

Kanata Highlands Public School
School Council Meeting

Minutes

April 12, 2022 7:00 – 8:05 pm

Virtually via Google Meet

Attendance

Pauline McKenna - Principal

Shawn Hocking – Vice Principal

Council Members Present

Dorothy Vernon Thaka

Shivani Kaushik

Emilie Williams

Stephanie Desjardins

Sally Bidal

Regrets

Trina Simmonds

Anthony Rumsey

Non-Members Present

Chr Y

Ryan Mylrea

Syed Kamran Raza

Kerim Anulur

Nishant Patel

1. Welcome message from Chair

Meeting called to order at 7:04 by Stephanie Desjardins.

Stephanie welcomed everyone.

Everyone present introduced themselves

2. Approval of agenda

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

3. Approval of February and March Minutes

Stephanie Desjardins moved to approve the February and March minutes as presented, seconded by Sally Bidal.

4. **Principal's update and Q & A**

Spring is here!

Pizza - parents are back into school; thanks for volunteering to help!! Lots of great excitement to have pizza back!

Playground designs have been approved and hope to go out for tender soon. With the additional funds from pizza, we are hoping we can do the full development this summer!

School Organization - We are beginning the planning process for our school organization for fall 2023. This involves many steps including creating class lists. We will be asking parents if they have specific needs for their child for a class to send in their request to the school. The request is not about identifying a teacher rather the type of learning environment they need in order to be successful. We know staffing changes can occur up until the end of September, so expecting a certain staff member can be quite problematic if it does not happen.

Absences - as like many sectors of our community are absences of students and staff have increased significantly since coming back from March break. Before the break our students' absences due to illness was approximately 1.6% of the population. Last week our average daily student absences for illness was 9.1%. Similarly our staff absences have increased from 2 - 3 away daily to 8 -9 away. Thankfully we have not had to close any classes and continue to use all possible strategies to cover classes. If we have to close classes, parents will receive an email and phone message the night before by 8pm informing them of the closure.

Vice Principal, Shawn Hocking provided an overview of the School Climate Survey, noting that it was recently completed by students in grades 4-6. The purpose of the survey is to promote an inclusive environment and prevent bullying. Questions were raised on whether the survey included questions on how COVID-19 has impacted students and their well-being.

An overview of classroom activities was also provided. Kindergarten students are engaging in learning about life cycles through the growth of chicks and sprouting beans. Other activities ongoing in the school include learning about Ramadan, the grade two Kindness Project, and a letter to the Prime Minister on the subject of clean drinking water.

5. **Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging**

The Chair provided details about an upcoming event being planned for June, noting that currently the intent is to have an outdoor event at the school to include food trucks, and potentially a balloon artist.

The Chair also noted that for our participation in the Pro-Grant, parents will be welcome to attend a briefing from Paul Davis on Cyberbullying, Sexting, TikTok (and its many issues), and Privacy. Seven schools from across the Board will be joining the event, which is to take place on 9 May 2022 from 8:00-9:30pm. The event will be promoted by the Council via email and Facebook.

6. Communications Update

No communications update took place as Anthony was absent from the meeting.

7. Treasurer's Update

Council Treasurer, Dorothy Vernon Thaka provided an overview of the changes to account balances since the last update. There is a need to clarify whether the amount deposited for pizza days is the profits or if there is a payment to be paid to jojo's from the amount.

8. Fundraising Update

Emilie Williams, Council Fundraiser highlighted the success of the last event – pizza night, which was the most successful one to date. An overview of upcoming fundraising events was also provided, with planned events including a yoga night, and Salt of the Earth fundraiser.

9. Pizza Lunch Program

Discussions took place around the success of the pizza lunch program, including a discussion about size of slices.

10. Discussion and New Business

Parents inquired about ongoing public health practices within the school, as well as questioned the validity of any potential vote by Trustees to reinstate mask mandates, and whether this was within their area of responsibility and legal jurisdiction. No other new business was brought forward for discussion.

11. Adjournment and next meeting

Stephanie thanked everyone for joining the meeting.

The Chair moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05, seconded by Sally Bidal.

Next meeting: May 3, 2022

ACTION ITEMS

	ITEM	RESPONSIBLE	STATUS
1	Pizza profits – clarify amount	Council	in progress