

John Fisher Public School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: April 22nd, 2026

Start Time: 6:30 PM

End Time: 7:51

Location: Virtual (Online Meeting)

Participants:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. SC-John Fisher Junior Public School (Jen Bloch) | 13. Mehrnoosh Memarian |
| 2. Stathopoulos, Jim | 14. Hem Bhatt |
| 3. Laura Thomson | 15. Mohamed Elmi |
| 4. Rafael Soliaman | 16. Leah Tonken |
| 5. Marc Gervais | 17. Olivia Siswanto |
| 6. Cecilia Carew | 18. Shawna Fraser |
| 7. Raena Browne | 19. Jennifer Fry (proxy for Ralph Cochrane) |
| 8. Barbieri, Rosanna | 20. Frederick Hesse |
| 9. Joana | 21. Kristine Hayward |
| 10. Liga Miglane | 22. Onkar Deepak Gurav |
| 11. Daria K | 23. Netta Lechtman |
| 12. Diana Bloom | 24. Elga |

1. Opening Remarks

- Meeting recorded
- Land Acknowledgement was read
- Align on all year end activities
- Quorum confirmed

2. Motion to approve the agenda

- Motion seconded by: Rafael

3. Approval of Previous Minutes (February 4, 2026)

Member	Position	Vote
--------	----------	------

Jen Bloch	Executive – Chair	Yes
Marc Gervais	Executive - Vice Chair	Yes
Laura Thomson	Executive – Secretary	Yes
Rafael Soliaman	Executive – Treasurer	Yes
Diana Bloom	Executive - Executive Advisor	Yes
Jay Fry	Council Representative	Yes
Kristine Hayward	Council Representative	Absent
Elisa Costa	Council Representative	Absent
Cecilia Carew	Council Representative	Yes
Zoe Klein	Council Representative	Absent
Mehrnoosh Memarian	Council Representative	Yes
Hem Bhatt	Council Representative	Yes
Fred Hess	Council Representative	Yes
Marvin Chang	Council Representative – stepped down April 21, 2026	N/A
Ashley Alias	Council Representative	Absent
Leah Tonken	Council Representative	Yes

4. Teacher's Update – Mrs Barbieri

- Recognized World Autism day
- Today was Earth Day – picked up garbage
- Professional Development – Math up for teachers (created by: Mariam Small)

5. Treasurer's Report – Rafael Soliaman

- 78% of budget has been executed
- Request teachers send receipts – ideal deadline June 10th 2026
- Received all Fete and FunFair direct donations
 - Vote to add to the budget:

6. Vice Chair Update – Marc Gervais

- Lice check – received enough volunteers (minimum 5)
- Movie day for full school – May 8th – 1/3 of school has enrolled – received sufficient volunteers based on current enrollment

- Last major event for volunteers is fun fair

7. Committee Updates

Grad Committee – Cecilia Carew

- Grad dance and ceremony arranged
- Fun Fridays begins May 1st – bring \$2 toonies – give money raised goes to next year's grad
- Working on legacy gift – TBD

Welcome & Recognition Committee – Jennifer Fry

- Last two appreciation events
 - May 5th – teacher appreciation brunch
 - Volunteer & teacher/staff appreciation – coffee June 11-12th TBD morning

Extracurricular Committee – Daria K

- Sign ups going well
- Recognition for excellent extracurriculars
- Katie stepped down as co-chair
- Thanks to Victoria and Dan for stepping in to help

Fundraising – Liga Miglane

- Set goal of \$50,000 and already reached \$32,000
- Still have pre-loved book & toy sale – May 14- 15th (announced next week – lead by Sam)
- Fete and Fun fair still anticipated to raise \$10k each – so expect to meet target

Fete – Shawna Fraser

- \$15,816 (79% of goal already reached) – 252 items in auction
- Auction closes Friday April 24th at 10pm
- In-person adult only event at Granite Brewery – Retro Rewind theme – dress up event with trivia and food (hosted by quizmaster Jess). Exclusive silent auction items at event in person only.
- 5 or 6 teachers + Angela have confirmed they will be in attendance

Fun Fair - Kristine

- May 30th is fun fair (11am-2pm)
- \$10,100 sponsors
- Lego robotics is new. Don't have soccer pitch.
- Call for parent volunteers + prizes
- Student volunteers have been requested
- Class rep email will go out
- May 1st ticket sales will start
- Chose a weekend that is not in conjunction with PA Day to increase attendance

Executive Committee – Jen Bloch

- Coordinating annual report

Social Media Committee – Cecilia Carew

- No update

Caring & Safe School Committee - Jim

- Placing some fencing around kindergarten drop off area and will remain locked throughout the day until 3pm at side. The double doors remain locked in front kindergarten entrance. All teachers have key to padlock.
- Fire drill today (need to have 3 in total); 1 more planned next week

8. Principal's Report – Jim Stathopoulos

- Thank you from Jim for all the involvement and volunteers from parents
- School is busy and going well
- Planning for next 2026-2027 year has started
- Principal historically shared staffing model based on enrollment projections. Staffing committee then generates a model considering grade caps & system averages.
 - Model has been created and meets all parameters
 - It will not be shared with families this year and projection numbers cannot be shared
 - Earliest teachers can be shared board wide is September 4th that's when families will find out which class their child is in.
 - Getting a half time vice principal (likely enrollment has increased). Will keep adding a new grade of English each year until Gr 6
 - Final adjustments need to be made after 'bums in seat' as a lot changes once school starts first few weeks of September.
 - Grade 4-6 works on system averages (approx 24-26 students).
 - Question asked about split classes – Jim unable to share model – splits allow the board to equalize class sizes which is why they are used
 - Liga vocalized the stress on teachers and students with reshuffles. Jim answered that the shuffles were due to actual numbers in September. The area is growing, despite overall enrollment in TDSB in declines with people moving out of the GTA and less immigration.
 - Question about sustainability of dual track school and running out of classrooms. John Fisher has historically had 500 students. We still have space with 6 empty classrooms.
- Vice-principal is still unknown and don't know when they will be announced (0.5 VP will be shared with another school).
- Staffing and teacher job postings happening board wide for next month
- Carnival was successful; sport teams continuing
- Construction is almost done (Back is complete and now will shift to east side of gym, in addition to hard surface area). Will need to build new retaining walls. Playground discussion taking place if they are already digging up ground in conjunction with French Connection. Need to find out what is under the hard surface area and whether it can support or sustain a kindergarten play structure. Ideally starts in July.
- Grade 3 and 6's participating in EQAO. Our students will do testing a bit later. June 2-3 will be Grade 3 (just math). Grade 6 (does both – math performed in English).
- Many schools do just a winter concert. This year will have a spring production of Matilde the musical. Grade 4-6 acting with ensemble of Grades 2-6. Kindergarten classes will do individual classroom performances as they did before.

- Nutrition Program to start in Fall 2026
- Kindergarten open house – May 28th – want school council presence
- Dental screening May 21-22 (parents can opt out if they want) for KG and Gr.2 only.
- Grad on June 18th
- Report cards June 23rd

10. Open Discussion/Questions

- Raena (support from Hem): Concern about class sizes with no cap to sizes. Kindergarten classes up to 31 students. Overwhelming environment. Question about how to go about navigating voicing concerns.
 - Jim can provide exact numbers
 - Jim says a consideration is the physical space and dimensions of the room if that helps with the argument (comparing English and French)
- Jen: Have vacant seat if someone wants to join voting members with commitment to joining all meetings. Ask if anyone wants to take on the voting seat vacancy. No volunteers and .
- Marc: Question on whether we can obtain additional support staff – Jim optimistic but does not know
- Next year is a negotiation year for teachers as a note as to who might have invested interest in classroom sizes.
- Suggestion to form a committee to gather information about how to approach raising concerns about class sizes. Then put together a proposal to council to vote on. Specific to kindergarten class sizes and into the future. Raena volunteering to lead committee with conjunction with voting member (Jen).
 - Vote to form committee (regarding data gathering on classroom sizes): Approved

Member	Position	Vote
Jen Bloch	Executive – Chair	Yes
Marc Gervais	Executive - Vice Chair	Yes
Laura Thomson	Executive – Secretary	Yes
Rafael Soliaman	Executive – Treasurer	Absent
Diana Bloom	Executive - Executive Advisor	Yes
Jay Fry	Council Representative	Yes
Kristine Hayward	Council Representative	Yes
Elisa Costa	Council Representative	Absent
Cecilia Carew	Council Representative	Yes
Zoe Klein	Council Representative	Absent
Mehrnoosh Memarian	Council Representative	Yes
Hem Bhatt	Council Representative	Yes

Fred Hess	Council Representative	Yes
Marvin Chang	Council Representative – stepped down April 21, 2026	Removed seat
Ashley Alias	Council Representative	Absent
Leah Tonken	Council Representative	Yes

11. Motion to Adjourn

- Motioned by: Marc Gervais
- Motion seconded by: Jennifer Fry
- Meeting adjourned.

Next Meetings

June 10th, 2026