



Franklin Street PS School Council Minutes
Wednesday, October 23, 2024

Attendance

Present	Lisaan Mohammed Samantha (Sam) Smith Seetha Sriharan Kathleen Homiak Rachel Kavanagh Sarah Kennedy Stephanie Kida John Hyland Matt Homiak Brenda Mehta Iuliana Rotundu (Staff Representative) Gail Koidis (Staff Representative) Carolyn Brndiar (Principal)
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Opening: The second, full meeting of the 2024-2025 Franklin Street PS School Council was called to order at **6:30pm on October 23, 2024** by 2023-24 chairperson Lisaan Mohammed in the FSPS library.

Agenda

Agenda Item: Land Acknowledgment

Presenter: Samantha Smith

Agenda Item: Administrators' Report
Discussion:

Presenters: Carolyn Brndiar

- Cross Country
 - 7 pennants won so far, 15 students are heading to regionals
 - It was raised that it would be good to have more information about the event ahead of time (e.g. times of practices, whether it is a tryout or a practice, so students know what to expect, what to wear, etc.)
 - Carolyn will aim to put the cross-country information in the News from the Nest, which goes out weekly and will ask if coaches can provide a schedule of practices and try outs to the relevant students ahead of time
 - It was also noted that there will soon be a TV in the school foyer which will be used to advertise announcements.
- Volleyball
 - Intermediate volleyball is up and running
 - Junior girls' volleyball has started with a huge amount of interest. Mr McLean currently working on picking the team
- Several school clubs have or are starting up:
 - Fusion Dance Group (Grades 4 to 8, currently Wednesdays and lunch but may be moved)
 - Chess Club (currently Wednesdays at lunch)
 - Battle of the Books (French and English, currently Tuesday at lunch)
 - Club Q (currently focusing on mental health)
 - Dungeons and Dragons – more info to come
 - Girls Club – more info to come
 - Band
- Bookfairs
 - One book fair has been held so far, in English. Another one in French will be held (date to be determined)
- Food Drive
 - Running from October 22 – November 8
 - Students have already started bringing food in
 - School Council currently collecting boxes for the classrooms, and aims to deliver them the week of 29 October
- Pizza Workshop
 - Pizza Nova came to the school over two days to offer pizza workshops to students in Kindergarten to Grade 3
 - Students made pizza dough and were given a free slice of pizza at the end!
- Library Refresh
 - The FSPS library is getting a make-over, with new zoning, new flooring and comfy seating.

- The aim is to make students feel comfortable in the library
- Schoolhouse furniture developed the design, School Council will purchase the important items now
- EQAO
 - Each year, students in Grade 3 and Grade 6 are tested in the areas of reading, writing and mathematics, with the aim to have most students scoring in Levels 3 and 4.
 - Last year, 24 students participated in the Grade 3 testing, with the following results: Reading (most students were Level 2 or 3), Writing (50% Level 2, 50% Level 3), Math (mostly Level 2). It is recognised some work needs to be done to bring the students up to the expected level.
 - Grade 6s on the other hand, did well, with the following results: Reading (94% of students reached Level 3 or Level 4), Writing (98% are Level 3 or Level 4), Math (86% in Level 3 or Level 4).
- Lice
 - Lice was found in students between Kindergarten to Grade 4, however the older grades were not checked
 - Please see email sent out by FSPS for more information
- School Council positions
 - The following positions were decided at the meeting:
 - Chairperson: Lisan Mohammed
 - Co-Secretaries: Sarah Kennedy and Samantha Smith
 - Co-Communications: Seetha Sriharan and Kathleen Homiak
 - Treasurer: Gail Kiodis (staff)
- A note on permits: FSPS has a permit to be open and run evening events on *Wednesdays*, this is why most school events are scheduled on *Wednesdays*

Agenda Item: Treasurer's Report

Presenters: Gail Kiodis

Discussion:

- School Council Opening Balance at the start of the school year: approx. \$8850
- Amount in Angel Fund: \$1000
- Money raised this school year to date:
 - Movie night: \$340
 - Mabel's' Labels: \$130
 - Pizza sales: \$9,800
 - Pasta lunch: ~\$3000 (expected)
 - Fresh from the Farm: ~\$500 profit
- The following expenditures were agreed at the meeting:
 - \$5000 for library refresh

- \$2200 for agendas provided to students
 - \$100 for new dishes for staff room
 - School Council investigating holding a silent auction at the next movie night (for sports groups, camps, etc) as a fundraiser
 - There was a suggestion to have donations available on School Cash Online – note this is always an option. Suggestion was made to add it as an option/reminder within the fundraisers.
 - Action: Lisaan to look into Flipgive – where a certain percentage of a gift card purchase go back to the school
 - Action: Sam to look into and cost out staff lounge refresh (for Sept 2025)
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Agenda Item: Initiatives for Schoolyard and Fence

Presenter: Samantha Smith

Discussion:

- Sam has reached out to a school in Durham regarding the logistics of creating artwork similar to what they have on their fence: each student uniquely painted an aluminium (safe to touch) fish, which was then attached to the school fence, creating a swimming “school of fish” as a reminder to all the students that they inhabit the space together, and are unique yet all connected
- The idea is to add beauty to the schoolyard and also bring a sense of harmony and unity to the students
- The ‘fish fence’ is part of a larger initiative that involves students raising salmon eggs in the classroom and then releasing salmon into a local river, with an aim to restore salmon populations, along with the following goals:
 - Engage students in a large-scale, historic restoration effort
 - Deliver messages on habitat, ecology, stewardship, and biodiversity using Atlantic Salmon as a tangible example of those concepts
 - Foster a sense of ownership and stewardship towards an environment that now has “their” fish
 - Achieve a broader public awareness for the Lake Ontario Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program as the students take their experiences with the classroom hatcheries back to their families and communities
- Iuliana Rotundu, Sarah Kennedy, Sam Smith indicated they could help with the initiative
- Action: Sam to obtain updated pricing and schedule from all entities involved

Agenda Item: Active School Safety

Presenter: Samantha Smith/Carolyn Brndiar

Discussion:

- FSPS will begin “Walking Wednesdays” in November, encouraging families to walk or bike one day a week, or park a few minutes away from the school to ease congestion and get some exercise
 - Keep an eye out for a survey for families about traffic in Markham
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Agenda Item: School Lunches

Presenter: Lisaan Mohammed

Discussion:

- Current lunch options include pizza (Mondays), Lunch Lady (Wednesdays) and Pasta (Fridays)
 - Carolyn investigated another lunch option from a local Japanese restaurant. Their plan is a 6-week plan, with different meals each week. Families would be unable to choose which meals their children received. It was questioned whether this might result in students not eating a meal they didn't like (and visits to the office and wasted food). It was agreed not to progress with this venue for now.
 - Action: Lisaan to investigate sub vendor options
 - Action (from last meeting): Carolyn to look into a more transparent way for families to access help as well as for families to donate lunches to students in need
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Agenda Item: Upcoming Events

Presenter: Lisaan Mohammed

Discussion:

- Remembrance Day – November 11th
 - Stick on poppies will be available for Kindergarten to grade 6
 - Poppies with pins will be available for Grades 7 & 8
- Parent-Teacher Night – November 14th and 15th
 - Appointments with your child's teacher(s) will need to be booked through Edsby
 - School is working with families to ensure they have Edsby accounts
- FPSP Spiritwear to be launched next week
- Poinsettia fundraiser to be launched next week (poinsettias arriving in December)
- Winter Concert date - to be determined
- The next Family Movie Night will be held in February or March 2025, to be held in conjunction with an auction for summer camp donations (Council

noticed that although we had many local camps donate weeks to the Fête in June, they were not bid on, as families tend to sort out their summer plans much earlier in the year)

- Food Drives: Last school year we ran two drives, one in the fall around the end of October (Fall Food Drive) and one during the Fête - Council agreed to repeat these two drives, with donations going to families in need at FSPS as well as to the Markham Food Bank
- Franklin Fête: Date set for Wednesday June 4, 2025 (*note change from last minutes*)
 - Sam to book new ice cream vendor and same DJ
 - Lisaan to book same food vendor
 - Lisaan to reach out to city for permit
 - Note: FSPS already has a permit for Wednesday nights

Additional notes:

- School Council has already replenished the “Angel Fund”, which helps to make optional school expenses possible for all families
 - Markham Unionville Minor Basketball Association is offering coaching for the top Grades 7 and 8s.
 - Meeting dates below sent to school board
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Meeting Adjourned: 7:55pm

Next General School Council meeting: Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 6:30-7:30pm

Upcoming meeting dates:

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Noteworthy dates:

Parent-Teacher Night: Nov 14 and 15, 2024

Franklin Fête: Wednesday, June 4, 2025