

OWEN PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, Feb 8, 2023 – 6:30pm

Hybrid (Staffroom/Zoom) Meeting

MINUTES

1. Welcome:

- Meeting guidelines
- Land Acknowledgement (Caroline)
 - We acknowledge we are hosted on the lands of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe, the Haundenosaunee Confederacy and the Wendat. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and the Inuit people.

2. Agenda

- Any additions

3. [Minutes from November 16, 2022](#)

- Review and Approval Motion: Helena Herscovic

Second : (We missed the name of this person. Please let co-chairs know if you were the one who seconded it.)

4. Admin Report:

a) General increase in activity in school

- Definition: “post covid” means the post online, not to imply that covid is resolved.
- Trying to help kids with adjusting back to school
- Focus is an issue with students
- Children’s social engagement /interactions skills have been weaker, kids are not as patient as before, causes a lot of conflict amongst the children; On top of perceptions, they assume others are saying something mean, that may not be the intention but that is the impact
- Community is changing, looking for more subsidy
- More field trips planned
 - Snow valley coming up for Grade 4 and 5, finishing off planning
 - Grade 1 & 2 – outdoor education group, winter activities outside, another component in indigenous component, Zumba with Ms. Lupita

b) Parent Network Meeting - purpose and need

- A forum for parents to meet and share their stories, journey, challenges and support one another. Especially for parents who have children requiring additional help (e.g. ADHD, OCD)
- The purpose: started 3 years ago, had students on ASD spectrum, lots of parents who didn’t understand/know what’s available support there are, felt alone, didn’t know how to deal with the school system
- First meeting held last week, great turn out
 - Extremely helpful to have our former parents share (some parents have their kids in High school), transition from elementary □ middle □ high school
 - Effective therapies shared
 - Also shared struggles with school system
- Next meeting Feb 27
 - strategies for ADHD and executive functioning
 - If you have a child with ASD, ADHD, anxiety, or another type of special needs this session is for you
- Karen Wright, School Psychologist: She will talk about strategies for ADHD, executive functioning, organization skills □
- Come out for the evening and join other parents and expert; Everyone’s welcome!

Where: Owen PS - Staffroom

When: Monday Feb 27th 2023

Time: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm.

- parents will connect with other parents, popcorn discussion to do a big large group sharing and go into our speaker session, a great night and a safe way to connect parents and learn strategies to help your kids
- Great opportunity for experienced parents to share with new parents

c) Another activity: Bedtime Story Reading w/Talia Wolkin (speech language pathologist)

- Jan 18, 2023 6:30pm
- Lots of grade 5s turned up
- In person event
- Strategies for parents when reading to their kids
- Parents had a lot of questions, tips to get children to read, blending sounds
- Bedtime reading is a great bonding time

Keep an eye out on Owen online for future sessions

d) Kindergarten registration

- Kindergarten Virtual Info Night - March 1st
- There will also be orientation days, a couple of days when parents can sign up for ½ hr, bring the child to kindergarten and kids can try out different activities and parents can ask teachers questions, including special education teachers
- Great to meet kids coming in
- Also doing this for French Immersion
- NOTE: There's no more SK entry point into French Immersion
- So far based on latest registration #s, there will be 2 full FI kindergarten
 - 47+, we will have two full early childhood educators (ECEs)
 - There may be times when students leave in the middle of the school year or return to English stream. We will keep track of what the #s look like as it may impact # of ECEs

e) If you want to learn more about our class models going into next school year, join our April and May Parent Council meetings

- April/May OSAC meeting will be a large OSAC meeting where we talk about class models
- When we're given staffing, they will tell us our support staff including ECEs. After March break, we'll know how many teachers are allotted to the school and there are staff restrictions that need to be aware of
- Caroline will explain in much more detail

f) Out of area students

If students started in **Owen FI** but moved homes

- **BEFORE:** your child was entitled to follow the path from Owen □ Windfield □ York mills. You can follow the path but need to provide your own transportation, all the way to high school
- **NOW:** Let's say a student is in FI, moved out of Owen area, the student can only stay till the end of grade 5, they will have to return to homeschool in middle school, wherever that is.

For English, only way to get in if out of area is via daycare. If students were already enrolled in the preschool program prior to February 2023, these students who will continue with the Owen Childcare and live outside the catchment area will be allowed to be enrolled for the English program.

- We have a good relationship with Cheryl Oliver-Linton, our executive director at the Owen Community Learning Centre, aka daycare
- As soon as students are out of daycare, Cheryl needs to notify the school and the child will need to go back to their home school
- Board is also strict on this and their perspective is that students should be developing their relationships at their home school to begin with
- Why is the school board not budging? Having strict guidelines with out of area students:
 - York Mills collegiate is at 120% capacity, because lots of kids are out of area
 - Windfield is over capacity
 - Owen is over capacity and we're closed school so out of area students can't even apply to get in
 - Daycare
 - NOTE: French Immersion pathway
 - JK is the entry point, next point is Grade 4
 - Once you miss the JK entry point, you will have to wait to register in grade 3
 - The rules are strict so there will not be entry points between JK and Grade 4 to minimize the diverse skills across students in the classroom
 - Middle immersion, Grade 4s have strong language skills/reading skills.
 - Studies have shown that students strengthen their readings up until grade 4 and when they join FI in grade 4, it's worked really well and they're able to easily get to the same level as those who started in JK
 - We also see teachers did core French enjoyed it very well and moved on to study in university, all without doing FI

Question: Did losing the grade 6 classes have any impact? Was it the result of being over capacity?

Answer:

- When we had grade 6 classes, we used all portables and all classrooms
- Visibly at school, we still have 5 portables but, we're only allocated 2 of them
- At the end of spring, we will know how many remain ours for the next school year
- The reason why we still see the additional portables because
 - Moving them is expensive so the school board wants to minimize the moving of them unnecessarily
 - We don't own these additional portables, they are not part of the school footage and our staff is not required to clean/maintain them
 - We currently use the additional portables only for storage
 - If school boards need them back, we will need to immediately clear them out for others to use
- The Board has removed grade 6 from us was because they wanted to eliminate junior highs and just to have middle schools.
 - Junior high has 2 unions, problematic when there is a job action so boards don't like to have junior highs
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Question: How much outdoor time do our students have on a daily basis?

- 15 mins AM, 15 mins PM
- 40 mins at lunch
- Gym – sometimes that's outside
- Kindergarten has a walk outside and might even have more outdoor time
- Cut off temperature for outdoor is officially -28 degrees, we try to do -20 degrees
- We have stash of extra snow pants/mittens – staff has been really great to keep some extra
- General guideline is if kids are well enough to be at school, then good enough to go outside, unless kids have medical reasons, on crutches, so only on exception basis will they be allowed to stay in the office and help out

g) Pick up during last period & PA system

- Quite a disruption
- We don't have front reception in the afternoon and everything falls on Nahid
- We don't want the end of the day to be more chaotic
 - If no one answers the phone, assume regular routine
 - Teachers are teaching during the day, can't expect teachers will see those emails if they come during the day
 - If it is possible, at least a day before, email safe arrival and the teacher ahead of time and let the teachers know if pick up routine will be changed
 - Teachers at the end of the day are getting the students organized, it's very busy
 - PA system is not functional. We are waiting for the new one to be installed. The process has been started.
 - Encourage parents to schedule appointments and lessons after school. Don't make it a regular basis. If so, we need this in writing, in the OSR files. We want to see the record if students regularly miss last period, future schools will want to know that
 - If there are still issues, speak to Caroline and Hella

h) Traffic in Front Loop

- Has been better since last Owen online
- Have parents blocking the front loops
- Only restricted to one lane
- When we had two lanes, people were taking the kids out on the driver side
- It's now become kiss and ride
- 8:45 am to 9:15 am where there's no parking in the front loop because of this reason, neither can daycare parents park there during that traffic time
- Monitor next little while before we move in with more drastic measures
- Safety of kids, parents, staff is our priority

i) Stay connected through Owen Online

- School website also has the Owen Online
- École Owen Public School > School Calendar (tdsb.on.ca)
- Google translate also available for the online newsletter (e.g. translate to Arabic)

1) Communications Committee

- Fantastic Owen newsletter online
- Good readership ~425 access the online newsletter every week
- o If there are questions, always check out the website first Owen Public School (tdsb.on.ca)

- o On the left, there are links to the school calendar, the Owen online bulletin/newsletter and the Parent Council meeting agendas and minutes

The screenshot displays the official website of École Owen Public School. At the top, the TDSB (Toronto District School Board) logo is visible alongside accessibility and navigation links. A prominent banner image shows a group of smiling students and a teacher. Below this, the school's name is clearly displayed in a large, bold font. A search bar is positioned just below the name. The left-hand navigation menu is highlighted with red boxes around the 'School Calendar', 'Owen Online Bulletin', and 'Parent Council (OSAC)' links. The main body of the page contains several informational sections: a COVID-19 resilience funding project announcement, a 'Welcome to Owen Public School' message with the school's address (111 Owen Blvd, Toronto, M2P 1G6), contact details for the school phone and safe arrival, and a list of school staff including the principal, vice-principal, and office staff. On the right side, there are additional links for continuing education programs and a section for tweets from the school's official Twitter account, @owenpublic.

- o Owen online bulletin – usually being sent out between Friday and Sunday

5. Update on school programs and offers:

- School Lunches: Mondays & Fridays; working well, survey to come out
- Kids are very excited about the programs!!! even writing a note in the lunch may be helpful because sometimes kids forget to attend the lunch programs
- Hero burgers and kids kitchen:
 - o They were hoping we can add more days but there aren't not enough orders
 - o Hella will create a survey to parents, and parents can let us know what their feedback is, preference of days

6. Continue to look for volunteers, if interested email OwenPSParentCouncil@gmail.com To be a consistent volunteering, please proceed with the police checks

- Fundraising activities
 - School dance in June (tentative)
 - Community hours
 - Vet the music that they want to put on
 - A bunch of high school kids to volunteer
 - Spring fling
 - May
 - We want to wrap up the funding piece before the end of the year
 - Monthly popcorn/snacks sale: Feb 22 2023
 - If interested, sign up directly [Owen monthly goodies sale — Signup Sheet | SignUp.com](#) or email Parent Council at OwenPSParentCouncil@gmail.com
 - More info around the [sale can be found here](#)
 - Prevent the kids from bringing large sums of money
 - Finances from Dec 13 popcorn sale:
 - Cost of popcorn: \$176 (13* \$11.99 + tax)
 - Sale: \$838
 - Profit: \$662
- Other committees
 - Grad committee
 - Chosen a design for their sweatshirts, starting that process
 - We're looking at Toronto Tuesday, every Tuesday in June will have a trip, 1 or 2 of them will organize with other grade 5s in other schools
 - Cookie Sales Friday Feb 10, 2023

7. Gain approval on new ask for fundraising: \$1200 for a circuit maker + press

- can be used by Grade 5: cut out vinyl and used to make grad swags
- Make a lot of the things in other grades, make signs and can be re-used
- It's an expense for this year but will last for many years to come and for other grades within the school
- \$1200, circuit maker and also comes with a press, if they can do all their t-shirts and bags, can design them in school and the students and make them in the school. Grade 5 teachers are hoping to get some funds to get cricut maker
- having the maker also means more students can participate in the whole process from design to produce and decorate

An example of a use case: we had issues with washrooms, kids were drawing on walls, it was a mess

- We thought to decorate them
- Put vinyl to put on washroom walls like an art piece
- Madame Morris shared some samples
- We can create part of the art that can be cut with the cricut and can decorate the washrooms
- The school can have more students involved

Motioned by: Agrita

Yi Hsin seconded

8. Owen Parent Council Meeting schedule for 2022/2023

- Wednesday, April 26, 2023 6:30-8:00PM
 - o Class model, why do we have split classes, Caroline will have a good idea of the staffing at that time. A good one to attend.
 - o Put out a survey if there's anyone for volunteering for spring fling
- Wednesday, May 17, 2023 6:30-8:00PM
 - o Financial overview
 - o new parent council members