

**AGM MINUTES
NORTHLEA HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
LIBRARY – NORTHLEA SCHOOL - 6:45PM
Thursday, June 12, 2014**

Present: Sarah Dawson, Wilmar Kortleever, Shelly Lowe, David Ehrlich, Sophia Danish, Jane Wadden, M. Lariviere (teacher rep), Mr. Harris (teacher rep), Mme. Larocque (teacher rep), Sharon Krieger, Alexis DeCastro, Jeannie Sit, Gina Fortsas, Julie Brown, Michelle Chue, Monika Scholte, Doug McCormick, Sue Gray, Rachel Chernos-Lin, Amy Carter

The meeting was called to order at 6:58pm.

Welcome – we have a change to the agenda – the Home & School Association meeting will be first, as we need to do community disbursements, prior to the School Council meeting.

We will spend most of the evening talking about the best parts of this school year, and will review the financials. We had record attendance at our proposal review meeting, and the minutes reflect the summary of the discussions.

MOTION Doug McCormick, Jeannie Sit
Approval of the H&S Association Agenda CARRIED

MOTION Sue Gray, Gina Fortsas
Approval of H&S Association Minutes, May 15, 2014 CARRIED

FINANCIALS UPDATE: SHARON KRIEGER

- In the past, we have put a percentage of our money to community groups. Two years ago, we moved the contribution from 5% to 7% - split 50/50 between the Thorncliffe Snack Program and People for Education. We presently have \$4700 (7%) this year – we will discuss tonight, any changes we would like to make on the contribution %, and will vote on it tonight. The second discussion will be on how the money will be disbursed.
- Question - Has anyone ever attended SEA? There was discussion about money being allocated to schools based on income levels. David – the TDSB ranks every school in the board, and the idea is that you get a certain % of funds based on criteria the trustees have decided upon – this could be in the form of resources, money, etc. We provide data on our school often, and it is used for these purposes.
- Thorncliffe Snack Program – it is always in need of funds. They are in our neighbourhood and have a very different dynamic in their school. We can talk to our children about the program and importance of sharing with other schools.
- Question: The kindergarten program is now in a separate school – how does the funding allocation work? The need is \$125K for Grades 1-5, for mid-morning snacks. Families are asked to contribute to it, and it is completely run by volunteers. The money

we give really has an impact – children who aren't hungry, will learn better. There is a tremendous amount of need in this school, with many children coming to school hungry. It's great that Northlea supports the Thorncliffe community.

- People for Education – the only organization that does research in support of public education. It's been around for 20 years and are often cited in the newspaper and TV regarding public policy in Ontario. An example of their research is the annual report on schools (17th year) – survey conducted where principals provide data. It is a non-profitable foundation so they rely on the donations they receive. When government looks for information, they often look to this organization for research information. There are conferences and workshops available for anyone who wants to attend.
- Over the last few years, we are now raising far more money – \$5100 last year. 7% is really a substantial amount of money, and there is support for both Thorncliffe Snack Program and People for Education, but at some point, we might want to cap People for Education. School Councils can become a member of it as well. PFE is also strongly into fundraising in public schools. They have voiced concerns about schools raising so much money and not sharing it with other schools.
- Question: When the fundraising dollars went up, and we also increased the % of our contribution, what was the thought process around that? It was when the Leaside arena was being built and we talked seriously about increasing our amount of contribution to different organizations. We can pick any amount we want. It's a way of us giving back. We narrowed down the proposals to things that directly affect our children in school.
- Motion - for 7% to go to community disbursements - \$500 cap for PFE and the rest to the Snack Program at Thorncliffe.....they can agree to split it between the 2 schools. Motion to approve – passed.
- A cheque for just over \$47K was given to the school (funds exclude the playground). David voiced his thanks for the support of the school and the time and effort required to raise this much money. The community clearly values the school and the work we do. We will talk more in the School Council report regarding what we will do with the money. The staff really appreciates all that we do.

Sharon presented the financial statements.

MOTION Rachel Chernos-Lin, Wilmar Kortleever
To accept the latest statements of revenue and expenses CARRIED

ANNUAL REVIEW – SARAH DAWSON

- We had someone propose, that we do something to commemorate Mr Kay. He was an integral part of the school for many years. We decided to commemorate him with Mr Kay's corner – there is a plaque on the wall we have purchased with H&S funds. It is in memory of Mr Kay from all of the H&S parents. We hope the teachers will all appreciate it. Thanks to the parents for allowing us to do important things like this. Sarah will send

a communication to David. Sarah also contacted Mr. Kay's wife and daughter to let them know.

- Mr Bondy's retirement – there is a fantastic team of alumni parents who are leading a community/alumni event, taking place here at the school from 5-7pm. Many parents have been involved in organizing it. Registration is just over 200 people – probably aiming for 300+. The food committee is planning tonight. An alumni choir is being put together and Lauren Simmons from Leaside High School is going to be a guest conductor. There will be guest speakers at the event. There is a bursary being organized in his honor and you can contribute on site – it will be a Kiwanis bursary in his honor. You can also donate on the website with paypal. There will be a slide show and gift book, along with displaying the Kiwanis trophy. Question – who is eligible for the alumni choir? Any alumni can be part of it – rehearsal will happen 45 minutes before the event. Event starts at 5pm and presentations start at 5:45pm. We sent a note to staff, to welcome them as well, if they would like to join in. It will be a fitting tribute and a lovely end to the school year.
- We've made a few major changes to H&S this year – processing payments by credit cards – thanks to Sharon Krieger and Frank Chang. Another highlight was the pie-eating contest at Family Fun Night – bringing back Mike Kennedy as a guest was also very fun. We raise a lot of money but have a really good time doing it. The goal is very much about fundraising and pulling the parents together. Sarah feels privileged to be part of this.

New Business – we will push nominations into the next meeting.

Motion to move it to the next meeting – Sue Gray, Rachel Chernos-Lin - Carried

MOTION Julie Brown, Rachel Chernos-Lin
TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm

**AGM MINUTES
NORTHLEA SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 7:45pm.

WELCOME/INTRODUCTION: SARAH DAWSON

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| MOTION | Sue Gray, Michelle Chue
Approval of School Council Agenda | CARRIED |
| MOTION | Doug McCormick, Jeannie Sit
Approval of School Council Minutes, May 15, 2014 | CARRIED |

ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE : DAVID EHRlich

- June has been a very busy month for everyone, with class placement 80-90% complete
- A Full Day Kindergarten meeting took place on Monday, with 70-80 parents attending. They spoke about the evolution of the FDK program – nothing significantly different about how they will deliver program. The hours of the day are obviously different. Parents had the opportunity to ask a lot of questions. We have visited a number of other schools. The Ministry wants it to be a seamless day for the kids. We will continue with a staggered entry process.
- We are still hiring a few staff, and are at the eligible to hire phase. We've interviewed a number of candidates, and will continue to follow the process
- We've allocated more money to technology, where monies weren't spent. We've ordered some ipads for the library with scholastic monies raised. We are wireless now, so want to take full advantage of that. We also bought ipads for special education and staff who will be implementing the ipad program H&S has funded. We have been able to buy more digital projectors. Any surplus money will go to support the technology plan in the school. We have developed an online use for kids who want to bring technology to school. Grades 1-3 are not allowed to bring technology. Grades 6-8 can bring in a personal computer if they want to. Grade 4-5 can also bring in a device. We're not sure what will happen next year, with kids bringing in their own devices. It could affect what we use our technology dollars for. As long as personal devices are used appropriately, they will be allowed. We will adjust the concept once we see how it's going.
- Question: ipads are so easy to take out of the school – what is our insurance? The ones on carts will be stored safely. We don't have a lot of insurance coverage – will have to be very diligent about watching our assets.
- Question: re inappropriate access.....what are the consequences once they've signed the code of conduct? If a child goes to an inappropriate site, there will be discussions with administration and parents. If there is bullying, it means suspension.

Administration will have to deal with other acts on a case-by-case basis. We haven't had many issues this year, even with all of the iphones.

We should highlight in the September package, that this is part of the online code of conduct. It could also be addressed in the class with the teachers at the beginning of the year (or perhaps at Curriculum night). At the last meeting there was a questions re safety of wifi – there was a recent school board study about it posted in the newspaper – they found that the percentage of radiation is such a small % of what the federal/provincial guidelines are for schools/workplaces. The TDSB is rolling this out across many schools. Our school is very committed to the technology plan, and will continue to move forward.

- Grad is around the corner and the kids are very excited. They are presently up at camp.
- Track was very successful – many kids did really well. We are talking about a house league system for next year – 8 houses, with monthly themes. It will include sports, arts and music. Participation equals a point for your house. The house with the most points would have their flag raised for a time.
- Thanks to Guy Lariviere, Shannon Larocque and Rob Harris for their participation this year.
- David said thanks to everyone for a great first year – this is a great community that really cares about their kids. Thanks for your very overt, open and active support. People have a lot of pride in Northlea.
- There is a staff meeting next week to prepare for next year.
- The much anticipated staff versus grade 8 baseball game is happening next week. There will also be a staff versus kids ultimate Frisbee game.

ANNUAL REVIEW – SARAH DAWSON

- After spending seven years as a volunteer at Northlea school, it is so great that we have a robust literacy plan that parents can engage in. The admin team keeps the parents very involved and engaged in the process. They have explained everything very well in our meetings, and helped us buy in with the process.
- Wilmar Kortleever – Communications – a plaque was given to H&S council this year, and we are pleased to present it to Sarah.
- Thanks to the fifty-seven class parents who built class lists for the year. Thanks to Frank Chang for building our website, which is our main method of communications, including news, and an events calendar. We had regular communication via Mail Chimp on Fridays or for other special notices. Thanks to Erica Robertson for preparing the Classifieds emails as well. We distribute a lot of information on behalf of the school via our class parents – thanks to Kim Smith, for coordinating that. A major word of thanks to someone who helps with communications – Sarah Dawson. We would be very happy to have a few people volunteer to help with communications for next year. We do need more hands to update the website and the calendar – it is very easy to do and can be

done during the day. The website is the go-to place for the school, for parents, teachers and the community. If anyone wants to help, please let Wilmar know. We reach about 95% of parents through email and the rest via hardcopy.

- Council advisory team – involves giving feedback on EQAO, school model, etc. This year, it's not been as formalized as in previous years. The role of the team is to advocate on behalf of the parents.
- Jeannie Sit – School Support - responsible for lost and found, ITLC, class parents, etc. Jeannie wants to thank Gina Fortsas, Sue Gray and Kim Smith (class parents) – Valerie Cooke will be taking over this responsibility next year. Thanks to our administration and staff who helped with ITLC. All roles are filled for next year.
- Julie Brown – appreciation events – we were happy to have some events with teacher/staff appreciation week – as an example, mail box treats they received each day. The Staff appreciation luncheon was a huge success.
- The yearbook has gone to press – it was a tremendous amount of work, meeting with 20 students, weekly. It was also a tremendous opportunity to work with the kids in the school. Wilmar was the editor and Julie supported the efforts. There was great support from Jane Wadden, with last minute announcements....and also Ms.Robson and Mr.Albrecht, as staff sponsors. It was an all around great student and staff effort. Amy has done all of the distribution and order of the yearbooks.
- Gina is in charge of graduation preparations – Gina, Wendy and Dana are organizing it. Graduation is on Wednesday, June 25th, and the Grade 7 parents organize it. It is the same night as Leaside High School graduation.....next year, we should make sure we don't conflict.
- Claude Lukawetsky – Safety – Valerie Cooke is taking the role for the PSP program, from Lisa Peirce. We have some signage proposals ready to send to transportation services.
- Please be diligent regarding grown-ups using the field (using cleats) - please call TDSB security with any concerns. We need to ensure our kids aren't intimidated by these adults using our field. As a caring school, we need to stick up for our kids in using the school field, as this is the only playground our kids have in North Leaside. There are no adult permits required, so kids shouldn't feel intimidated in using the field. Any permits are supposed to go through David, so we should know. There has also been discussion about our field and the longevity of the field. TDSB has responsibility for the field and taking care of replacement of it.
- Question: When a group has a permit in the evening, what are rules for cars? We can't lock the gates, so we could look into signage, asking people not to enter there. It is a huge safety risk for the school. It is a fire lane and there shouldn't be parked cars or dumpsters. There is no parking for caretakers – David will look into it. The safe and caring school committee should get the fire chief involved.

Several new parking spots were added to the parking lot, to accommodate the caretakers.

- We still need to go back to the city and Metrolinx regarding signage we would like. After school ends, there will be much more work starting, so we have to stay engaged regarding this when the Sunnybrook office opens. We need to be ready for September, so we can respond to any changes in traffic patterns over the summer. The Rehabilitation centre is going to increase parking cost for staff, so we will get more parking on Glenvale and surrounding streets. This takes effect in September and will effect kids walking to school.
- We did another crossing guard survey – there is not enough traffic deemed, but they will come back over the summer and do another one based on changes happening with the LRT expansion. There was a meeting at Leaside High School about this – there is almost no enforcement of traffic services.
- We were asked to participate in a lawn signage campaign - we told them to contact LPOA.

NEW BUSINESS – NEW EXECUTIVE FOR THIS YEAR

- This is Sarah Dawson's last meeting. As a volunteer seven years ago, the process has been educational and inspiring, and has made her a better advocate for children's education. She will take all of these skills with her, to Oakville. It's been a privilege working with everybody. Thanks to Julie and Wilmar, for bringing her on to be part of the executive team as Vice-chair. Sarah has really enjoyed working with everybody here, because they want to contribute. There have been some challenges in the role, and some really great highs. This is a cohesive group. Thanks to the administration team for showing what leadership can look like, and giving parents a sense of hope and engagement in their children's education. Hopefully, the EQAO results will show the great efforts put into the system. David has made Council Chair work so much easier. Thanks to the teaching team (especially the teacher reps), for participating. Ms. Cranswick, Mme. McInnis, M. Lariviere, and Mme. Larocque have all contributed amazingly to her kid's experience at school.
- Wilmar Kortleever and Julie Brown, appreciated the chance to step up and thanks for being sounding boards and providing advice . Thanks to the entire executive team – you focus on getting the job done. Everyone enjoys what they are doing and everyone contributes. Thanks to Gina Fortsas – one of the best volunteers and contributors to this school. Alexis DeCastro, Val Cooke and Sandra Zambon, great to be able to spend so much time over the last few years. Rachel Chernos-Lin and Kara Pearson, thanks for being the “go-to” girls. Thanks to close friends who have kept me grounded. To Andrew, her husband, who has supported this endeavour. Thanks to all for making this experience awesome!!
- Alexis DeCastro – Many people have great stories about Sarah. She has made a positive difference in our's and our kid's lives. She has spent countless hours

chairing meetings and fundraising, and she has done it with such grace. Sarah has a calm and collected manner, that helps us figure things out. She has unbelievable charm and wit, that make people want to do better and make a difference. She has made school better for kids, administration and parents. Thanks to Sarah for everything! On behalf of the parents and Home & School, Sarah was presented with gifts.

- Sarah said a very gracious thank you to everyone.
- Sarah presented the new proposed executive structure and proposed names for next year. There are three people not present next year on the executive – Julie Brown, Appreciation, will step down from the Executive this year. Thanks to Julie on behalf of the executive team. Jeannie Sit will also be stepping down from School Support Chair – she will be missed. The School Support Chair is open for next year, but all roles underneath it are filled. Linda Debono will also not be on the executive – she has been fundamental to setting up sponsorship within the school.
- The new team is presented – there will be three co-chairss – Rachel Chernos-Lin, Kara Pearson and Alexis DeCastro will take on the role together. Wilmar Kortleever continues as past President designate. Shelly Lowe and Sharon Krieger will continue in their roles. Kristi Lepore will be our Welcome Back BBQ chair. Date Knight – remains the same; Family Fun Night is still open. Jacqueline Fraser will be back to lead extra-curricular. A new Chess Club coordinator will be in place. Jeannie takes over Appreciation chair from Julie. Claude Lukawetsky will be continuing as Safety Chair. Wilmar is working on a Communications Chair....and we have a new addition to the executive – for house league/intramural – Val Cooke.
- There was a motion that the rule of ballot be suspended and the proposed slate of executives be acclaimed as on the sheet – all in favour – carried.
- There was another motion that the executive would like to be empowered to fill vacancies in September as people come available, to fill the positions – all in favour – carried.

Thanks all for coming!

MOTION Julie Brown, Claude Lukawetsky
TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04pm.