

IPS School Council Meeting 2024 03 05

Today's follow up owned by

- Samira Zarghami
- Jeff Kearns
- Jen Yeung
- Gary Pieters
- Michal Miller

Previous follow up owned by

- Abi Wren
- Samira Zarghami
- Lindsay Stephens
- Jason Applebaum
- Gary Pieters

| Attendees | Regrets |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. Jen Yeung | 9. Gary Pieters (Principal) |
| 2. Samira Zarghami | 10. Abi Wren |
| 3. Lindsay Stephens | 11. Tracey Baker |
| 4. Karen Rothfels | 12. Maria Khan |
| 5. Jeff Kearns | |
| 6. Jason Applebaum | |
| 7. Johnny Tkach | |
| 8. Jennie Lai | |
| • Kate Valiquette: resigned due to risk of TDSB staff/council conflict | |
| • Eric Hoang | |
| • Laura Flores Mendez | |
| • Judee Yarmolinski | |
| • Janet Fry | |
| • Michael Miller (Teacher gr 2/3) | |
| • Peggy Slegers (Teacher gr 1/2) | |

NOTE THIS IS AN UNOFFICIAL SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING DUE TO GARY PIETERS' ABSENCE

Agenda

- 1) Approve previous meeting minutes - Samira, Co-Chair
- 2) Business arising from the minutes - Everyone
- 3) 2024 areas of focus
 - a) Update Nutrition program/lunch - Samira, Co-chair
 - b) Update on End of year celebration - Jeff, Event Chair
 - c) Fundraising - Jen, Treasurer
- 4) Teacher's Report - IPS teacher
- 5) Principal's Report - Gary, Principal
- 6) Q & A (submitted by parents)
 - a) Update regarding Grade 6 staffing: has an offer of employment been given?
 - b) Travel Safety: have there been any hires? (plans for reaching necessary staffing before nice weather and busy ferry? Would reaching out to parents to volunteer be an option?
 - c) Library and special ed: Do students have access to library time and ESL support?
- 7) Any other discussion items?

Quorum

8 of 11 parent council members, > 50% of council, +5 parents, +2 teachers

Achieved: >50% members, >50% parents

Kate Valiquette has resigned in case her position on Council conflicts with her having worked part time at the school (TDSB employees cannot run for Council in a parent-occupied position).

Welcome – Samira, called to order 6:35pm

Motion to approve previous minutes

- Proposed: Samira, Seconded: Lindsay
- General vote in favour, no dissent, motion carried

Business arising from previous minutes

- **Lunch program**
 - Waiting for Gary to meet with staff, no response from Gary
 - Lunch in gym is Gary's decision, not staff decision
 - Do we do some days in the gym?
 - Have we asked the kids what they like?
 - Grades 1-6 get pre-boxed food
 - Kinders get a trolley of food & it's plated in the rooms
 - Kids need to own their food choices to develop good eating habits
 - Can other grades use this approach, too?
 - Gym has to be cleaned after lunch before gym usage, so lunch in gym cancels the gym period after lunch: custodians need time to put away tables, wash floor & it has to dry
 - So eating in gym = eating time has to be decreased, gym usage time is decreased
 - Michael sees in his class the same problems parents see with boxed lunch (kids don't like what they get so don't eat enough, don't like that things are touching, etc.) i.e. kids eat less than would be best since they can't control servings
 - Need to address this with Gary, he is decision maker
- **Year end celebration**
 - Planning underway

Treasurer's report - Jen

- Spirit wear arrived today!

Fundraising

- Michael will gather ideas from teachers
- Next staff meeting end March, will talk about lunch processes, fundraising goals.

Teacher's report

- Per union rules teachers can't report on anything about other teachers, is covered by Principal's report

Principal's report

- Gary not in attendance
- Questions for Gary submitted in advance by parents were...
 1. Update regarding Grade 6 staffing-has an offer of employment been given?
 2. Travel Safety- have there been any new hires? (plans for reaching necessary staffing before nice weather and busy ferry? Would reaching out to parents to volunteer be an option?
 3. Library and special-ed: Do students have access to library time and access to ESL support?
- SUBSEQUENT UPDATE: Samira asked Gary if he has anything to add to the minutes
 - No response from Gary on this
 - Said meeting should have been cancelled since he was absent
 - Gary said he couldn't connect, note at the start of the meeting Samira called & e-mailed Gary but Gary did not respond
- Peggy reminder to everyone re: staffing context: school is under-staffed, so without sufficient staff programs have to be collapsed, Gary attempts to not always collapse Lana's class
- Gary can't disclose much (possibly any, really) info to parents re: teacher departures & hiring
- As much as we are finding out with little/no notice, we might still be finding out as soon as possible
- When people are away, it's for a good reason, if staff are not being covered it's not their fault, it's because the TDSB is understaffed & unable to cover staff who are off
- When staff or admin is away the TDSB knows and provides coverage as able
- Eric asked about Gary's turnaround time to resolve issues, asking Gary to estimate/commit to turnaround times, why is it taking 3-4 months to e.g. make a decision on moving lunch back in the gym?

Meeting ended 7:45pm

To do

1. **Michael** – gather input from teachers re: lunch back in the gym & trolleys
2. **Samira** – ask Gary for his update to include in notes
3. **Gary** – provide written Principal's report for inclusion into notes

To do from previous meetings

4. **Gary** - send guidelines on how to make annual end of year celebration a school event again
5. **Gary** – get back to School Council re: move back to communal lunch in the gym
6. **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
 - SUBSEQUENT UPDATE: Miss Carrie now on leave, ask Gary who is leading these events so School Council can determine how to support
7. **Jason, Abi, Lindsay** work on by-laws

Minutes written by: Jennie Lai & Jason Applebaum (edits: Samira Zarghami)

Minutes approved by: Abi, Samira