

**Kanata Highlands Public School**  
**School Council Meeting**

**Minutes**

**February 8, 2022 7:00 – 9:00 pm**  
**Virtually via Google Meet**

Attendance

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Pauline McKenna - Principal  
Ms. McDonald – Teacher Representative  
Mme Dignam – Teacher Representative

Shawn Hocking – Vice Principal

Council Members Present

Anthony Rumsey  
Dorothy Vernon Thaka  
Emilie Williams  
Lindsay Lee  
Sally Bidal

Shivani Kaushik  
Stephanie Desjardins  
Tayler Hutter  
Roula Osman

Regrets

Trina Simmonds

Non-Members Present

Amy Shi  
Adam Cockburn  
Behice Yildirim  
Chris Y  
Cigdem Gulen

Eric Huolt  
Hongchen  
Sabreena Obaid  
Sammar Sayed  
Sivasathivel Kandasamy

Sunny Huang  
Wafa Hassinya  
Wen Wen Wang

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1. **Welcome message from Chair** (Stephanie Desjardins)

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

Stephanie welcomed everyone.

Everyone present introduced themselves

2. **Approval of agenda** (Stephanie Desjardins)

***Stephanie Desjardins moved to approve the agenda as presented: Stephanie Desjardins, seconded by Sally.***

3. **Approval of December Minutes** (Stephanie Desjardins)

***Stephanie Desjardins moved to approve the December minutes as presented, seconded by Taylor Hutter.***

4. **Principal's update and Q & A** (Pauline McKenna)

Protest - Recently, flags and symbols of hatred have been on display in our community. I do believe in freedom of speech, but words and symbols of hate are intolerable. I am proud to be working with the OCDSB who publicly denounced these actions. These events are a reminder of the important and urgent work we continue to do each day with our students and staff. We all need to act on building a stronger community of acceptance, respect and human rights.

**School Absences** - low student absences!

**Average before Covid (fall 2019):**

21 absent (4.8%) - 6 ill (1.4%), 15 other (3.5%)

**Average this fall:**

37 absent (8.5%) - 17 ill/isolating/testing (3.9%), 20 other (4.6%)

**Average this past week:**

31 absent (7.2%)

-7 ill/isolating (1.6%)

-9 remote learning (2.1%)

-15 other (3.5%)

**Class Closures - due to not sufficient replacements for staff absences**

Here is our plan;

1. We would make the decision to close a class by 7:30pm the night before.
2. Letter and phone messages would be sent to the families affected and every effort will be made to notify parents by 8:00 pm.
3. Students would remain at home, until we have sufficient staff at school.
4. Parents would be notified the evening before by 8pm when their child can return to school.

**What does learning look like for those students at home due to class closure? There are several options depending on staffing.**

1. If the teacher is able to teach some or all of the day synchronously, they will.

2. If there is no replacement for online teaching, the absent teacher would post work to be done asynchronously.
3. We might be able to find an OT who can teach online for the absent teacher.

**Report Cards** - purpose is a communication document to parents on how their child is progressing in developing learning skills and working towards the curriculum expectations.

- It is a reflection of the child's learning **at a point** in the school year
- Learning is fluid

**Learning Skills** - is the most important; these are the skills that affect all learning and learning as we grow. Focus on the strengths and next steps!

Parents take the time to build responsibility (putting backpack away, making lunches, jobs around home, independent task, don't always need an adult with child, self regulation focus on mindfulness and core breathing)

Communicate with the classroom teacher if you have any questions.

### **Subjects and Grades**

French/Language/Math - comments are structured to focus on strengths and next steps Parents continue to read to your child or have them read to you each night; reflect on reading by writing a few sentences.

All other comments are more generic

Grades - keep in mind we are at elementary school, development of skills is fluid and takes time; students physical/mental/social/cognitive development plays a significant role; learning changes over time; B is at provincial level; C is approaching grade level of provincial curriculum.

Teachers will evaluate using the observations, documents, conversations, student work and professional judgment to determine an overall mark. Keep in mind that Math only has one grade, but is a very complex learning experience, so it is difficult to accumulate all the learning to be reflected into one grade.

Some students will have D's, some Bs, some Cs and As. It is about the learning process, it is about the conversation of learning, it is about the learning skills. Teachers have communicated with parents about any concerns so there should not be any surprises.

Keep in mind the reports are going home on Wednesday Feb. 16th, teachers finished their reports a few weeks ago, and therefore learning has already changed. It is a moment in time!

There is so much positive energy around the school each day! Students are thriving! The staff are so highly skilled, creative and focused on providing the best individualized program for each student. We are so lucky at KHPS!

#### **5. Toonie Tuesday (Shawn Hocking)**

Fundraising Gr. 5-6 class. Goes to the Education Foundation. All the proceeds go 100% to students. Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>

Sally Bidal suggests sending out a reminder days before the date.

Cash online will be available too. Lianne from the office is working on it.

#### **6. Teacher's Update and Q & A (Ms. McDonald and Mme Dignam)**

Ms. McDonald and Mme Dignam presented Literacy Learning at KHPS.

In an Early French Immersion program, formal instruction in English begins in grade 2. This slide deck demonstrates how our teachers teach students how to read both in English and French. It provides information on the components of literacy and how to explicitly teach students how to read. Included are examples of what parents can do at home to support the acquisition of language.

Link to the teacher's report in school website:

<https://kanatahighlandsps.ocdsb.ca/>

#### **7. Equity, Diversity, Inclusion**

- o "Adaptation is hard but it can be joy at the same time" (Cigdem Gulen)

Cigdem shared her experience with adapting as an immigrant restaurant owner with customers, community, and belonging to Canada.

Thank you Cigdem for sharing your story!

#### **8. Communications Update (Anthony Rumsey)**

Website is updated with the school yard project after last council meeting.

<https://www.khpscouncil.ca>

#### **9. Treasurer's Report (Dorothy Vernon Thaka)**



**11. Parent Involvement Funds:**

- How to rebuild our school community – parents, family members, students, KHPS staff
- Funds are provided by the school board to engage our parents. We have used these funds to purchase books and resources specific for parents. We have also hosted informational nights for parents on different topics.
- We have \$1,000 to spend this school year to rebuild our community and we are looking for ideas.
- We have discussed the idea of hosting an in-person event in early June at the school.
- Due to timing tonight, we will move the breakout room brainstorming session until next month.
- Stephanie will be sending out an email for brainstorming of ideas/thoughts

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

Stephanie thanked everyone for joining and asked that all the members as well as anyone else who would like to be included in Council emails to send their email address to: [khpschoolcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:khpschoolcouncil@gmail.com)

***Stephanie moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:07, seconded by Sally Bidal.***

**Next meeting:** March 1, 2022

**ACTION ITEMS**

	ITEM	RESPONSIBLE	STATUS
1	Parent Involvement funds	Council	in progress
2	PRO Grant - speaker series	Council	Not started
3			
4			
5			
6			