

**ADRIENNE CLARKSON PUBLIC SCHOOL  
68 QUEENS COLLEGE DRIVE, RICHMOND HILL, ON**

**MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 2019**

**Attendees**

Shelley Harpur, Matthew Cutler, Jenny Zeng, Linda Lin, Jolyn Commisso, Manisha Gandhi, Trisha Choi, Pedram Mahadian, Ying Tomaso, Nika Daei, Myra Chow, Mojgan Nemati, Dana Turculet, Anita Yu, Rachael Abikzir, Jennifer Fang, Helen Bullingham, Ana Berenstein, Janine Moore, Mel Cheng, Salwa Steiteh, Svetlana Tsiunel, Mehry Khanicheh, Linda Gao, Aroon Baksh, Jane Park, Victoria Kim, Nadia Russiello (Principal), Ruth Walker-Rosewood (Vice Principal).

Regrets: Tony Thornton (Teacher Representative).

**Opening Comments (Nadia)**

- As this is the first meeting of the year, the meeting will be chaired primarily by Nadia.
- Nadia and Ruth are looking forward to their second year as Administrators at ACPS, building on the work started last year.
- They see their position as a partnership with families. Parent council voices are important in that partnership; all voices are appreciated, regardless of how frequently they can attend meetings.
- The role of Council is to act as an advisory role, and to act as the voice of the community, of parents, and of the students.
- The goal of Council must be to support all students, not to pursue individual agendas. Individual teachers and situations are not a topic for discussion – if you have a concern of this type, please bring it to the Administration at another time.
- Council must have a ‘whole school’ focus.
- Attendees participated in an icebreaker activity to get to know one another – sharing a little information about ourselves.

**Conclusion of 2018-2019 Business (Nika/Myra)**

- Approval of the June 2019 minutes was motioned by Dana Turculet and seconded by Linda Lin.

**Treasurer’s Report (Matthew Cutler)**

- Due to work-to-rule situation, we will not have a detailed analysis.
- At the end of last year, we had a \$3,000 carryover, and \$10,000 in the account.
- There is a need for additional sports equipment and painting in the playground, which may be a suitable project for the additional funds.
  - This is subject to Board and plant considerations
- \$4,500 has already been approved from the previous council to be used for JungleSports
  - JungleSports has been booked for the week of March 30<sup>th</sup> – all students will have 2 periods of JungleSports during the week, during their usual gym period.
- Approximately \$5,500 remaining to be used by the incoming Council.

### Pizza update (Aroon Baksh)

- Pizza starts on Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>
- Orders are approximately 5% less than last year
- Need volunteers for Friday – 4-5 volunteers would help to get things started over the first weeks.
- Due to work-to-rule, pizza bags cannot stay in the school and must be returned to Little Caesars by the next morning
  - Shelley volunteered to return the pizza bags if needed
- Assuming that there is no strike, Lunch Box Orders starts on Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Election of 2019-2020 Council (Nadia)

- Nominations were held to elect the new Council, led by Nadia.
  - Nika Daei and Myra Chow will continue as the acclaimed Co-Chairs.
  - Jolyn Commisso and Manisha Gandhi will share the Secretary position
  - Helen Bullingham and Svetlana Tziunel will share the Treasurer position.
  - Mehry Khanicheh has taken on the Programs Coordinator position
  - Mojgan Nemati and Shelley Harpur will share the Communications Coordinator position
  - Pedram Mahadian, Aroon Baksh and Dana Turculet, along with Ying Tomaso, will return as Fundraising, Pizza and BBQ Coordinators.
- The meeting dates for the year were decided upon –
  - Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019
  - Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020
  - Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020
  - Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020
  - Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020
  - Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020
  - There will be no meetings held in December 2019 and March 2020.
- A motion to change the start time of meetings was initiated by Manisha Gandhi, and carried by the majority.
  - Meetings will start at 6:30pm and end at 8pm going forward.

### Principal's Report (Nadia Russiello)

- There has been a smooth start to the year, and a good transition for the Grade 2 students into the ACPS community
  - The orientation in June helped with lowering anxiety
- Welcome assembly and 'Safe and Caring Schools' assemblies were held
  - Information was shared in the ACPS Connections newsletter
- Bus Safety assembly was held on September 26<sup>th</sup>
- A Fire Drill and Lock and Secure Drill were held in September
- The Grade 2 Meet and Greet evening was held on September 12<sup>th</sup>
  - Over 50 families attended, along with many of the parent Council members
  - Really good connections were made with parents, and it was a successful evening
- The Milk program has started
- ACPS will no longer be sending the calendar in the email newsletter blast; it will be on the website as a live calendar

- The calendar can be viewed by clicking on 'See full calendar' on the right hand sidebar on the ACPS webpage.
- There will be a PA Day on October 21<sup>st</sup>
  - Elections will be held on that date in the gym
- School Spiritwear is available for sale – a box of sample sizes are available to view in the office.
- Great feedback was received on the new 'Meet the Teacher night' structure and Transitions Evening – both events that came out of the data and input received at the Coffee Chat last year.
- Next year's information for the Transitions program will be more robust as to all the programs available.
- Enrolment is currently 565 students – down approximately 30 students from projected numbers last meeting.
  - No classroom re-organization was needed
- We have some new staff members –
  - Jennifer Segal (sp?) and Alanna Briggs are new teacher hires
  - Deandra Brown is returning as an LTO to cover a Grade 2 class
  - Karen Gaston has taken on the Head Secretary position, and Devon Bailey will be working in the office part-time, on Tuesday, Thursday, and alternate Fridays.
- The building has been assessed and approved for A/C retrofitting in the library, gym, and office.
  - No start date has been determined as yet.
- Technology update – this has been augmented over 3x what was existing before the 2018-2019 school year, between cost sharing and school purchases
  - There are currently over 100 Chromebooks in the school, up from 40.
  - Mobile Tech Tubs hold 10/20 at a time, and can be signed out by teachers.
  - The library has 20 Chromebooks for student use
  - Every classroom has 4 Chromebooks available at all times
- Cost-sharing is usually up to \$12,500 – half of that comes from the school and the Board matches it up to \$6,250, depending on student numbers.
- Bring Your Own Device policy – this is at the teacher's discretion
  - When devices are used for educational purposes, parents need to sign a note that the child is responsible for the device and the school is not liable for damage etc.
  - Students are not allowed to have devices out at lunchtime, unless supervised by teachers
  - Unauthorized use will result in confiscation for the day
  - A Board-wide policy will come out in November which supports the current ACPS policy.
  - Students are aware of the school policy
  - Augmenting school technology with students' own devices helps ensure that all students have access to technology when needed
- A question about how the school decides what to purchase was raised
  - All spending of funds is Nadia's decision
  - The proposed budget allows for large categories within the school council funds
  - Nadia decides within those categories
  - There are certain things that council cannot purchase, such as educational necessities
- Update on the Playground
  - Plant services is currently fixing problems
  - The current playscape was built in 2004, and has a projected 20-year lifespan.
  - A new structure will cost approximately \$100,000
    - This may be a capital project that we need to start saving for
    - Large amounts of money can be carried over when designated for a specific purpose

- A fluff-up of the existing playscape fill was done to decompress the gravel; any gravel that has fallen out of the pit cannot be replaced as it is considered contaminated. This is monitored for health and safety reasons.
- EQAO results are in
  - Grade 3 math performance rose from 67% meeting the Level 3+ standard last year, to 75% meeting it this year (3 students did not write the test). The Board percentage was 69% and the Provincial percentage was 58%.
  - Grade 3 students only write the math portion of the test, in French – English writing and reading are tested in Grade 6.
  - Grade 6 students performed very well
    - In Math, the school percentage rose from 80% to 90%, while Reading and Writing percentages fell from 97% to 95% and 94% respectively.
    - The Board percentages for Math, Reading and Writing were 64%, 87% and 89%, while the Provincial results were 48%, 81% and 82%, respectively.
  - The full report can be seen here: <http://tiny.cc/ACPS-EQAO>

### **Teacher Report (Nadia, on behalf of Tony Thornton)**

- School Clubs and Sports teams are up and running:
  - Boys intermediate volleyball led by Mr. Mizrahi
  - Girls intermediate volleyball led by Mr. Bradford
  - Terry Fox run has been postponed until Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Eco team being led by Mme. Scardina and Mme. Demacio
  - Technology Team being led by Mr. Mulligan
  - Cross Country being led by Mme. Yong and Mr. Gourley
  - Collab-Arts program being run by Mr Dias and Mme Gladman
    - This is a joint program for Grades 2 and 5
  - Handbells music group for Grades 4 and 5 being led by Mme. Malarczyk
  - Nutrition program has started
- No choir program has been decided on this year; Mme. Malarczyk ran one last year for Grade 6-8 students
- Mme. Malarczyk is teaching music to Grade 4 and 5 students this year; Mr Pang has one Grade 5/6 split class, and all Grade 6-8 classes.
- Grade 3 students do not have an instrumental music program; they focus on vocals and learning to read music. Instruments start in Grade 4.

### **Constitution (Nadia)**

- The Constitution was updated by Nadia to reflect discussions held at the previous Council meeting,
- The new Co-Chairs will sign the Constitution at an upcoming Executive meeting
- We will no longer have voting members at large – we currently have 12 voting members (including 1 vote for the Teacher representative).

### **Principal Profile (Nadia)**

- The Principal Profile for our school needs to be submitted in November

- Draft copies were distributed for review and any edits should be sent to Myra and Nika for inclusion by the November meeting.

**Next meeting to be held on Monday, November 4th at 6:30pm.**