

**Clinton Street Junior Public School
DRAFT School Council Minutes**

Meeting Date	September 19, 2017	
Start/End Time	6:35 – 8pm	
Minutes Approved	October 24, 2017	
Attendees – Elected Members	DC (Co-chair) KJ (former Treasurer) SH (former Secretary) TK (Co-chair) JK (Treasurer) TM (Secretary) TE (Ward co-rep) DS (Ward co-rep)	
Attendees	MN DP WF TC KM HH MMcl PP KM ST LG NM SS FSZ AG EC	MH KF CL CW KJ EE LG PC SJS MP SL SSCHM AN
Attendees – Staff & Administration	SA (Principal) PR (Vice-Principal) KH (Teacher Representative)	

Upcoming Events and Meetings	
September 27, 2017	ArtSmart – Join this meeting to learn more about volunteering for the ArtSmart program.
September 28, 2017	BBQ and Curriculum Night – A chance to learn more about the curriculum and the learning expectations set out for your child’s class. BBQ starts at 5pm, before Curriculum Night begins.
October 4, 2017	“Parent Council 101” – A workshop for anyone interested in learning more about school council.

	Host - School Board Trustee, Ausma Malik. Register here: bit.ly/schoolcouncils101
October 28, 2017	Fall Fair – A school-led community event for the entire family.
October 19, 2017 November 22, 2017 December 11, 2017 January 23, 2018 February 22, 2018 March 22, 2018 April 25, 2018 May 22, 2018 June 2018 - TBD	Future School Council Meetings – Come to school council meetings to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improve the education experience of our school's kids - provide input and enhance school system accountability - learn more about what's going on
Action Items	
Circulate wish list to parents	Lead: Unclaimed

1. Greetings & Introduction

DC, returning co-chair, welcomed the group. He noted the large turnout and explained that past meetings have seen a turnout of 6, sometimes 10 parents.

2. Principal's Report

Principal Sonia Antunes welcomed parents and thanked them for their attendance. She encouraged parents become involved in school council. She explained that vice-principal Peter Rewega was providing assistance with communications to parents. Principal Antunes intends to send out a monthly newsletter. She noted vice-principal Rewega's weekly emails.

She explained that the school year started off well. She remarked on the school's motto – Be kind. Be safe. Watch out for each other. – and explained that we were working together (teachers, parents, administrators) to further build this kind of community.

She described the "Maker's Cart," intended to leverage STEAM learning – science, technology, engineering, art, math. This initiative is just getting started, and will take some more time before it will be fully functional. Last year's parent social helped to fund the Maker's Cart.

Other details covered in her report:

- Teachers want to use outdoors as learning. Exploring how parents can help. Will connect with parents in the future.

Inquiry Based Learning

"Inquiry-based learning is a form of active learning that starts by posing questions, problems or scenarios—rather than simply presenting established facts or portraying a smooth path to knowledge. The process is often assisted by a facilitator."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inquiry-based_learning

Related resources

From the Ministry of Education:

http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacy/numeracy/inspire/research/CBS_InquiryBased.pdf

From the TDSB:

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/docs/A%20Vision%20for%20Learning%20in%20TDSB%20-%20FINAL%20January%202017.pdf>

- Departure of Mrs. Camos, welcome of Mr. Vivancos. Ms. Weger has been made permanent staff.
- School has been exploring “what is student inquiry.” Cross class learning (older students paired with younger), is an example of an inquiry-based learning initiative.
- School is unique, with 9 ISP programs.

3. What is school council?

Co-chair DC described the mandate of the student council. He explained its important fundraising role.

Student council meetings are open to everyone, and parents don’t have to be a member to attend.

4. Year in review

Co-chair DC described a number of parent council-led events which took place last year, including:

- The fall fair
- A movie day
- Bingo night
- Full year of pizza lunches
- Parent social

Funds raised from these activities were provided to:

- The library
- ArtSmart
- Phys Ed.

School Councils

“... their purpose is to improve student achievement and enhance the accountability of the education system to parents. School councils are now able to make recommendations to their principals and school boards² on any matter. Principals and school boards, in turn, must consult with school councils on a variety of matters that affect student learning. They must also consider recommendations made by school councils and report back to the councils on how they plan to act on their advice.”

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/council/council02.pdf>

5. Treasurer’s Report

Outgoing treasurer KJ described a successful fundraising year, with \$41,000 raised. After considering liabilities that were expected to carry over from the previous school year, the balance of remaining revenues was roughly \$7,000. These funds must be used to cover costs associated with upcoming events, fundraising and otherwise, such as the Fall Fair, and Curriculum Night BBQ.

The treasurer explained a number of line items, including past expenditures, liabilities, and anticipated expenditures. She explained that a small number of cheques were written, but had to be processed before they could be sent to the vendors. Cash amounts related to delivery person tips, and the costs of caring for the children of parents who attended parent council meetings.

Responding to a question from a parent, the co-chair explained the approximately \$6,000 surplus that occurred at the start of the 2016/17 school year. This surplus resulted from a combination of the possible cancellation of that year’s Fall Fair (which ended up proceeding) and fewer wish list costs.

The co-chair explained that the wish list was created by polling teachers about resources or supplies that would benefit student learning and/or the classroom experience that are not ordinarily funded by TDSB. The co-chair explained that it was not required for parent council to raise sufficient funds to cover the costs of each item on the list, and that if fundraising efforts were constrained, council could consider how to prioritize the needs.

Parents discussed circulation of the wish list which will happen later in the fall.

6. Nominations to Elected Positions on Parent Council

The members occupying the positions of Treasurer and Secretary resigned. Co-chair DC resigned on behalf of NC, Co-Chair who was unable to attend the meeting.

Open positions included: co-chair, treasurer, secretary, staff representative (usually a teacher), community representative (must be a non-parent and member of broader community), ward representative.

The co-chair discussed establishing these new positions: communications coordinator, fundraising lead and landscape project lead.

Parents discussed the nomination process, and it was determined that for each role, attendees would be polled for their interest. In order for an interested party to be considered an eligible candidate, they would require the support of two nominees. Each eligible candidate would be provided an opportunity to explain their suitability for the role.

Two parents expressed an interest in the role of co-chair, and were each supported by two nominators:

- TK (nominated by SJS, NM)
- SH (nominated by KJ, CW)

At the conclusion of a balloted vote, TK was elected to the role of co-chair.

Two parents expressed an interest in the role of treasurer, and were each supported by two nominees:

- KJ (nominated by TE, SH)
- JK (nominated by SS, NM)

At the conclusion of a balloted vote, JK was elected to the role of co-chair.

TM was acclaimed to the role of secretary.

DS and TE were acclaimed to roles of ward co-representatives.

7. Committee Involvement

Co-chair DC and principal Antunes described upcoming activities and other possible roles, and appealed for volunteers.

Pizza day requires a parent's participation from 11am (at least) to just after noon hour. Landscaping committee involves interesting, complex work. Current stage is to engage school, larger community and parents in a needs assessment and/or survey. Cannot engage TDSB further in the schoolyard improvement project until the school gathers more information about school's desired usage and community needs and desired usage.

Summary of roles and volunteers:

- Curriculum Night BBQ – filled by parent volunteers PP, MP, HMcl, J, G.
- Lead of Fundraising Committee – unfilled in the meeting
- Pizza Day Lead Volunteer – unfilled in the meeting
- Fall Fair Organizers – unfilled in the meeting
- Landscaping Committee – filled by two parent volunteers M & MH
- Communications Chair – filled by KM

8. ArtSmart

Anyone wishing to volunteer for the ArtSmart program should contact Annette Larsen. This is a special program that enhances art programming at Clinton JPS. It is funded separately from TDSB, relying on an endowment and parent fundraising efforts.

9. Closing Comments

In response to a parent's question, co-chair DC explained that parents can have items included on the agenda by emailing one of the co-chairs or by bringing the item forward at a meeting during the New Business portion of the agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 8pm.