

IPS School Council Meeting 2024 01 09

Today's follow up owned by

- Abi Wren
- Jason Applebaum
- Samira Zarghami
- Jen Yeung
- Jeff Kearns

Previous follow up owned by

- Abi Wren
- Jason Applebaum
- Samira Zarghami
- Jen Yeung

Meeting started 6:34 on Zoom

Attendees	Regrets
1. Abi Wren	1. Jason Applebaum
2. Jeff Kearns	2. Jennie Lai
3. Jen Yeung	3. Tracey Baker
4. Johnny Tkach	4. Teacher Rep
5. Karen Rothfels	
6. Kate Valiquette	
7. Lindsay Stephens	
8. Maria Khan	
9. Samira Zarghami	
10. Gary Pieters (Principal)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ari• Eleonora• Jen• Jenn• Judee• Kayoko• Sasha• Sean	

Agenda

1. Approve previous meeting minutes – Co-chair
2. Business arising from the minutes – Everyone
3. Four areas of focus for 2024 school year – various
 - a. Nutrition program/lunches - Samira
 - b. End of year celebration – Jeff, Events chair
 - c. Fundraising - Jen
 - d. Statement of needs - Co-chair
4. Access past funds/bank account and Foundation access – Abi
5. Treasurer's report – Treasurer
6. Principal's Report - Gary Pieters
7. Any other discussion points

Quorum

9 of 12 parent council members = 75% of council

Achieved: >50% members

The following Council members have submitted resignations: Bidisha De Sarkar, Kristine Burns, Pras Chatterjee and Natasha Boodoo.

Welcome - Samira

Motion to approve previous minutes

- Proposed: Samira, Abigail seconded
- Vote: all in favour, motion carried

Business arising from minutes

- **Jen, Abi, Samira** to create budget & list of activities - underway
- SIP: (is aspirational goals for student achievement & well-being); **Samira**
- SSON: (aspirational goals for school leadership); **Abi**
 - link these two together when gathering parent input
- To-do checklist: no new items this month
- By-laws work underway: **Jason, Abi, Lindsay**
- Communicate to parents re: police checks: **Samira & Abi**
- Grade 6 grad support: **Samira & Abi**

Nutrition/School Lunch program – Samira

- Proposing to move back lunch into the gym
- Kids are eating lunch in their classrooms with their teachers
- For lunch program kids...
 - 70 out of 200 kids use the lunch program
 - Food gets cold by the time it gets to the students because of the distance it needs to travel from the kitchen to the classrooms
 - Food is all in disposable containers – NOT Eco friendly which goes against our Eco-School status
 - Lots of waste of both food and containers
 - Can't get seconds when eating in classrooms but can in the gym
- Biggest pro is having G in the gym to supervise & to tell all kids (not just lunch program ones) to eat, focus, less chit-chat, clean up, etc.
- Lindsey – commented that the kids are eating in front of screens (movie/tv show) when eating in the classrooms – concerned

- Gary's response
 - When he came to the school (post covid) in 2020-21, this is how it was so he just kept it
 - Eating in classrooms was initiated during covid (2019-20)
 - Caretakers and staff don't want kids in the gym
 - Suggested that the kitchen just pack more food
 - Needs cooperation from everyone to make the change back into the gym
 - Takes opinions from everyone – kitchen/staff/caretakers
- Samira – would like to have the teachers at the meeting to offer their POV
- **MOTION – Request the school consider reinstating communal lunch seating in the gym.**
 - Proposed: Samira, Karen seconded
 - All in favour, **approved**

Access past funds/bank account and Foundation access – Abi

- Still no progress, will be contacting CRA again
- Waiting for Gary to review the letter that Abi sent in Dec which affirms the current Exec members of IPS School Council

End of year BBQ – Jeff

- Will ask for volunteers to join the committee when we send the minutes to the school community
- Strong support to hold the event on the island
- Looking for input for activities for the BBQ
- **MOTION – We will hold the End of year BBQ June 6 at the WIA (on Ward's Island)**
 - Proposed: Jeff, Kate seconded
 - All in favour, **approved**

Fundraising – Jen

- Currently only fundraiser running is the Spirit Wear
- Planning to run some fundraisers for Valentine's Day and/or Mother's Day
- Looking for volunteers and lots of support from school community
- Not mentioned in meeting – Fundscrip is also running. Families may support the school by purchasing gift cards from Fundscrip. A % of sales is paid to IPS School Council. To access, go to Fundscrip.com → "Support a group" at top right → Group code: 3G98XT

School statement of needs – Abi

- Sent out email to ask for input
- This is what TDSB would use to find a new principal for us
- Still looking for volunteers

Treasurer's Report – Jen

- Currently funds in the TDSB School Council account is the \$ for the purchase of the Spirit Wear – current balance not reported as Spirit Wear sales still ongoing. Will report next meeting.
- Community-raised (non-TDSB non-IPS SC) parent event funds at \$1,823.43 after \$45.13 in expenses for Holiday Hoopla (hot chocolate, marshmallows, candy canes)
- Jeff – where are the funds from parent run events held? Who has access?
 - Jen – currently acct held with Jason in a Tangerine no-fee HISA
 - Jeff – can we make this the official bank account in lieu of the Lighthouse Foundation account which we still do not have access to? Would we need to put the funds into the high fee Alterna acct that is offered by TDSB?
 - Jen – will look into it.

- Lindsay – How will we be paying for things that we are supporting? When will the funds be paid?
 - Jen – we will be paying on an as needs basis if items come up to be paid urgently.
 - Abi – normally at the end of the year we would figure out how much we have and then pay for what we can from that final amount.
- Kate – what is the current status of with the items we are fundraising for? Why are we no longer giving money to the classroom? Playground?
 - Jen – Gary has given each class \$500 at beginning of the year; the \$200 we had allocated did not feel needed. The playground is being funded for by TDSB. As these items have basically been funded, monies raised can be directed to other areas of need.
- Samira – everything is a priority but we don't have funds right now.
- Abi – suggested that we have a discussion in May when some fundraising has taken place and we have some funds to work with.
- Items on Council's fundraising list

Item	Proposed Budget
Classroom discretionary funds (\$200 per class)	\$1,800
Computers (30 computers @ \$500)	\$15,000.00
Playground enhancement	\$1,000.00
School experiences & community enrichment	\$3,000.00
Grade 6 graduation (added as separate line)	\$200.00
Parents' police check reimbursements (assume 20)	\$540.00
Holiday Hoopla - Dec 14	\$200.00 – actual \$38.16

Principal's Report – Gary Pieters

- Happy new year and welcome back!
- Would the community like to continue the Weekly Roundup? Consensus: Yes.
- Holiday Hoopla was “indescribable”
 - He's still processing the Talent Show
 - 40 (?) acts that happened
 - Would like to have a way for the parents who couldn't attend to be able to appreciate it as well. Will look into it
- Something for the Spring is in the works – will find out from the staff and share.
- Please check our School's Calendar as it is updated with all upcoming events.
 - <https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/island/Calendar>
- Report cards coming up and parent teacher interviews
 - Different from the progress report – report card will include marks unlike the progress
- Staffing – VERY short staffed right now
 - No staff admin – Cori on leave until further notice
 - Temp secretary is doing her very best, still providing support
 - In need of 3 or 4 travel safety staff – posting for position is also noted in the Weekly Roundup in case someone in our community is interested or knows someone – only 2 hours a day
 - One of our caretakers was promoted – John Phillips, promoted to head caretaker at another school, leaving end of month
- Grade 6 updates
 - Teacher (Ms. Carrie) left for personal reasons
 - Grade 6s will likely have a sub for at least 2 weeks
 - Gary is focused on finding a strong and suitable replacement.
 - Unless a very strong candidate is found before report cards are to be sent, Gary will likely do the report cards in conjunction with Carrie's notes. Carrie left very clear and detailed notes and marks.
 - Upcoming trip for grades 5/6 to Sheldon (outdoor education)

- Carrie also started a yearbook for the grade 6s. Will need to find a teacher to continue working on this with the students if the new grade 6 teacher is not able to work on it.
- Samira – Follow up on the grade 7 schools information
 - There's a website that created for the grade 6 families
 - <https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/island/Grade-7-Transition>

School Spirit Wear – Jen Yeung

- Still available until midnight Tue, Jan 9
- Order will be placed shortly after for late Jan, early Feb receipt

Motion to adjourn: Lindsay, Jeff seconded

Majority voted to end the meeting

Meeting ended 7:40pm

To do from previous meetings

1. **Abi & Samira** communicate with community re: writing letters re: playground revitalization
2. **Abi** work on SSON (see 2023 11 07 minutes for documents)
3. **Samira** work on SIP (see 2023 11 07 minutes for documents)
4. **Abi** send Gary specifics to resolve CRA concerns re: TLF access
5. **Jen, Abi, Samira** create fundraising plan
6. **Karen & Samira** determine ward forum nights and schedule into their or delegate's calendars
7. **Jason, Abi, Lindsay** work on by-laws
8. **Samira & Abi** get someone to coordinate with Mr. B & Miss Carrie for how school council can support grade 6 graduation celebrations/activities, and grade 5/6 annual fundraising for graduation trip

Resolved

9. **Jen** Spirit Wear
 - Order will be placed shortly
10. **Samira & Abi** coordinate communication to parents for how to do police checks & get reimbursement
 - Reimbursement request can be emailed to School Council (which email?) with receipt of payment.
 - Treasurer will forward to IPS for reimbursement to be drafted from IPS acct. (Note, item had been approved by Gary and therefore can be reimbursed from IPS acct)
11. **Jen** to follow up on funds spent on ice cream truck and determine 2021-2 donation items
 - Jen e-mail Dec 6, 2023, 7:08 AM Cori confirmed cheques made out from School Cash to The Lighthouse Foundation (TLF), then from TLF to ice cream truck provider so we don't have any information on who the funds went to without access to the bank account – ice cream truck service was never provided, was cost refunded/not paid?
12. **Samira** find out from Gary # of students (and %) that use hot lunch, find out nutritional aspects

Minutes written by: Jen (edits: Jason)

Minutes approved by: Abi, Samira