



**Franklin Street PS School Council Minutes**  
**Wednesday, September 11, 2024**

---

**Attendance**

Present	Lisaan Mohammed Samantha (Sam) Smith Seetha Sriharan Kathleen Homiak Rachel Kavanagh Sarah Kennedy Stephanie Kida John Hyland Matt Homiak Iuliana Rotundu (Staff Representative) Andrea Kitchen (Staff Representative) Keri DeClute (Vice-Principal) Carolyn Brndiar (Principal)
---------	--

Opening: The first, full meeting of the 2024-2025 Franklin Street PS School Council was called to order at **6:30pm on Sept 11th, 2024** by 2023-24 chairperson Lisaan Mohammed in the FSPS library.

**Agenda**

---

**Agenda Item:** Land Acknowledgment

**Presenter:** Samantha Smith

---

**Agenda Item:** Administrators' Report

**Presenters:** Carolyn Brndiar

**Discussion:**

- Welcome to Keri DeClute, our new half-time Vice Principal, sharing duties with Reesor Park PS
- FSPS also has a new secretary: Lily Li - please stop by and introduce yourself!
- The student population is at 484 and extra-curricular activities are back up and running: Volleyball, Student Leadership, Cross-country, and more to come!
- Curriculum night is set for Wednesday, October 9th, 6:30-7:30pm
  - This year it will be run as an open house, with no set presentation times
  - Families will be encouraged to visit classrooms and meet teachers at their leisure
  - Trying to bring in an element of community engagement and wellness with

(possible) representatives from MPL, the City of Markham, the Markham Museum, Emergency Services, etc

- Spirit Wear samples will be out for browsing, with orders to follow
  - Lisaan and Sarah to look into nut-free food truck options other than funnel cakes for cooler weather: fries, Beavertails, coffee, etc
  - Kathleen to follow up with Emergency Services for an ambulance closer to the date
  - School Council positions
    - Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer (Gail Kiodis has kindly offered to take on this role), Communications, Marketing (?), Community member, voting members, staff representatives
    - Many families are yet to complete the School Start-up forms, which contain the School Council nomination forms, so we will create the 2024-25 School Council at our next meeting: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 (complete list of this year's meetings can be found below)
  - 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:** 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 a metallic (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
  - Sam is meeting with the school Sept 25 to find out more
  - One possibility for Franklin would be to make birds instead of fish, symbolizing Franklin Falcons
  - Staff have also been making plans to add Loose Parts Play (LPP) to the schoolyard (tires, pots and pans as instruments, milk crates, tubes) as well as outdoor stories
  - Consensus is that there is room for both ideas and they do not compete, as one is for visual improvement and an initiative to help build school unity and the other for Outdoor Play and Learning (possible to explore O.P.A.L. certified schools and resources?)
- 

**Agenda Item:** Active School Safety

**Presenter:** Samantha Smith

**Discussion:**

- Putting forward the YRDSB initiative to begin "Walking Wednesdays" at FSPS in an effort to reduce traffic congestion around the school, encourage an active lifestyle, and increase social interactions with the school community
- There are a few different levels of involvement - Keri will contact Rena at the Board to investigate the best way to move forward

- Consensus is that we could begin simply with “Walking Wednesdays”, 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
- Carolyn: traffic management around the school could always be better, as we have limited space and narrow sidewalks
- Sam to write an introduction to community to kick it off
- Sam also has a bike she would like to donate to a child who could use it, or perhaps as a prize for the Active School Safety program

---

**Agenda Item:** School Lunches

**Presenter:** Lisaan Mohammed

**Discussion:**

- Student lunches for purchase are available: Monday and Wednesday (and soon Friday)
- School Council has launched the first session of pizza lunches, beginning Monday, Sept 16th, with parent volunteers lined up for the first 12 Mondays
- Lunch Lady has started up again on Wednesdays
- Pasta will be running again soon on Fridays
- Gail looking into the possibility of one more option such as subs or other
- 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

---

**Agenda Item:** Upcoming Events

**Presenter:** Lisaan Mohammed

**Discussion:**

- Family Movie Night is returning September 25th at the school with one movie for all students playing in the gym (sound has been sorted out)
- A second (third for the movie licence) movie night will be scheduled in February or March, to be held in conjunction with an auction for summer camp donations (Council noticed that although we had many local camps donate weeks to to the Fête in June, they were not bid on, as families 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 (Scare Away Hunger) 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
- Sarah to contact the food bank to get an updated list of their most-needed items and create posters for the school
- Fresh from the Farm fundraiser: Kathleen and Gail have been organizing and this will run in Sept/Oct - families can purchase seasonal vegetables in bulk, with a percentage of the sales coming back to the school. This will replace the Krispy Kreme fundraiser

- Terry Fox Run for FSPS will be held on Wednesday, Sept 25th
- Looking into Poinsettias coming back as a fundraiser this year - Gail is exploring
- Exploring a guest speaker or an ongoing program in the first quarter - Carolyn to look into possibilities and send ideas
- Franklin Fête: Date set for Thursday, June 5, 2025
  - Sam to book new ice cream vendor and same DJ
  - Lisaan to book same food vendor again, as feedback was that they were excellent
  - Lisaan to reach out to city for permit
  - Gail to obtain school permit

Additional notes:

- Backpacks: 10 backpacks were created for FSPS students with incredible generosity from the school community
- School Council has already replenished the "Angel Fund", which helps to make optional school expenses possible for all families
- Opening balance of School Council account sits at \$8,599
- Administration is to provide itemized wish list to School Council at next meeting
- Seetha to send QR codes for social media and family WhatsApp chat to admin in order to send out to families in newsletter, as well as a reminder about joining School Council
- Meeting dates below to be sent to school board

---

Meeting Adjourned: 7:30pm

*Next General School Council meeting: Wednesday, October 23, 2024, 6:30-7:30pm*

Upcoming meeting dates:

Wednesday, October 23, 2024  
 Wednesday, January 15, 2025  
 Wednesday, March 5, 2025  
 Wednesday, May 14, 2025  
 Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Noteworthy dates:

Movie Night: Wednesday, September 25, 2024  
 Curriculum Night: Wednesday, October 9, 2024  
 Franklin Fête: Thursday, June 5, 2025