

# John Black Public School - School Council Minutes

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**Date:** Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Time:** 6:30pm

**Location:** Zoom Meeting (Virtual)

**Chair:** Melissa Mulligan & Carrie-Ann Nind

**Treasurer:** Catherine Shelton-Galdes

**Secretary:** Shared Responsibility (September – Catherine Shelton-Galdes)

**Principal:** Sarah Schoettler

**School Members Present:** Sarah Schoettler, Luke Kordupel

**Council Members Present:** Melissa Mulligan, Carrie-Ann Nind, Margaret Beacock, Anneke McCabe, Natalie Dorie, Charlotte Cook, Sarah deLange, Melanie Novak, Calen, Catherine Shelton-Galdes,

**Regrets:** Stephanie Jones, Rami Kridli

<b>Minutes</b>	<b>Action Items</b>
<p><b>1. Welcome, Introductions and Regrets</b>                      Everyone in attendance introduced themselves briefly.                      Agenda approved by Carrie-Ann, seconded by Catherine</p>	
<p><b>2. Review and Approval of June 2021 Meeting Minutes</b>                      Approved by Melissa, seconded by Carrie-Ann.  <i>Action Item from last meeting – Catherine still needs to pick up School Council items from Kim.</i></p>	<p><i>Catherine to ask Kim if she still has signage for movie night that she made.</i></p>
<p><b>3. School Council Nominations</b>                      There have been a few changes to School Council by-laws.                      The principal received three responses from the online nomination form. Carrie-Ann and Melissa volunteered to be Co-Chairs of School Council, Catherine as Treasurer. Sarah Schoettler put a motion forward to accept the volunteers into these roles, everyone at the meeting was able to vote on this item and the motion Passed.                      Voting vs. Non-Voting members: Please fill out the self nomination forms. Voting members are required to attend a minimum of 6 (two-thirds) of the 8 meetings planned for this year. This requirement is in place to achieve quorum, so motions can be brought forward and voted on at meetings.                      An appeal was made to fill the roles of Secretary and Community Member which are vacant at this time. Ideally the Community Member would be willing to look into or already knows about the Road Master Action Plan (RMAP) survey which presented an option to build a bridge over the Grand River to join County Road 29 and Anderson St. (near Lamond).</p>	<p><i>Carrie-Ann to obtain an electronic copy of the by-laws and distribute.</i></p> <p><i>Time will be allotted at the Oct. meeting to discuss the RMAP survey.</i></p>
<p><b>4. Principal's Report</b>  <b>Land Acknowledgement:</b>                      For our daily announcements, we are incorporating land acknowledgements from our students who are learning about showing gratitude for the indigenous ancestral land on which our school resides and on which they live. Today's land acknowledgement is from Mrs. Mooney's grade 4 class:                      We want to acknowledge the Mississaugas of the Credit Nation of the Anishinaabek Peoples on whose ancestral lands we live and learn. We are thankful for the trees for giving us shade. We are thankful for the Grand River for its beauty, it's water and it's reflection</p>	

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and we are thankful that it is a home for many different creatures. We are thankful for the forest that we can play in and the animals that live there. We want to ask everyone to respect the wildlife around us, plant lots of wonderful things and please keep the land clean. We are all grateful for this land.

**Staffing Update:** With great relief, we are not reorganizing at this point in time. With this our classes and staff remain the same.

Over the summer we had three teachers assigned to our school who are doing long term occasional assignments.

These staff are:

**Matthew Lawson** - who is our grade 5/6 teacher in for Marni Reijmers

**Brandon Shirk** - who is one of our grade 7 teachers in for Nia Pommier

**Sheldon Reid** - who is our intermediate core french teacher in for Aliesha Angst.

And **Michelle Scoular** - who is teaching intermediate art, drama and music and she is the afternoon half of Mrs. Roberts who is a guidance counselor for the board in the afternoon.

We are grateful for these teachers who have seamlessly become part of our school team.

**Bricks and Mortar enrollment vs Remote:** Our current student enrollment is 358. There are 4 students currently registered in remote learning.

**We are off to a great start at John Black.** Our students and staff are settling in quite well and have been spending time developing their class community, as they learn about each other, including the name stories of their students, learning about their own and each other's identities and building class norms and routines. Overall our students have adapted well to the routines of the school.

**Updates to Nutrition break routines:** Our nutrition breaks remain the same this year in that our junior and intermediate students have recess while our primary students are eating lunch for the first 20 minutes and then it flips for the second half of the break. This allows for us to remain in our division cohorts and supports our custodian with cleaning of desks between the breaks. For our outdoor space, we have shifted back to our division areas, and for equity of access to spaces, our junior and intermediate students rotate between zone 1 and zone 2. The climbers are in use this year. One class may use the climbers at a time and so classes are rotated throughout the week.

To reduce waste, we are once again promoting **boomerang lunches** and so students do come home with any wrappers from their lunch. Thank you to our parents for helping our school to remain eco-friendly!

**Staff Professional Develop to continue building our capacity with Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression teaching and learning** - Our staff is currently working through a book study with a text called **This Book is Antiracist - 20 steps on how to Wake up, take action and do the work by Tiffany Jewell**. It is written for younger adolescent readers and yet at the same time is engaging, thought provoking and has supported us as we reflect upon ourselves and use this text to support the teaching of anti-racism and anti -oppression in our classrooms. Each classroom also has a copy added to their class library.

**Communication:** Our school website and email through school messenger are the two main forms of communication I use to share pertinent information with our families. I will also share recorded messages through school messenger to connect with families in that manner as well. The JohnBlack Twitter account is another space used to recognize days of significance, retweet board and transportation messaging as well as sharing highlights of school events and classroom learning. Check us out on Twitter - @JohnBlackPS

**Virtual September Open House:** Our Virtual open house is on Wednesday September 29th.

Teachers will post a video and/or slideshow to their Google classroom at 5 pm for families to learn

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about their child’s classroom and teacher!

**Extracurricular’s** - Our school is starting to become alive with extracurricular activities during nutrition breaks! Luke will share more!

**Septic Issue** - Last Wednesday we noticed overflow from our sewers on the tarmac at the tail end of 2nd recess. We were able to manage it efficiently as we blocked off the area and called for support from the board immediately. We learned that the pumps had failed. A pump truck was called to pump down the septic and all liquid was removed and the tarmac was disinfected after consultation with the Spills Action Centre and Health and Safety. Students were rerouted to bus lines through the school library and out the back door which allowed ease of access straight to their bus lines. The pumps were fixed and back to normal the same day.

**Covid Screening Reminder:** Parents are reminded that the covid screening tool is to be completed each morning before children come to school. If a child has symptoms, parents will be called and redirected to the covid screening tool which will support them with next steps. Thank you for your support in keeping our school safe.

## 5. Teacher Report

The month of September has been busy for the students at John Black. I am happy to share some of the extracurriculars and clubs which have begun. In intermediate, we are beginning with intramural football this week. We had over 50 kids that signed up. Those games will be running almost every break on the yard. Running club also started today and over 15 kids showed interest in running Monday and Thursday at second break. Recycling/Green team is back up and running and many students have shown interest. Many of our students have also been working on beautifying the front garden. Junior soccer has also begun and we have had over 50 kids signed up. In both Junior and Intermediate, one of our teachers has offered an open gym for students to come during a recess and shoot around. Snack bins are happening again too. In Primary, there will be pinball and dodgeball beginning soon. As well, there will be a drawing club and music club offered.

Luke indicated that the hardtop has been repainted. The 3 or 4 Four Square areas and other games have been revitalized.

## 6. Financial Report

BANKING ACTIVITY:			
	Income	Expense	Balance
<b>Opening book balance May 28, 2021</b>			<b>\$ 7,706.77</b>
Phys Ed. Equipment (Gatorskin balls&floorhockey)		\$ 459.15	
Retirement Plaque for Principal Gosling-Spears		\$ 96.05	
Chromebooks for Learning Commons		\$ 2,082.00	
<b>Totals:</b>	\$ -	\$ 2,637.20	
<b>Balance as of September 20, 2021</b>			<b>\$ 5,069.57</b>

FORECASTED INCOME & EXPENSES:			
	Income	Expense	Balance
<b>Balance as of September 20, 2021:</b>			<b>\$ 5,069.57</b>
Contingency Fund		\$ 1,000.00	
Community Fund		\$ 500.00	
<b>Totals:</b>	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	
<b>FORECASTED BALANCE</b>			<b>\$ 3,569.57</b>

During the 2020-2021 school year, School Council approved a motion for snowshoes to a maximum

*A 'want/need wish list' will be compiled by the*

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<p>of \$2400. Since the school has managed to obtain them through a grant, the \$2400 line item for Snow Equipment has been removed from Forecasted Expenses. It was decided that the Contingency and Community Fund remain as line items.</p>	<p><i>school to help decide where to redirect the spending.</i></p>
<p><b>7. School Council Plan for the Year</b>  <b>a. Student / School Day Enrichment</b>  <b>Meal Days</b> - Not running yet, the board hopes to reinstate them this year.  <b>Playground</b> – The playgrounds passed inspection. Some adjustments were made to increase the thickness of the wood fibre play surface. Three bearings on the junior playground are in the “to be monitored” category but do not need replacing yet.  <b>World Teacher Appreciation Day October 5<sup>th</sup></b> – Treats can be brought in for the teachers. Coffee and tea are always well received. Suggested doing an announcement to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Day. Post something on the Facebook page to make parents aware of it. Suggestion made to have students give detail on why they appreciate their teachers. Perhaps have them write short personal messages.  <b>Facebook</b> – The school is no longer involved with the Facebook page; it is strictly run by Parents/School Council for Parent-to-Parent communication. Not intended as a forum to ask teachers questions. Anyone who is a member may post, <u>help is requested in monitoring these posts</u>. The Facebook page is a useful tool and helps with fundraising.  <b>Movie Subscription Renewal</b> – This is typically used at movie nights. Council has been offered a reduced rate of \$275+tax for the year. No movie nights are planned and the school doesn’t think they would make good use of it, the school uses Learn360 for their licensed media. Decided not to renew.   <b>b. Fundraising</b>  <b>Fall fundraiser</b> – School council is planning two fundraisers this year. The fall fundraiser will be something simple, like asking classes to raise funds. If the class raises \$100, each student gets a prize (chocolate bar or other). The target is \$5-\$10/student, or \$1500-\$3000 for the school. Melissa is fine tuning the details.   <b>c. Social Events</b>                  On hold.</p>	<p><i>Melissa offered to ask students to write personal messages to teachers during lunch break.</i></p>
<p><b>8. New Business (Round Table Input)</b>                  Picture Day will be October 14<sup>th</sup>. There won’t be any class photos due to social distancing.</p>	
<p><b>9. Meeting adjourned at 7:35</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Next Meeting – Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup> 2021</b></p>	