

John Black Public School - School Council Minutes

Date: Monday, April 11th, 2022

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Google Meet (Virtual)

Chair: Melissa Mulligan & Carrie-Ann Nind

Treasurer: Catherine Shelton-Galdes

Secretary: Margaret Beacock

Principal: Sarah Schoettler

School Members Present: Sarah Schoettler, Luke Kordupel

Council Members Present: Melissa Mulligan, Carrie-Ann Nind, Catherine Shelton-Galdes, Margaret Beacock, Stephanie Jones, anonymous parent

Regrets: Anneke McCabe, Natalie Dorie, Sarah deLange, Rami Kridli

Minutes	Action Items
<p>1. Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>a. Carrie-Ann Nind welcomed everyone.</p>	
<p>2. Review and Approvals</p> <p>a. April 2022 meeting agenda: Approved by Carrie-Ann Nind, seconded by Melissa Mulligan.</p> <p>b. February 2022 meeting minutes: Approved by Carrie-Ann Nind, seconded by Catherine Shelton-Galdes.</p>	
<p>3. Principal's Report, Sarah Schoettler</p> <p>Mask wear - continues to be strongly encouraged by the school board with an increase of cases in the board</p> <p>School Assemblies - Student council will be working towards a new version of an assembly in May, bringing small groups of classes together outside to take part in reading and activities to do together</p> <p>Grade 8 Graduation - Will take place on Thursday, June 23rd. We will be meeting to discuss what graduation will look like for this year and will be planning from a stance of equity of access and inclusion.</p> <p>Live Free - A huge thank you to all of our students and families for their participation and contributions to our annual Live Free Campaign. A total of \$789 was raised and will be put directly into our Snack Program.</p> <p>Fundraising for Ukraine - Students in our Junior classes have been taking action in their own small way to earn money to give as a donation to Unicef. Unicef currently has a program where donations are being matched.</p> <p>Ramadan -We have a few students at our school who are currently observing Ramadan and we connected with these students to ensure that they had the accommodations they needed to support their fasting and prayer. We have a designated prayer room at John Black for those who choose to use the space.</p>	

John Black Public School - School Council Minutes

International Day of Pink - April 13th - Discrimination takes many shapes, whether it's based on race, age, disabilities, gender or sexuality. The 2SLGBTQIA+ community is no stranger to the bullying and violence that stems from hateful beliefs. While progress has been made towards removing these social barriers from our society, discrimination still persists. At John Black, our GSA team will be creating pronoun buttons for those who would like to wear one, sharing messaging through our announcements and posters, and as a school we will be wearing pink in solidarity. Our staff spent time in their divisions at our staff meeting, preparing lessons for their class using the Unlearn cards and picture books that share about types of families and gender identities, to educate our students about inclusion and acceptance and to stand against homophobia, transphobia and all forms of bullying related to discrimination.

UGDSB link to supports for parents: <https://www.ugdsb.ca/schools/safe-equitable-and-inclusive-schools/equity-and-inclusive-education/2slgbtq1-inclusion-in-the-ugdsb/>

May is Asian and South Asian Heritage Month - We are in the midst of planning for this month and plans include celebrating Asian-Canadian culture, learning about the many achievements and contributions of Canadians of the diverse Asian heritage that makes up our Canadian communities; and understanding the historical journeys and ongoing struggles of diverse Asian communities recognizing the individual and institutional racism both past and present that impact many groups. We plan to highlight an Asian Canadian each day of the week over the announcements and will send out a weekly trivia question to our families for a chance to enter a draw at the end of the month for a great prize!

Equity Audit - Staff have looked at the responses from parents and students and are in the process of identifying actionable next steps. Given the number of responses (21) I have shared it again in hopes of gathering more community feedback.

EQAO 2022 Assessment - Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics—Primary and Junior Divisions will be taking place this year for our grade 3 and grade 6 students between May 4–June 24, 2022. More information will be provided in the upcoming weeks

Human Growth and Development Health Strand - teachers will be teaching about human growth and development in the upcoming months. Parents will receive a letter informing them 20 days prior to the lessons and can request an exemption letter from the Principal if they choose for their child not to participate.

Staff Update - Mrs. Stephanie Klaver-Crozen has submitted her retirement letter and will be retiring at the end of the school year and Alison Negrave has applied to and accepted an Early Reading Teacher position which will begin on April 19th and run until the end of June and I will be hiring for a teacher to take her position for the remainder of the school year.

John Black Public School - School Council Minutes

Guiding questions for our planning, decision making and teaching practices at John Black from the beginning of the school year:

- ❖ How has/does my practice foster a learning environment that gives all students a sense of safety and belonging so that they are empowered to take risks, explore new ideas, and take responsibility for their learning?
- ❖ In what ways are the voices, stories, cultures, and histories of all the students in the classroom, their families and the greater community included in learning (learning materials, resources, groupings, displays, messaging)?
- ❖ What steps have you taken/will you take, questions have you asked/will you ask, and resources have you accessed/will you access to ensure that your practice is being presented from an anti-racist and anti-oppressive stance?

Resources for Parents to talk about Race and Racism with their Children:

<https://www.ugdsb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Resources-for-talking-to-children-about-race.pdf>

<https://www.ugdsb.ca/schools/safe-equitable-and-inclusive-schools/equity-and-inclusive-education/anti-racism-and-anti-oppression-work/anti-racism-resources-for-parents-guardians/>

4. Teacher's Report, Luke Kordupel



Intermediate Basketball intramurals are currently happening. We have over 50 students who have signed up and been playing consistently during their first nutrition break.

Student Council and GSA are back up and running and making positive changes and impacts on student daily life. They meet weekly.

Grade 8 Grad wear orders are being finalized this week. We had 95% of our Grade 8 students order sweaters this year. Thank you to the school which reduced the cost for students by contributing to each student.

Grade 8 day trip planning is happening currently. It is in the works to see if a day away will be a possibility for our Grade 8s.

John Black Public School - School Council Minutes

Grade 8 Grad planning has begun. We are looking at many options on how to make that a memorable experience for the students and their families.

John Black Clothing will be shared with the parent community next week. For this order, we will be offering T-shirts, Sweaters, Cinch bags, and Ball caps. We are excited to be able to offer clothing with our newly branded logo and mascot on it. We are looking forward to offering another order in September/October time with a larger amount of options available. Clothing will be available in child and adult sizes.

5. Financial Report, Catherine Shelton-Galdes

BANKING ACTIVITY:			
	Income	Expense	Balance
Opening book balance May 28, 2021			\$ 7,706.77
Phys Ed. Equipment (Gatorskin balls&floorhockey)		\$ 459.15	
Retirement Plaque for Principal Gossling-Spears		\$ 96.05	
Chromebooks for Learning Commons		\$ 2,082.00	
Fall Fundraiser (SchoolCash Online and cash)	\$ 2,685.00		
Fall Fundraiser Ice Cream Bar Prizes		\$ 181.88	
Community Fund (Paid Out)		\$ 390.95	
DPA/Recess Equipment (motion for \$500 in Nov)		\$ 168.08	
Teacher Appreciation (cookies&coffee in staff room)		\$ 46.50	
Sled-a-Thon (SchoolCash Online and cash)	\$ 6,791.25		
Sled-a-Thon Prizes & Ice Cream		\$ 236.21	
Totals:	\$ 9,476.25	\$ 3,660.82	
Balance as of April 6, 2022			\$ 13,522.20
FORECASTED INCOME & EXPENSES:			
	Income	Expense	Balance
Balance as of April 6, 2022			\$ 13,522.20
Contingency Fund (Hold until needed- playground repairs etc.)		\$ 1,000.00	
Community Fund (Hold until needed)		\$ 109.05	
Parent Involvement Funding	\$ 500.00		
Parent Involvement Activity		\$ 500.00	COST TBD
Fall Fundraiser (in UGLF account)	\$ 144.38		
Sled-a-Thon Fundraiser (in UGLF account)	\$ 825.00		
Kindergarten (number sense tool, magnet building set etc.)		\$ 244.51	
Primary classes (STEM supplies, leveled readers etc.)		\$ 395.50	
Junior classes (science materials)		\$ 563.87	
Intermediate Classes (HDMI microscope, slides etc.)		\$ 460.26	
Used ski equipment		\$ 500.00	
DPA/Recess Equipment (motion for \$500 in Nov)		\$ 331.92	
Totals:	\$ 1,469.38	\$ 4,105.11	
FORECASTED BALANCE			\$ 10,886.47

John Black Public School - School Council Minutes

<p>Sarah Schoettler confirmed that the school is pursuing quotes for the Gaga ball pit, but that it may go over \$2500 because of grading needed before construction of the pit. If it does cost over \$2500, the school will have to seek out other quotes as per school board policy.</p>	
<p>6. Council business items</p> <p>a. Community/School discussion - Addressing Racism & Inclusiveness - Melissa</p> <p>We have included this topic of racism and inclusivity on our agenda because it's an important topic and also recently it has come to our attention that there was an issue within our school. It is evident that we live in a community that is predominantly Caucasian with not a lot of diversity which can lead to biases or simply lack of different cultural experiences, knowledge or understanding, but as we are growing we are seeing more diversity in our community and school and as a council now is the time to offer our support for acceptance and inclusion. There is always room to learn and grow.</p> <p>Within the school there has been a lot of work done on inclusion, diversity, anti-racism and equity from and board level, a principal level, a teacher level and also student level. As a school council, we are here to support our school community, our parent community and our students. As a council of parents we can not be the teachers to hand out advice as we are not trained on what to do or say but we can help by providing ideas, tools and resources to support our school & parents. We can have meaningful discussions and learn from each other and teach our own children acceptance and to celebrate our differences.</p> <p>Ideas discussed by Council Co-Chairs and the Principal include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A parent resource library, - Sarah suggested adding 5 copies of This Book is Anti - Racist as a start for parents who are interested. We can continue to add to this as a council on numerous topics. ● Providing teachers with resourceful books in their classroom so they have the tools at their fingertips when needed. ● Highlighting all the holidays as Sarah did in her current April newsletter and using our school council corner more to highlight some of the work happening or resources available to parents ● Sharing a board approved podcast for parents to listen to on anti-racism as speakers are hard to get an audience to turn out after school. ● Getting a speaker for students and encouraging further conversations at home with take home info, using our school website, Facebook and Twitter to inform parents about the speaker. Getting Conversations going at home can be key. <p>A parent joined the meeting to share their child's experience at school. Their child was not invited to a birthday party because they are "brown", the child was also told that their parents were not as good as another child's parents. Recently this child was told she was "ugly" because she is "brown" by a fellow classmate. This was shocking to the child because she can't change the colour of her skin. The parent suggested that we should be trying to reach out to the parents, because that is where the children take their lead from.</p>	<p><i>Action item: School Council to come up with ways to support the school in addressing racism amongst students and in the community.</i></p>

John Black Public School - School Council Minutes

<p>Sarah Schoettler share ideas from Gerard Walker, Principal of Equity and Indigenous Education at UGDSB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify racist behaviour ● We live in a colonial system, racism is present whether we like it or not ● What do we need to dismantle to get where we need to be? <p>Sarah reiterated the 3 guiding questions used by teachers while planning (see Principal’s Report above).</p> <p>Melissa put forward a Motion: To purchase in-classroom supplies, including the book “This Book is Anti-Racist” in the amount of \$250. Motion carried.</p> <p>b. Student Lunches / Cold Treat Days Catherine</p> <p>Student lunches had been shelved, but there was discussion from teachers about having something different from pizza (Lunchbox or Booster Juice). Perhaps Lunchbox would be easier on parents, it is not as attractive to the kids as pizza, so they may not feel they are missing out of they don’t get it. Stephanie asked if we had looked into being able to donate specifically to lunches for kids who can’t afford them. Sarah said the issue was complex, that it is not an easy fix. Catherine suggested to put the issue to Facebook to see if we should offer more lunch alternatives for September 2022.</p> <p>Cold Treats were suggested as a fundraising idea. They would be offered over 2 days so that kids who forget have another opportunity to purchase. If there is a surplus this could be offered as a treat from the council instead.</p> <p>c. Facebook update: No new business.</p> <p>d. School Council By-Laws Carrie-Ann</p> <p>Draft copy was sent out, but we will vote at the next meeting so everyone has a chance to read them. Bring concerns to the next meeting.</p> <p>e. Family day event at Pierpoint Park Melissa</p> <p>Melisa recommended forming a subcommittee to plan this event. This will be conducted by email. Ideas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● demo fly fishing ● Richard Pierpoint historical info ● forest/water ecosystem ● passport with stamps at each station ● popsicles on the way out ● food trucks (permit required?) <p>f. Administrative Professionals Day April 27 Carrie-Ann</p> <p>Want to recognize our administrative professionals and purchase a gift on behalf of the whole school. Could have kids bring in messages if we let the parents know in advance. Carrie-Ann put forward a Motion: To purchase a gift in the amount of \$30 for administrative professionals day. Motion carried.</p>	<p><i>Action item:</i> \$250 to school to purchase anti-racism teaching tools</p> <p><i>Action item:</i> Post to Facebook about offering alternatives to pizza in 2022/2023 school year.</p> <p><i>Action item:</i> Form subcommittee to plan event in Pierpoint Park.</p>
<p>7. No new business</p>	

John Black Public School - School Council Minutes

8. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Next Meeting – Monday, May 9th 2022