

# John Black Public School - School Council Minutes

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**Date:** Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Time:** 6:30pm

**Location:** Google Meet (Virtual)

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

**Treasurer:** Catherine Shelton-Galdes

**Secretary:** Margaret Beacock

**Principal:** Sarah Schoettler

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

**Council Members Present:** Melissa Mulligan, Carrie-Ann Nind, Catherine Shelton-Galdes, Margaret Beacock, Sarah deLange, Natalie Dorie, Rami Kridli

**Guests:** Jessica Rowden, Equity and Inclusion Lead UGDSB

**Regrets:** Stephanie Jones, Anneke McCabe

Minutes	Action Items
<b>1. Welcome and Introductions</b> a. Carrie-Ann Nind welcomed everyone.	
<b>2. Review and Approvals</b> a. May 2022 meeting agenda: Approved by Carrie-Ann Nind, seconded by Melissa Mulligan. b. April 2022 meeting minutes: To be approved by email once a decision is made from our parent guest to the April 2022 meeting whether to include their testimonial or not. It was agreed that the motion introduced by email on April 18, 2022 should be included in the May minutes, thus no change necessary to the April minutes.	<i>Action item: Melissa to email parent guest re: whether to include their story in April minutes.</i>
<b>3. Principal's Report, Sarah Schoettler</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mask wear - continues to be strongly encouraged by the school board with an increase of cases in the board. Schools including John Black are posting daily self-disclosed cases on our school website.</li> <li>School Assemblies - Student council is planning on doing an outdoor assembly at the end of May with pairs of classes at a time. One primary or junior class paired with an intermediate class. They plan to focus on activities that the older students will do with the younger students for approximately a half hour. They are looking forward to connecting students with a focus and nurturing the relationships of our students through this mentoring opportunity.</li> <li>John Black Anti-Racist Statement: This past week, student council worked on a personalized John Black Anti-Racist and Anti-Oppression statement. They are working through the first draft and will share it through announcements and we will share it in the next newsletter when it's completed.</li> <li>Grade 8 Graduation - We shifted the grade 8 graduation to Wednesday, June 22nd as there was a conflict with the Victoria Terrace grade 6 grad on the Thursday and we have some families with students both in grade 6 and 8. Our parent grad planning committee will be gathering this coming Thursday to begin planning for grad and will be planning from a stance of equity of access and inclusion by rethinking some of our traditional practices and we are asking that only parents/guardians and siblings attend in an attempt to reduce the number of people in the gym.</li> </ul>	<i>Action item: to add Jessica Rowden's presentation to the minutes and the school council website.</i>

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- Fundraising for Ukraine: Students in our Junior classes raised over \$800 dollars through this initiative. Such a commendable initiative on their part!
- June is Pride Month and we will have the inclusion pride flag hanging for the month along with the Canadian flag on our flagpole.
- Samosa sales are doing quite well and we are excited to enjoy them next Thursday! I am looking for a couple of parent volunteers to help with handing out the orders to classes and helping with the sales of them between the two breaks.
- 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. Grade 3's will be writing the week following the Long weekend and grade 6's are writing May 30th to June 3rd. The teachers worked on the planning for it this past week and information letters will be sent home to families this coming week.
- Grade 6 and Grade 8 Trip: Grade 6's will be going to Camp Brebuef on June 9th for the day and Grade 8's will be going to Mansfield for a full day of activities and fun!

Copies of "This Book is Anti-Racist" have arrived also some books for South Asian Heritage month that could also be added to the parent resource library if council wants.

**Guest speaker: Jessica Rowden, Equity and Inclusion Lead for UGDSB.**

The link for the slides for this presentation:

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1dLGcSXIUXm8uKDIZM95Nqm1B\\_IFv2yhEBEmx3Fx6Xk/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1dLGcSXIUXm8uKDIZM95Nqm1B_IFv2yhEBEmx3Fx6Xk/edit?usp=sharing)

Jessica was a student, parent and also staff in this district and thus has a good understanding of the community. She is available to support the community, staff and students. She works with a diverse group of people to incorporate anti-racism initiatives into the curriculum. Our education system is fundamentally colonial, because it was introduced by colonialists. John Black Public School is on the leading edge of anti-racist initiatives and education which is surprising given the overwhelming number of white, cis-gendered persons in the community. We all have an implicit bias, because our brains are wired to find shortcuts so that we won't always have to focus on all the choices at once - this means that we make assumptions.

She would like to help us navigate the topic of Pierpoint Park, to help us to remember the Black community in Centre Wellington, without putting the responsibility on the Black community to organize the remembrance. We think of Fergus as a Scottish community, but we need to educate the school community that there were others who founded this area and also that Richard Pierpoint was a Black Muslim man. We need to be careful how he is depicted, since we have no photos of him, thus we may be biased in our depiction. We also need to remember others who founded this area, not just Richard Pierpoint (ie. women, children, Indigenous peoples). White women especially are focused on the action of "fixing" a problem that presents itself. We need to take our time in understanding what the problem is before we can go about finding a solution. This is where Jessica may be able to help.

## 4. Teacher's Report, Luke Kordupel

Grad clothing has arrived and been distributed to the Grade 8 students

Grade 8 trip is confirmed for May 31 to Blue Mountain

Grade 8 Grad committee meeting is on May 19 at 5:30 pm

Grade 8 Grad is June 22 at 6 pm

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SHORE Center (Sexual Health Options Resources Education) will be visiting Grade 4-8 class virtually beginning the week May 9th.  
Intermediate City Track and Field will be on June 9th at the University of Guelph Alumni Stadium.

## 5. Financial Report, Catherine Shelton-Galdes

<b>BANKING ACTIVITY:</b>			
	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<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 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		\$ 500.00	
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	
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>\$ 9,476.25</b>	<b>\$ 3,992.74</b>	
<b>Balance as of May 9, 2022</b>			<b>\$ 13,190.28</b>
<b>FORECASTED INCOME &amp; EXPENSES:</b>			
	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>Balance as of May 9, 2022</b>			<b>\$ 13,190.28</b>
Contingency Fund (Hold until needed-playground repairs etc.)		\$ 1,000.00	
Community Fund - close out fund with gift cards to school		\$ 109.05	
Parent Involvement Funding	\$ 500.00		
Parent Involvement Activity		\$ 500.00	
Fall Fundraiser (in UGLF account)	\$ 144.38		
Sled-a-Thon Fundraiser (in UGLF account)	\$ 825.00		
Donation SM Polymers (in UGLF account)	\$ 2,000.00		
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	
Appreciation Day gifts for three employees at J B		\$ 55.00	
Set of books dealing with equity and inclusion		\$ 250.00	
Chromebooks		\$ 5,000.00	
Grade 8 Graduation (May meeting vote)		\$ 500.00	
Gaga Ball Court (May meeting vote)		\$ 4,000.00	
Cool Treat for all classes - Watermelon (May meeting vote)		\$ 250.00	
Chromebooks (May meeting vote)		\$ 2,000.00	
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>\$ 3,469.38</b>	<b>\$ 15,828.19</b>	
<b>FORECASTED BALANCE</b>			<b>\$ 831.47</b>

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<p>Sarah Schoettler confirmed that the quote has come on from Trillium Outdoor Services. The cost of excavating the area for the gaga Ball pit will be \$1500 + HST and the cost of the gaga ball pit will be \$2000 + HST. There are 2 potential locations for the pit, both have been submitted to UGDSB for approval before construction begins. If all goes well, it is hoped to be installed before the school year ends, but it is likely it may be in July instead.</p> <p>Melissa Mulligan recommended that we bring forward motions for spending now since we can't carry this balance over.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>Motion:</b> to reimburse Melissa and Carrie-Ann \$55 for three gifts; principal, custodian and office administrator. Motion carried.</li> <li>b. It was recommended that we purchase gift cards with the remaining balance in the community fund and donate them to the school who can decide if there is a family in need in the school community. Walmart is preferred since they have food, clothing and school supplies that families may need. Carrie-Ann introduced a <b>Motion:</b> To purchase Walmart gift cards with \$109.05 remaining in the community fund and donate them to the school. Seconded by Sarah deLange. Motion carried.</li> </ol>	<p><i>Action item:</i> reimburse Carrie-Ann and Melissa \$55.</p> <p><i>Action item:</i> Purchase Walmart gift cards in the amount of \$109.05</p>
<p><b>6. School council business items</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Action items <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The council is working towards finding ways to support the school in addressing racism amongst students and in the community.</li> <li>ii. \$250 has been donated to the school to purchase anti-racism teaching tools.</li> <li>iii. Post to Facebook about offering alternatives to pizza in 2022/23 school year: Margaret investigated the use of Survey Monkey to send the survey out to parents via email in addition to Facebook. The limitations on the number of questions and the responses we get access to make this option less viable. Sarah Schoettler volunteered the use of the John Black email to send this survey out to parents. Sarah deLange will also send the questions out via Facebook.</li> </ol> </li> <li>b. Facebook update: nothing to report.</li> <li>c. Google survey to parents (food choices for next year): see above (action items iii).</li> <li>d. Family event at Pierpoint Park: Melissa pointed out that a few things could make the event potentially hazardous. Security at the park regarding the proximity of the river and young children, our understanding of the history behind the land, Black and Indigenous rights is not sufficient to make this a theme during the event. Also COVID will still make gathering in large numbers risky. Thus the event is put off until September so there is more time to plan. This will be an Open House event.</li> <li>e. Cold Treat Days: There was much discussion over whether to donate treats to the school, rather than to make this a fundraiser. Also whether ice cream or freezies contained too much sugar. It was agreed that the school council should make a donation, and that watermelon slices would be appropriate. Melissa introduced a <b>Motion:</b> to spend \$250 on watermelon for the students. Seconded by Carrie-Ann. Motion carried.</li> <li>f. School Council By-Laws. Carrie-Ann introduced a <b>Motion:</b> to approve the by-laws as amended and distributed before the April 2022 council meeting. Seconded by Catherine Shelton-Galdes. Motion carried.</li> </ol>	<p><i>Action item:</i> School Council to send survey questions to Sarah Schoettler and Sarah deLange to send out via Google survey and Facebook survey.</p> <p><i>Action item:</i> to purchase and cut up watermelon for the students, arrange the prep work and distribution.</p> <p><i>Action item:</i> to post amended version of school council by-laws to website and binder in office.</p>
<p><b>7. New business</b></p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Sarah Schoettler asked for volunteers to help distribute samosas on May 12. Catherine and Melissa volunteered.</li> <li>b. Sarah Schoettler announced that there will be a Play Day event at the end of the year, this would be another opportunity for cold treats.</li> <li>c. Sarah Schoettler suggested that there could be more Chromebooks purchased with the help of school council, and it would be great if they arrived before EQAO testing. Melissa reminded us to vote on both the Grade 8 Grad donation and the gaga ball donation.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Melissa introduced a <b>Motion:</b> to spend \$500 on grade 8 graduation. Seconded by Catherine. Motion carried.</li> <li>ii. Catherine introduced a <b>Motion:</b> to spend \$4000 on the construction of a gaga ball pit. Seconded by Melissa. Motion carried.</li> <li>iii. Melissa introduced a <b>Motion:</b> To spend \$800 on September 2022 Open House and \$2000 on Chromebooks for the school. Seconded by Catherine. Motion carried.</li> </ul> </li> <li>d. Melissa will send an email about the school council June social.</li> <li>e. A vote was taken over email on April 18, 2022. Melissa put forward a <b>Motion:</b> to donate \$5000 to John Black Public School to put towards the purchase of chromebooks. Carrie-Ann has seconded this motion. Motion carried.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Action item:</i> \$500 to grade 8 grad</p> <p><i>Action item:</i> \$4000 to school for gaga ball.</p> <p><i>Action item:</i> plan June social.</p> <p><i>Action item:</i> \$7000 total to the school for Chromebooks.</p>
<p><b>8. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.</b></p> <p><b>Next Meeting – Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> 2022</b></p>	