



# Lanor Junior Middle School School Council

## Minutes of the Meeting on Thursday, September 21, 2023

**Place:** Lanor Library (450 Lanor Avenue, Etobicoke, ON) and Zoom\*

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Attendees:**

*In person:* Principal Bill Mah, Andrea Makowiecka, Anna Smolij, Antoinette Esquerdo, Bhavin Brahmhatt, Gillian Japal, Gladys Jekecha, Greg Kramer, Helder Lopes, Karmen Pestotnik, Michaela Evans Pilipovic, Nyla Selvadurai, Patricia Ocampo, Rebekah Warner, Sarah Marriott, Seema Patel, Stacy Laliberte, Steve F, Tonya Belle

*Online:* Aarti Pednekar, Anna Ivanova, Bev Jackson, Carolyn Whidden, Deborah Girvin, Jaclyn Carere, Jen Ngaleo, Kiran Sidhu, Kunga Norzom, Leah Paterson, Maja Bozic Pavlov, Natasha Mistry, Nina Mercado, Rose Butler, Seungae Jin, Shira Wosnick, Simeon Stewart, Simer Sodhi, Sonia Mistry, Summiya Mazhar, Vanita Persaud, Vjera Miovic, Yuliya Yurchenko

\*Here is the [slide deck presented at the meeting](#) for your review

### 1. Introduction

Tonya Belle welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were 8 nominations for voting members of School Council (SC). Through acclamation, the SC will include:

- Andrea Makowiecka
- Michaela Evans Pilipovic
- Natasha Mistry
- Patricia Ocampo as Secretary
- Sarah Marriott as Co-Chair
- Stacy Laliberte as Fundraising Lead
- Steve F
- Tonya Belle as Co-Chair

Additional nominations were put forward the evening of the meeting. Those candidates will be acclaimed at the next meeting. There are vacancies for Caring and Safe Schools Representative, Treasurer, and Ward Rep.

## 2. Chair Report

Proposed meeting dates are for once a month, but the voting members will need to decide the cadence.

Suggested timetable is as follows:

- Monday, October 16, 2023
- Tuesday, November 21, 2023
- Wednesday, December 13, 2023
- Thursday, January 25, 2024
- Thursday, February 22, 2024
- Tuesday, April 9, 2024
- Wednesday, May 15, 2024
- Thursday, June 13, 2024

Principal Bill Mah suggested a monthly cadence, alternating between in-person and fully remote, which worked well at his previous school, Summit Heights.

Council needs to draft a School Statement of Needs, a form outlining the parent/community priorities for a principal, in case a different principal needs to be appointed, to be submitted to the superintendent by November. Please [review last year's SSON](#) and bring your suggestions to discuss at the next meeting.

Sarah shared school community-related events coming up, including:

- Welcome Back Town Hall for SC members on Thursday, September 28 at 6:00 p.m., offered by the TDSB. Go to [https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_sY4fG6fPOsi8NAXFLPrRqO#/registration](https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sY4fG6fPOsi8NAXFLPrRqO#/registration) to register.
- Ward Forum on the TDSB Multi-Year Strategic Plan Renewal 2023-2027 on Tuesday, October 17 at 6:30 p.m. Go to [tdsb.on.ca/MYSRRenewal](https://tdsb.on.ca/MYSRRenewal) to learn more.
- Parents and Caregivers as Partners Conference. Go to <https://www.parentsaspartners.ca/> to learn more.

## 3. Principal's Report

Bill introduced himself. He's worked in education for 24 years, 7 years at Summit. He grew up in Etobicoke and the Junction and now lives 7 minutes away. His previous years were successful, which means this was a choice and a happy one. He wants to be here. Bill said he believes strongly in collaboration with staff and parents and highlighted the importance of respectful communication. He apologized for the email disorganization at the start of the year, which was attributed to a backend issue with the class distribution program. He immediately looked into how this will be organized in future and promised to change it for next year.

**Curriculum Night is set for October 5 at 6:00 p.m.**

In the first week of school Bill heard from several parents about traffic safety around Lanor. He met with Superintendent Debbie Donsky and Patrick Nunziata, Ward 3 TDSB Trustee, who that day called Councillor Amber Morley and Vision Zero, a City of Toronto committee committed to pedestrian safety, that will paint Lanor Avenue and try to implement some kind of traffic management – speed bumps and/or two stop signs – for 2024. Rebekah shared that this conversation has been ongoing for 2 years. Tonya suggested Bill look into the correspondence from previous years, including the traffic study that has already been done to hopefully expedite the process.

As soon as parents reported the wasp problem on the playground, the necessary steps were taken to remove them.

The primary boys' washroom urinals are being replaced due to age and rusted pipes.

Reorganization update: The good news is that we are not losing any classrooms as a whole or losing staff. But the bad news is there will be changes.

Current Classes	Split	Total
JSK-A	14/12	26
JSK-B	13/8	21
1/2A	9/9	18
1A	20	20
2A	19	19
3/4	7/15	22
3A	23	23
4/5A	15/22	37
6/7A	18/11	29
6/7B	17/12	29
7/8A	9/18	27
7/8B	8/19	27
G-4	19	19
G-5/6	6/15	21
G-5/6	8/13	21
G-7	15	15
G-8	15	15

New Proposed	Split	Total
4/5	15/6	21
5/6	8/17	25
5/6	8/17	25
7	27	27
7/8A	6/18	24
7/8B	6/19	25
G-4	19	19
G-5/6	14/10	24
G-6/7	18/6	24
G-7/8	9/15	24

We're getting:

- an additional RECE for kindergarten, so the two kindergartens will be balanced out in numbers (and both will have an RECE)
- an exemption for the Grade 3 to stay at 23 students, despite being over the cap of 20, which will allow for stability for those students
- an additional 0.5 ESL resource
- an additional Grade 4-8 teaching position, which will help alleviate the Grade 4/5 class of 37 students
- we are losing 1 gifted teacher because we are down 35 students required to justify a class

**This will take place October 2.** The staff is aware. Bill has emailed Lanor parents informing them of the reorganization and then in the coming week will visit each classroom to further share the message directly with students.

The TDSB will share data from the 2023 Census (conducted in the spring) on October 3. Schools that had at least a 30% response rate will get school-specific data; schools that fell below the 30% response threshold will only have access to board-wide data. (We don't yet know if Lanor's response rate met the threshold.)

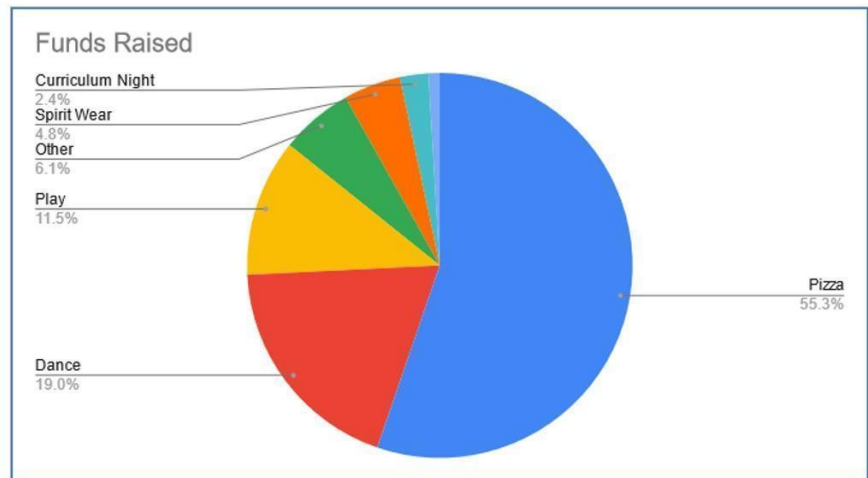
Sarah noted that our demographic information, budget report, and infrastructure status update are on our TDSB website.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report

We begin the year with an opening bank balance of \$5812.16, with most of the funds coming from pizza lunches followed by the Halloween dance party.

Event	Date	Income	Cost	Profit	Bank Balance
Opening Bank Balance					\$436.09
Family Picnic	2022-09-29	\$1,689.40	\$1,502.70	\$186.70	\$622.79
Halloween Party	2022-10-28	\$2,066.60	\$107.54	\$1,959.06	\$2,581.85
Pizza Lunch - Dec	2022-12-13	\$957.00	\$754.41	\$202.59	\$2,784.44
Spirit Wear	2022-12-14	\$3,678.00	\$3,302.86	\$375.14	\$3,159.58
Lunch Lady	2023-02-17	\$74.38	\$0.00	\$74.38	\$3,233.96
X Mvmt	2023-03-07	\$0.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,433.96
Pizza Lunches Feb-Jun	2023-06-29	\$8,407.00	\$4,290.16	\$4,116.84	\$5,550.80
School Play Concessions/ Grade 8 grad	2023-06-29	\$901.80	\$640.44	\$261.36	\$5,812.16

Fundraising	
Category	Total
Pizza	\$4,319.43
Dance	\$1,482.46
Play	\$901.80
Other	\$476.60
Spirit Wear	\$375.14
Curriculum Night	\$186.70
Lunch Lady	\$74.38
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$7,816.51</b>



Spending	
Category	Amount
Grad	-\$640.44
X Movement	-\$1,800.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>-\$2,440.44</b>

Sarah indicated she had spoken to Bill about the school and staff needs. Bill will check with staff and provide an update of what the school and staff could use to see what SC can support financially.

*Pizza Lunch Fundraiser:* Steve reported that last year the pizza lunches netted us \$4K, and this year we're experimenting with increasing the number of pizza lunch days to net a projected \$10K.

*Spirit Wear Fundraiser:* Tonya reported there were a lot of limitations with the vendor and our options last year, so now she's looking at two vendors to see which one provides more value and allow for easier ordering (an online shop). Will share with SC so people can provide feedback. Tonya would prefer we do a bulk order with some custom colour options that ships to the school rather than to individual homes.

*Halloween Dance Fundraiser:* Rebekah and Stacey will run the Halloween Dance again. Stacey will look into a performer who danced on stage during the Halloween Dance a few years ago. **This is scheduled for Friday, October 27.**

SC to consider fundraising and events ideas and present at the next meeting.

Tonya shared that they would like to do a parent survey to learn more about the community and cater to their needs. A call for a volunteer to create the online survey was put out. No one stepped forward to do so.

Seema suggested we serve pizza at Curriculum Night again. People agreed that last year's social event (serving food prior to Curriculum Night officially starting) was a good way to bring people out and together and we should coordinate it again this year. Sarah and Steve will spearhead this.

Sarah suggested we start Teacher Appreciation early this year, to continue throughout the year. Funds for this are gathered via donations not through council funding. It would be via a separate committee from the Fundraising Committee, ideally starting in October or November. Andrea Makowiecka volunteered to spearhead this. Leah Paterson and Sarah will help.

Sarah put forward a parent question about making direct donations for the school instead of having to pay for events and such, as well as providing equipment donations to the school. Bill affirmed that the school welcomes donations but suggested any financial contributions be made directly to SC. There should be a conversation with him regarding any equipment donations (they are welcome but there is policy to follow).

## **5. Any Other Business**

Tonya asked about anti-bullying measures. Bill shared that he's pulling together a school improvement committee (SIC) that will focus on that. In his experience at Summit Heights, SICs visit one another's schools to see what works elsewhere and bring those solutions to their home school. He's approved this strategy, with the superintendent's agreement, for next year.

Rebekah wanted best practices regarding behavioural issues for middle-school-aged students, identifying this as an ongoing issue in years past. Bill explained that the standing rule is washroom use needs to be in pairs. The staff are aware that this is an issue.

Gladys asked for Lanor's emergency response if there is gun-related violence or other criminal activity within the school. Bill said each class has a safety binder outlining plans. There are 3 safe meeting sites and he has checked that they are still committed to providing safe harbour. In an emergency event wherein there is a threat outside the school, there is a hold-and-secure, wherein no one can leave or enter the building but can move freely inside. In one wherein there is a threat inside the school, there is a full lockdown, wherein everyone shelters within classrooms and only emergency personnel can enter. These are practiced three times a year and done sensitively, with a script that won't cause undue alarm.

In response to a question about the crossing guard on Brown's Line, Bill confirmed there is currently one there doing three shifts a day.

## 6. Next Meeting

We will vote on the cadence and dates of the year's meetings at **the next meeting, which will take place on Monday, October 16** in person and via Zoom.

Minutes approved by:

Bill Mah

Sarah Marriott

Tonya Belle