing purpose

**Question 2:** Statistics for lack of education; what resources are we getting for this pandemic? Concrete and measurable things? How are we going to close the gap?

**Answer:** Gr 2. How to read. Center learning is not available. Teacher setup and different student groups learning various things in small groups. We are going to do the centres. Handled this issue in the staff meeting. Intense periods of 20-40 minutes will be happening with masks, and small groups. Tools they've given: what we need is more time. Time to digest the materials. [Sally] Happy to write the letters if any help is needed from the councils.

**Question 3:** any possibility for school photo? Outdoor or informal? Any marker for them?

**Answer:** It could be a possibility. Class picture outside could be good too. If informal picture needed, please reach out to the teacher if you have opted out for the media permission.

### **Orange Day:**

Shawn shared Truth and Reconciliation week (Orange day) photos.

There was a presentation in the morning, watching and discussion, strong focus throughout the day.

## **7. Teacher's Report (Kristine Gavrel\_McKeague)**

Building relationships and taking care of our mental health are key to a great start of the school year. Let's take a look at the amazing work our students have been doing so far this year.

**Kinder-** Each morning **the chickadee and owl class** have a check-in with themselves. The students ask: HOW ARE YOU today?

They rate how they are feeling with a 1-5 rating scale..

They show the number of how they are feeling with their hands and can explain why they are feeling this way.

- 1- Sad, tired or both or just not feeling myself
- 2- O.K.
- 3- Good
- 4- Great
- 5- FANTASTIC...woot woot raise the roof!!!!

**The cardinals** have been learning the “comment ca va’ song to evaluate our feelings in the morning.

-Responses are: Ca va bien, Ca va mal, Ca va comme si comme ca

**The Blue Jay Class** – We read ‘The Important Book’. Next, we each explained what makes us important. Together we created a class book. The children have enjoyed reading it together on our classroom screen.

**All of the kinder educators take time to join the kids in their play, get to know them and build connections. We are learning how to be together again!**

**Grade 1** – As part of our positive growth mindset development, Grade 1 math listened to ‘A Little Spot of Perseverance’, then created our own perseverance spots and added them to our ‘Math Bus’. We have been ‘celebrating’ mistakes and making sure our brains don’t get ‘lazy’.

**2A and 2B** – Family Tree

**2C and 2D** – Creating safe spaces with shared norms. Class promise

**3A** - Ways to help calm our Amygdala:  
breathing, reading, drawing, listening to soft music...

**3A and 3B** – Growth Mindset

**3C** – “Le fil invisible” is a story about feeling love in your heart and knowing you are always connected to the ones you love. We used a REAL string to make a class bracelet as a reminder we are all connected in 3C!

We are all unique! We celebrated our individual traits by showcasing them on a large canvas.

**4A and 4B** - Learning how our brains are designed to grow and change!

Learning that with a growth mindset, we can do anything!

Learning to recognize what we can and cannot control.

**Grade 4/5** – Grade 4/5 created a tshirt each for our class ‘clothes line’, which featured their favourite things, their strengths and weaknesses, their happiest memories and people who inspire them. We have been celebrating and identifying differences, and learning how to work as a class community to help each other grow. We have been using the quote ‘Feedback is the breakfast of champions’, and when providing constructive feedback for each other, students have opened their conversations by first asking respectfully asking another student “Would you like some breakfast?”

**5/6A and 5/6B** - Developed our own questionnaires in French to interview and write about a classmate.

The students voted for a class word to represent our class values this year.

27 days of mindfulness: Reflecting on our emotions and how we react in certain situations, how we manage those reactions and where in our bodies we feel these feelings.

**Wellness walk around school** – calm/ exercise when feeling overwhelmed

## **8. Council Priorities for 2021-2022 (Stephanie Desjardins)**

Council members come together and talk specifically about these priorities.

Stephanie highlighted priorities.

More discussion will be done after this meeting to discuss what we can actually start focusing on over the next few months.

### **Priority 1 – Engagement**

#### **Provide a forum for parental involvement and engagement in KHPS**

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

[Note from Pauline] Equity pieces: What are the barriers you face as a family when you are trying to connect to school to overcome? Pauline wants to hear about that and welcome feedback. Feedback either personally to Pauline or open discussion. We need to make sure that everybody feels welcomed.

Requesting more ideas on what we can do this year to focus: We can introduce speakers to our council or to our school community, sending out a survey, and providing workshops. Thoughts on topics that we want to touch on this year needed. One of these can be about ticks. Someone from public health can come and discuss. Any more ideas for topics to discuss ?

Encourage participants to share with other parents to broaden discussion, involvement and engagement. More voices we have, the better reach and more diversity and inclusion that we can have across our communities.

### **Priority 2 – Fundraising**

#### **Raise funds to support and enrich the educational experience for all students**

Raising funds: fundraising activities can encourage students, parent involvement.

### **Priority 3 – Student well-being**

#### **Support the school in enhancing the safety and well-being of the students**

Names and email addresses who want to be involved with discussion brainstorming.

Emilie Williams - [emiliedwilliams@gmail.com](mailto:emiliedwilliams@gmail.com)

Lindsay Lee - [teady99@gmail.com](mailto:teady99@gmail.com)

Taylor Hutter - [taylor.mullineux@gmail.com](mailto:taylor.mullineux@gmail.com)

Shivani Kaushik - [shivanigenex@gmail.com](mailto:shivanigenex@gmail.com)

Lindsey Osborne - [lindseyosborne1@gmail.com](mailto:lindseyosborne1@gmail.com)

Trina Simmonds - [trinasimmonds@gmail.com](mailto:trinasimmonds@gmail.com)

Sally Bidal - [sallyboth12@hotmail.com](mailto:sallyboth12@hotmail.com)

Roula Osman - [roulaosman@gmail.com](mailto:roulaosman@gmail.com)

Dorothy Vernon Thaka - [khpsfinance@gmail.com](mailto:khpsfinance@gmail.com)

Suyog Motghare - [suyog.motghare@gmail.com](mailto:suyog.motghare@gmail.com)

Zehra Haider - [bzhaider@gmail.com](mailto:bzhaider@gmail.com)

Shivani Kaushik - [shivanigenex@gmail.com](mailto:shivanigenex@gmail.com)

## **9. Treasurer's Update (Dorothy Vernon Thaka & Shyla Hunter)**

No major transactions. End of year report has been finished and cleared up.

Operation budget is back at 0.

If you have any questions: feel free to send email to [khpsschoolcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:khpsschoolcouncil@gmail.com)

### **9.1. Operation cost allocation**

Council incurs expenses related to bank account and website over the course of the year of approximately \$300. These are generally allocated at the beginning of the year so we don't have to come back for each transaction.

**Stephanie Desjardins called a vote on allocating up to \$300 to cover operating expenses for the 2021-2022 year – All in favour**

## **10. Fundraising & Activities**

### **10.1. Activities for 2021-2022(Emilie Williams)**

#### **Last year's most popular fundraisers:**

Holiday House Decorating Contest  
Family Yoga Night  
Virtual Market  
Recipe Book  
Pizza Nights  
Ongoing: Boomerang Kids + Mabel's Labels

#### **Goals for this year:**

Let's focus on community!  
Building relationships  
Having fun  
School Spirit  
Raise the final \$9,500 towards our School Yard Fund

Send fundraising ideas to:

[emiliedwilliams@gmail.com](mailto:emiliedwilliams@gmail.com)

### **10.2. School Council Engagement Funds from 2021-2022(Stephanie Desjardins)**

We have \$500 left from last years' board money and another \$500 this year. Normally we use that towards the speaker to come in or a workshop on learning. Think about how we want to spend the money.

Ideas to spend money: purchasing school software, door prize for contesting, welcome package for the new family, interpreters for parent's interview..

## **11. 2021-2022 Council Meetings(Stephanie Desjardins)**

Normally we would hold our council meetings the first Tuesday of the month, 7pm. January, return to school is Monday- that we might delay the meetings.

## **12. Round Table (All)**

Anyone can bring anything forward. Bring anything forward that we can discuss or look at.

Comment about changing masks:

Some engagement needed from the school and board to make sure that it's done safely and to remind the kids to ensure they do change the mask during the day. Kids are being sent home wearing the same mask.

[Note from Pauline] This will be followed up with teachers.

**13. Adjournment and next meeting** (Stephanie Desjardins)

Thanks to Shari.

***Stephanie moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:59, seconded by Shari***

**Next meeting:** November 2, 2021

ACTION ITEMS

	ITEM	RESPONSIBLE	STATUS
1	School Council priorities ready for approval by November 2	Stephanie Desjardins	postponed to December 7
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			