

**Clinton Junior Public School
School Council Minutes**

Meeting Date	May 23, 2018	
Start/End Time	18:10 – 19:30	
Minutes Approved	June 20, 2018	
Attendees – Elected and Appointed Members	TK JK KM DS SH	
Attendees	NM MN	SS GM
Attendees – Staff & Administration	PR SA KH JS – TDSB Gender-Based Violence Prevention Office	

Upcoming Events and Meetings	
Wednesday June 20, 2018 (FINAL MEETING FOR 2017-2018)	<p>Come to School Council meetings to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the education experience of our school's children • Provide input and enhance school system accountability • Learn more about what's going on
Events Thursday, June 14, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinton Spring BBQ - Come enjoy a jumbo hot dog and celebrate a great school year with family and friends!
Action Items	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SA to coordinate with SS and Teachers on finding classes to pilot additional lunch program (Lunch Lady) – April 2018 2. Council to call for parent volunteers for 2018-2019 Pizza Days 3. Council to call for volunteers for Board of Friends of Clinton (Artsmart) 4. Council to consider a short-medium term savings vehicle for funds held for the Schoolyard Revitalization project 5. Schoolyard Revitalization Committee to table sale of bricks or other personalized contribution opportunities to the schoolyard project – as a fundraiser and community builder 6. Council executive (TK) to explore opportunities for schoolyard greening grants for review and application in 2018-2019 (support Schoolyard Revitalization) 7. Council to table consideration of a gender neutral washroom program/policy/facility at Clinton JPS in the future. To be discussed in 2018-2019. 	

1. Greetings, Introductions and Review of Agenda

TK welcomes all attendees and reviews the agenda for the meeting.

Tonight's agenda will move rapidly to accommodate a special presentation from TDSB staff.

2. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

No revisions requested.

Motion: Approve meeting Minutes from April 23, 2018

Moved by KM

Seconded by SH

CARRIED

3. Principal's report – SA

Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) Standardized Testing

Grade 3 will be writing the EQAO standardized tests this week, and Grade 6 will be writing next week. SA provides an explanation and summary of the EQAO testing program. EQAO tests are not used for individual student evaluation, although the individual student marks will be distributed to parents. EQAO results are used by staff and admin to identify areas for improvement in the school, provides a baseline of performance to measure against, and can inform teaching strategies and foci for the future. Standardized tests have both benefits and challenges – new focus in Ontario is inquiry based learning which is not necessarily reflected in the test design. Classroom curriculum is not modified based on the EQAO results, but testing results may indicate areas where the school or a class may want to focus. Curriculum is set by Provincial ministry. Students who require accommodation for the tests (i.e. longer time, different setting, etc.) will be accommodated, but no modification is made to the content of the test.

Sample tests and more information about the EQAO website.

Air Conditioning at Clinton – Update

TDSB commitment to installing an emergency cooling centre at Clinton JPS is progressing. School Gym has been identified as the area which will have A/C installed – this has delayed the schedule somewhat, but air conditioning work has started and should be installed by July 2018. A/C will be operating in September 2018 in the Gym.

TDSB does not support the use of portable or window unit A/Cs at this time. Council Exec and Admin are working on a solution with TDSB facilities to investigate for the very hot classrooms on top floor. Difficult to install given the old windows at the school – SA would like to see the windows at the school prioritized for future replacement; could aid in installation of window cooling units.

Question from Floor: Can parents donate fans? Do we have sufficient fans for this year?

Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO)

EQAO is an independent agency that creates and administers large-scale assessments to measure Ontario students' achievement in reading, writing and math. All EQAO assessments are developed by Ontario educators to align with The Ontario Curriculum. For more information please visit:

<http://www.eqao.com/en>

TDSB Gender-Based Violence Prevention Office

The Gender-Based Violence Office (GBVP) was established in 2009 and is the first of its kind in Canada. The GBVP office works to promote healthy relationships and safe environments in TDSB schools. For more information please visit:

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Innovation/Gender-Based-Violence-Prevention>

Gender Diversity Resources

COPA - tools for parents and kids to look at together about preventing violence and aggression:

<https://infocopa.com/resources?locale=en>

Resources around gender diversity, Gender Creative Kids Canada

<http://gendercreativekids.ca/>

A: Parents are welcome to donate fans in good condition. There remains approximately \$500 in unspent future liabilities from 2016-2017 allocated to the purchase of fans, if needed, in 2017-2018.

4. Treasurer's Report – JK

School Council bank account balance and cash flow for School Year (2017-2018) is distributed.

Balance reported on latest cash flow report is not the final number for the year and reflects only funds received or disbursed to date. A cheque to Artsmart which has not yet cashed and remains outstanding but has already been reflected in the balance as though it was cashed. No further cheques will be issued until cash flow is finalized.

A discussion on future liabilities and remaining balance for the 2017-2018 School Year follows. The financial position for Council for the 2017-2018 year is not yet finalized but possible that 2017-2018 funds raised may not satisfy the funds committed for the 2017-2018 year. Council executive to meet prior to June 2018 meeting to finalize 2017-2018 cash flow and determine net position of account. If Council does not have sufficient funds to cover all Wish List items, some items may have to be deferred. Exec will have an accurate financial position available for June meeting.

Cash flow as reported does not include the potential for 3 RBC school grants, as coordinated by parent SJS. Once these grants have been confirmed, this income could be reflected in the Council cash flow.

Questions from Treasurer – How should funds from Givalry fundraising website be reported and received?

A: No funds received thus far from Givarly, which will distribute Clinton's portion on a quarterly basis. Cheque from Givarly should be made to Clinton School Council.

Question from floor re: Estimate of Council funds for Schoolyard Revitalization project. Do we need to report the estimated \$10,000 we told the TDSB we could have to support the Schoolyard Revitalization in 2019 as a future liability?

A: No – estimate was provided only as guidance to the TDSB on approximately how much money the parent community may contribute, to allow TDSB staff to better scope the project and additional options. Council has not committed the funds, only provided an estimate of what could be made available in the future should sufficient fundraising occur and the community decides to commit funds to that project.

Question from Floor: When will Schoolyard work begin?

A: Fall of 2019 appears to be the projected start date for construction at this time.

Other Items from Floor:

Books Celebrating Gender Diversity

Books with they/them characters

Bergman, S. Bear. *Is That For a Boy or A Girl?* 2015. Poems that celebrate different children & things they like.

Gilori, Debbi. *No Matter What*. 1999. About love between a caregiver and child (both shown as foxes). Neither the caregiver or child are gendered.

Parker, George. *Bell's Knock-Knock Birthday*. 2017. Friends arrive at Bell's birthday party with different foods and gifts for Bell. It's a counting book.

Books that explain

Brook Pessin-Whedbee. *Who Are You?: The Kid's Guide to Gender Identity*. 2016. A great and clear introduction to gender diversity and celebrating who you are for children.

Silverberg, Cory. *What Makes A Baby*. 2013. About reproduction, using terms "people with sperm, people with eggs & people with uterus".

Silverberg, Cory. *Sex is A Funny Word*. 2015. This is a follow-up for What Makes a Baby. It follows a group of young people navigating puberty and is engaging, warm and gender expansive.

hill, mel reiff and jay maya. *The Gender Book*. 2014. Good for middle school grades and adults this is gender diversity 101.

skelton, j wallace. *Transphobia: Deal With it and be a Gender Transcender*. For middle grades, quizzes and tips on how to support gender diversity, with a focus on what young people can do.

Current pizza day coordinators – Parents SS and JK, will not be available to run the pizza day program in 2018-2019. Council must prioritize finding volunteers for this project.

Parent SS recommends tabling the "Adopt a Brick" type program to help raise funds for the Schoolyard project. Parents/students could sponsor a brick with their name or a symbol on it; could form part of the schoolyard or as a separate integrated art project. Suggestion has been previously raised with TDSB staff and will be tabled at next Schoolyard revitalization meeting for confirmation.

Parents/Administration suggest that applications for grants to green up (i.e TD Friends of the Environment, etc.) school yard will be helpful in securing additional money to support the Schoolyard project. TK to investigate and report on some options in 2018-2019 – will require parent volunteers to coordinate.

5. Co-Chair Report – TK

TK delivers a brief co-chair report prior to the TDSB special presentation.

Reminder – Clinton Rocks! Concert on May 31, 2018. Volunteers and food contributions for potluck are needed. Parents NM and JK are coordinating potluck. Tickets are selling well.

Wednesday, June 20, 2018 will be the next Clinton School Council meeting – the final of the year. Final cash flow will be discussed. Dates for 2018-2019 major events – Fall Fair, Parent Social, etc. – will be proposed and tentatively set at this meeting. Social time at the Hogtown pub will follow this meeting.

Spring BBQ – will be held on Thursday, June 14.

Artsmart has located an Art room/Program coordinator for next year. Local artist with teaching qualifications. Parent volunteers for Artsmart program/board are requested.

6. Schoolyard Revitalization Update

Next meeting with TDSB will be held June 6, 2018. Good news – TDSB has committed to a whole new space for Kindergartens at the front of school – will be a fenced in naturalized area surrounding/near the existing butterfly garden. Drawings are now up on the Clinton School Council website.

7. Guest Speaker – JS, TDSB Gender-Based Violence Prevention Office.

Clinton School Council welcomes J Skelton, and student equity advisor from the TDSB Gender-Based Violence Prevention Office to present on student equity programs operated by the Board and provide education on gender equity to parents.

The Gender-Based Violence Prevention Office (GBVP) works to promote healthy relationships and safe environments for all students, staff, and community members in schools. The Office implements the Safe and Positive Spaces program along with other programs to support positive school climates that are safe and accepting.

J Skelton will provide links to resources, videos, etc for parents and staff to explore on their own time. Information will be posted on the Clinton School Council Website.

A summary of the presentation given is provided below. Parents, students, or community members are encouraged to contact the GBVP and review their website for more information as desired.

- TDSB equity policies are based on the Ontario Human Rights Code, which includes protection from discrimination based on gender, gender identity and or gender expression
- GBVP staff work with teaching staff, administration, support staff and students from K-12
- Focus of the GBVP is to create a positive climate in each school that supports all gender expression. GBVP office also delivers Pride support programs (June is Pride month).
- Consideration is given to the protection of the needs of minority groups who may be most effected by policies or programs
- TDSB guidelines and policies and programs around student equity are available for review online
- All staff at Clinton have received some training from GBVP staff – one full day of training for teachers delivered over two sessions. Teachers are encouraged to consider how classroom environment welcomes all students equally. Examples are given around language – Teachers are encouraged to greet students using gender neutral terms that do not divide or define groups – ex. 'learners'; 'friends'; 'students'; 'Room 101', etc.

Question and Answers / Discussion were incorporated into the presentation format. A summary of these discussions is included below:

- What training is provided to teachers/staff and what ongoing resources exist to support them? A: GBVP office staff are always available as a resource or support; can be contacted by staff, parents, students, etc. GBVP staff will provide a list of resources are required.
- What actions are staff taking at Clinton JPS?
A: Staff are reviewing existing resources and identifying where gender neutral resources and books are required. School librarian/staff have autonomy on what resources are stocked in the library. J Skelton can provide some guidance on local booksellers who specialize in gender neutral or equity literature which could supplement the existing Clinton library. Examples of local booksellers who carry good material (i.e. A Different Booklist) are discussed. A gender neutral 'book month' is suggested.
- How do Clinton JPS staff address gender based discrimination or bullying on the playground? A: Staff and teachers are expected to address exclusion of any kind when it is observed. Literature and research indicates that community must address specific stereotypes or issues and not accept as a natural or organic delineation.
- How do boys and girls sports teams, as an example, align with TDSB policies on gender equity?
A: Human Rights Code says that groups who have been historically disadvantaged should be able to organize groups/clubs for themselves. Gender Neutral/Unisex clubs and teams –especially intramural – are not encouraged and in place in many schools. There should be leagues or teams available for any student to participate in. Many secondary schools are implementing phys ed classes that are not gender-based, as an example.
- At Clinton PS, how many students should we expect to be struggle with or question their gender identity?
Research on proportion of population and the relative expression of gender identity indicates that between 0.2% - 50% of people question the gender stereotypes they are expected to conform to. Little research has been conducted on younger age groups. Difficult to give an exact number, but is important to remember that we do have students at Clinton JPS who do not necessarily identify with traditional gender roles.
- Does Clinton JPS have a gender neutral bathroom? What is the policy at Clinton JPS for gendered bathroom use?
A: Students at Clinton JPS are encouraged to use the bathroom of the gender with which they identify. Larger discussion around gender neutral bathrooms and the logistics of implementation follows. Several local schools have implemented gender neutral bathrooms. Can be accomplished by converting an existing staff washroom or renovating an existing gendered (boys/girls) washroom. Conversion does require consideration to existing TDSB facility safety rules – i.e. locks on doors, windows to ensure visibility, floor to ceiling stall dividers, etc. all are required to ensure the washroom is

appropriately designed to be a safe space for all. Discussion around a gender neutral washroom at Clinton will be tabled in 2018-2019. GBVP staff are available to support/consult on these discussions.

8. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 1955. The next Clinton JPS School Council meeting will occur on Wednesday, June 20, 2018 at 18:10 in the Art Room. Proposed dates for major events in 2018-2019 will be set at this meeting.