

OAK RIDGES SCHOOL COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes – Monday, May 1st, 2023

In Attendance: Amanda Kelly, Sharyn Cardone, Arthur Au-Yeung, Terry Weatherill, Gayle Grossman-Bly, Karen Donait, Natasha Dawood-Greco, Sharyn Cardone, Lotus Ning, Andrea Bean, Samira Gilani

denotes voting members as identified at this evening’s meeting

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Principal Grossman-Bly welcomed all, welcome slide presented.
- Terry Weatherill was introduced as interim Vice Principal until Terry McElrea returns. Both are supporting Oak Ridges for the remainder of the year.

2. Land Acknowledgement & Meeting Norms

- Read land acknowledgement.
- Reviewed meeting norms for our meeting.

3. Honouring Ms. Sanyal

- Visuals shared of Ms. Sanyal for remembrance.
- thoughts and memories shared from students and staff to parents at memorial, cards and mementos in her honour from the school.
- Principal Grossman-Bly opened the floor for members of council to share thoughts they had.
- Principal Grossman-Bly expressed appreciations for how everything was handled.
- trauma response team present, to support school.
- Thanked Vice Principals Weatherill and McElrea for their support at the time and as we continue to navigate the rest of the year.

4. Update from Administration

	Details
Health and Safety / Operational	
Health and Safety	Continuing with monthly inspections. We will be having more fire and lockdown drills during the spring months. We have had some days which are pavement only recesses in order to follow the board mandate to protect the growth of the grass. - Health and safety – continuing monthly, benefit to get things done in a timely manner
Staff	Welcome to Terry Weatherill who is a retired principal filling in for about a month. Terry McElrea - also a retired principal will be back in a few weeks to finish off the year with us
Planning for 2023-2024	Planning for next year continues. We remind families to let us know if you are moving and to register any first year kindergarten students. Families are invited to provide input into class placement decisions. Please be advised that <u>while such input is valued it cannot drive class placement decisions</u> . Class placement is a complex process that takes many hours of thought and discussion. Decisions are made following careful consideration of a number of criteria: balance of student abilities, interests and talents, gender balance, class size (consistent with Board and Ministry guidelines), learning style, learning partners and social factors. Please note that requests for specific teachers cannot be accommodated. -if moving, please inform the office, -if JK, please register
Meeting Dates	Last date is today. Note that we did miss April 3 due to the funeral of Ms. Sanyal

Equity and Inclusivity	
Text Selection tool	<p>Continued work to ensure that our school environment celebrates all students and their diverse identities. Staff are working with a YRDSB text selection tool to inform decision making about books and other texts used in the classroom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Equity – Text Selection Tool – being used for books, question raised regarding other texts types being put through the tool. Identity affirming texts. <p>Investments in dual language texts – decodable texts.</p> <p>-Amanda Kelly asked if this tool was for use with all texts (stories, books, movies, etc) as it is for high school. She also offered to support as needed in terms of a transitions approach as she is familiar with it.</p>
Community	
Sports/Activities	<p>Junior Boys and Girls Basketball has been successful. We hosted the area tournament last week and the girls will be going to the regional event. Student Council continues. Eco club, homework club, games club, culture club and student council involve many students each week. We look forward to Dress Out Loud Day on May 23rd honoring children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. We also will participate in Jump Rope for Heart (June 25th) and Track and Field for Junior Students (May 26th) and Intermediate Students (May 29th). We are planning an after-school arts event in June for Junior/Intermediate students. More details to follow. We also look forward to our Grade 8 Graduation on June 19th. The ceremony will be held in the gym and a student celebration will be held at the Manor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Track and field days end of month -After school arts event for junior and intermediate arts not every class will do a live performance, some may be art pieces etc. honour students' choice to participate. -Grade 8 grad June 19 – ceremony in school, held at the Manor in Kettleby.
Announcements	<p>We are continuing with virtual announcements and are proud of the leadership shown by many announcers. We may move to a hybrid next year with some audio and some virtual announcements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -liking the virtual as it supports the students with sensory needs and it provides close captioning
Food Programs	<p>The snack bin program continues to be popular as well as the fresh apples in the office. Snack Shack has also been a great way for grade 8's to fundraise. Kids Kitchen continues on Tuesdays. Pizza on Fridays was set up by our office staff. Families from the school have been able to volunteers to support the weekly distribution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apples have been a hit! - Snack shack for grade 8's goes well for fundraising for graduation <p>Update since meeting: we have depleted our snack funds for the remainder of the year and will be bringing back snack bins and apples next year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kids kitchen still on for Tuesday's – not such a profitable fundraiser - Pizza Friday's set up by office staff is going well, school council members are supporting but it is initiated by the school

5. Student Council Update

- Student council continues to have significant leadership; a part of school culture, eco club is active, homework club and two different games clubs – primary and junior/intermediate, culture club.
- Student Council – went to classes to do read aloud stories around Autism and presentations as well.

-Primary play day – funds for school council; jump rope for heart support, give back etc. Switch of the council at the top to balance out the work.

-Yearbook – next few weeks sent to printers – 25/27; fee into it has not come out for sale yet, will occur

6. Other Items

- Consider Subway lunches for next year?
- Communications around spirit days etc – upcoming is dress out loud day in support of deaf and hard of hearing classrooms – May 23 will come out.
- Consider working to have day before reminders sent out to families.
- Thank you for participating.

Question posed: Is there a social media platform that we can use to engage the parent community? Consider Instagram to connect? Moving forward an initiative to consider for next year. Instagram is approved by the Board.

Meeting adjourned 7:29 PM – see you in the Fall!