

Stittsville Public School – School council minutes 8 March 2022

Your school council meet via Google Meets on 8 March 2022 and these minutes reflect what may have happened.

The meeting was called to order and the agenda and previous minutes were agreed upon

Board report – Our Beloved Leader the Chair informed us of things the Board has put out, you can read about them at [Annex A](#).

Principals Report – Erin provided the following updates and information, for full details please see [Annex B](#).

- Staffing update, especially news of the Vice Principal position.
- Update COVID protocols
- School hours now and new of the 2022/2023 year (as of September 2022 school hours will be 0840 to 1510).
- Rapid Antigen Tests
- Cancelled classes

Teacher's report – Pictures and poems at [Annex C](#)

- Black history month saw the Kinders introduced to the rhythms and songs of the djembé, West Africa's most popular drum. Pictures at Annex C.
- Grade 2 and 3 art projects and photos
- Junior Immersion classes are involved in a global activity – some 3395 schools in 16 countries.
- Grade 1s – we were treated to poems from Mrs Kerwin

The teachers asked the following of the council.

- Pink shirt day 13 April, are we still doing T Shirts and designs. Answer was yes and out of meeting a follow up was discussed.

Fernbank Elementary School

Todd Thompson, the Principal of the new school, presented.

- Open September 2022
- K to 5 to start
- After March break will be reaching out to seek the communities thoughts on school name. Online survey here - https://fernbanks.ocdsb.ca/school_name
- Parent asked what population size, initially 628 students.

- Parent asked how the decision on attending will be made.
 - If your child is going to G6 SPS they will still do so.
 - If currently K to G4 (ie going in to G5 Sep 22) then they will start at the school if in catchment area.
 - Catchment area can be found [here](#), the hatched area of the SPS catchment area is those that would go to the school. More details on catchment areas to come.

Feel free to reach out to the new Principal or visit the web site - <https://fernbankes.ocdsb.ca>

Fundraising

We are looking for a new coordinator.

- McDonald's night 22 Mar (Post meeting, now changed to later in the school year)
- Fitness Bingo. Melanie Reid is running with the Fitness Bingo – more to follow.
- Funfair. Initial bookings made and fingers crossed it can go ahead
- Cake walk. Always popular but still waiting for Board decision on in school activities. If it is possible volunteers will be needed.
- We are looking for ideas now to pass on to next years council.
 - We are always looking for volunteers to run events, big or small.
 - If you have an idea let us know
 - We aim for fundraising to be less about the money – more about community building.
 - However, there are lots of extras that the children get that come from fundraising. For example, classroom allocations are our biggest outgoing but allow classes to get the little extras that make learning fun.

Funds

See Annex D for the Financial Projection.

- Still working down the surplus over COVID
- Pizza night made \$279 and Triva \$281
- Mabels labels, which is great for helping lost and found, \$253.
- Biggest income, food programme for next year?
- May time we need a budget meeting to discuss suggested income/expenditure that can be handed over to the new council in Sep to get things going straight away.

Discussion centred around highlighting to parents what the fundraising of each event is for and how it benefits their children.

Annex A

Guidance for Families to Discuss the Situation in Ukraine

Guidance for Families to Discuss the Situation in Ukraine

In the past week, we have seen a dramatic increase in violence in Ukraine. These events may be deeply upsetting for many students, families, and staff members, particularly those who may have loved ones affected. Our thoughts are with all of those impacted at this time.

We recognize that our community includes members who may be from the various countries involved in this conflict or individuals with lived experience with war or conflict elsewhere. At the OCDSB, our schools and virtual learning environments are places for students and staff to receive support, a calm environment and a connection to caring adults or peers.

We have provided guidance to staff to help them navigate conversations that may arise in class about this conflict, in an age-appropriate manner, with compassion and care. As always, we remain committed to ensuring a sense of belonging for all of our students and valuing the dignity of all of our communities.

How Parents/Guardians can approach these issues

Many parents and families may also be grappling with how to navigate these conversations with their children. The situation is currently prominent in the media and on social media, and the imagery is becoming increasingly graphic. It is important for families to connect with their children and listen to how they are understanding what is going on and consider the potential impact on their wellbeing.

The OCDSB mental health team has compiled for you a few suggestions to keep in mind as you navigate these conversations with your child:

Take time to check in with your child.

- Find out what your child knows. Don't be afraid to ask them what they may have heard. This allows them to lead the conversation, not you.
- Follow your child's cues. Some may want to talk about it and others will not, either way is fine. Let them know you're available if they have questions or want to talk.
- Take time to listen and hear their perspective. Simply talking and naming emotions can help to create a sense of relief and safety.
- When asked questions, be honest, simple and clear. It's ok if you don't know all of the answers, no one does.
- This conversation will look different at different ages so tailor your response to their developmental level and be mindful of providing too much information that may cause undue stress.

Validate emotions and provide reassurance

- There is no one way to feel so create space for all emotions. Provide reassurance and comfort to your child as well as opportunities to process how they are feeling without dismissing them.
- Recognize your child may express their emotions in different ways (ie.talking, drawing, play, etc).
- For younger children, it is essential to let them know that they are safe. Even for older children, exposure to social media can make it feel that it is happening in their own backyard.
- Reassure them that people all over the world are working to resolve this and this is not their problem to solve.

Model calm and take care of yourself

- Children are perceptive, they pick up on our stress and worries and will gauge how scary this situation is based on adult reactions.
- Reach out to your support systems so that you are able to model calm for your children even when talking about big and frightening events.
- Engage in practices aimed at managing your own stress responses. This will help you to be ready to engage in these conversations with your child.

Limit exposure to news and social media

- Be mindful of exposure to news and media and minimize what children overhear of adult conversations that they are not directly engaged in.
- Exposure to graphic and frightening images are difficult for anyone to process, but this may be particularly upsetting for children.
- Model healthy media intake and talk with your older children about where they are accessing information. Encourage them to seek information from reputable information sources while being mindful of the amount of time spent on social media and the potential impact.

Encourage kindness and compassion towards others

- Reinforce the importance of coming together as a community. We know that we have students, families and staff with varying backgrounds in our classrooms and communities.
- Talk with your child about the importance of kindness and care for one another.
- Share what others are doing around the world to support affected communities and discuss what they can do to make a difference.
- If you have questions or concerns about what is happening and how your child is managing, please reach out to your school for assistance. For further resource information, please click [here](#) to find community support available for you and your family.

Black Mental Health Day (This year was 7 March)

Black Mental Health Day, recognized each year on the first Monday of March, is an opportunity to confront the impacts of anti-Black racism on the physical and mental health of Black Canadians.

As a District, we acknowledge the historic and contemporary role of schools in Canada in perpetuating myths, doctrines, false science, and narratives that have resulted in strategies and

behaviours which have compromised how children of African descent feel, think, grow, and actualize their potential, promise, and purpose in the world. Though these are year-round problems, Black Mental Health Day provides an important opportunity to discuss these realities, share support and resources, and acknowledge the need for change.

Additional Resources

- [Ottawa Black Mental Health Coalition](#)
- [Events](#) from the Ottawa Black Mental Health Coalition
- [How to Foster and Maintain Supportive Spaces for Black Youth](#)
- [5 Tips for Adult Allies](#)
- [Your Role as an Adult Ally](#)

Community Mental Health Resources for Black, Muslim, Somali and Arabic-Speaking Persons

- **Black Youth Helpline:** 416-285-9944, <https://blackyouth.ca/>
- **Jaku Konbit:** (Black youth support group) 613-567-0600, <http://www.jakukonbit.com>
- **Somali Centre for Family Services:** 613-526-2075, <https://scfsottawa.org/>
- **Naseeha Mental Health:** <https://naseeha.org/>. Call or text 7 days a week for mental health support: 1 (866) 627-3342.
- **RiseUp powered by Kids Help Phone:** Text RISE to 686868 or visit their website: <https://kidshelpphone.ca/get-info/support-for-black-youth-riseup-powered-by-kids-help-phone>

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Annex B

Principals Report

Staffing update

- We say farewell to our Acting Vice-Principal, Shannon McKelvie as she begins her maternity leave. Ms. Legare is also leaving us, and Ms. Emily Anderson will be taking over the grade 6 class as of March 21st for the remainder of the year.
- We also welcome M. Jean-Serge Boua to the grade 6 French Immersion class when Ms. Snell moves into her new position as our English as a Second Language teacher, and Core French teacher. We also are welcoming back Ms. Lisa Turnbull to the grade 5/6 class.
- M. Nick Carkner will be covering the VP position for the week following the March Break

Updated COVID protocols

- We know that you have received a lot of information from the Ontario government and from the District.
- For instance, we are prepared on Monday, March 21st to have the students spend their recesses without cohorts, and to have access to the pavement and field as they wish. Staff will be spending time upon our return preparing students for this change, as many of our students have yet to experience recess without cohorts. Over the March Break, please have conversations with your child(ren) about how to resolve conflicts, about what kinds of activities they wish to play while at recess, how to go about social interactions with other children, etc.
- For school transportation, we are no longer requiring bus seating plans; however, all kindergarten students are to sit at the front of the bus. Drivers will prompt and remind.
- We know that people have different levels of comfort with the changes happening after the March Break. We are a community that respects the choices of others. Please reach out if there is anything we can do to help you or your child navigate this transition.

Rapid tests

- If you wish to request replacement rapid antigen tests, please use this [form](#).

Staffing issues and class cancellation

- Staffing remains problematic during the pandemic. Short notice class closures due to lack of staff are absolutely a last resort. The school will try everything to make sure supervision of classes is possible (staff reallocation, temp staff, splitting up classes) but at times it is not possible to have a class in school and provide safe supervision.
- There was discussion over use of parents in emergency coverage, however it does require the parents to satisfy several requirements (background checks etc).

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March 2022 School Council Teacher Notes

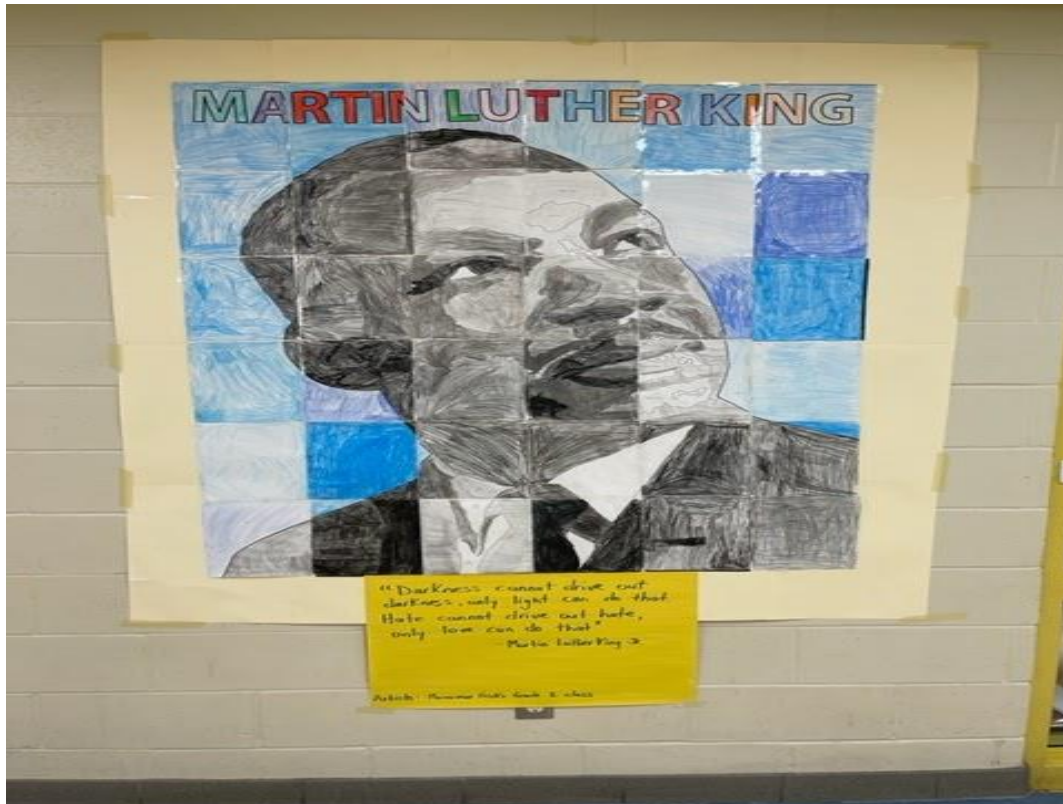
Kindergarten

As part of Black History Month we had a very special guest come to our kindergarten classes! Fana Soro introduced our students to traditional rhythms and songs of the djembé, West Africa's most popular drum.



EF2/3

A great art project completed by this class and on display in our school.



EF5/6A and EF6A

Took part in a virtual Skills Trade Presentation from Skills Ontario. They taught students about the skilled trades and technologies in Ontario.

Manie Musicale <https://www.maniemusicale.info/bienvenue>

All Junior Immersion classes are participating in this activity. 3395 schools across 16 countries are participating.

Students are listening to the music of various French artists and watching their videos. Students at SPS and around the world vote on each mashup. Results are posted on the second floor.

Students are really excited to vote and for the “reveal” of the vote results.



Grade 1's

- The grade 1 students at S.P.S. will all be having their second scientists in the school on March 22nd.

Those new to school council were introduced the delightful poems that Mrs Kerwin writes just for us.

**Nickels and dimes,
Dimes and nickels,
5s and 10s,
Tallies and Frames
How many ways ?
Can you make
A number the same!?**

**Adding and subtracting,
Forwards and Back.
Counting to 100.
Too many number facts!**

**Mental math,
Show your skill.
Take your time
Math Brains will fill**

Spirit Days

Get ready for SPS Spirit Week!

March Break is coming near!
March Break is coming near!
Let's give a little clap and do a little jig!
March Break is coming near!

Wednesday:
We're a little bit country,
We're a little bit plaids and stripes!
Dress a little bit or alot!

Find the stripes or the plaid.
Time to look a little bit rad!

Did you know Madame Cuthill's favourite colour is tyedye?
Did you know Miss Kim's favourite colour is pink?
Did you know Madame Tessier's favourite colour is red?

Let's find out your favourite colour this Thursday?
Light up your day and SPS and wear your favourite colour!

Feelin' hot hot hot.
Everybody, everybody, everybody!

Feelin' hot hot hot.
Everybody, everybody, everybody!

Friday's the day.
Bring it our way,
Beach wear
Summer wear
Dress like it's hot wear!

Time to get ready for March Break and celebrate another spirit week at SPS!

Spirit Committee

Madame Tessier, Mrs. Kerwin, Ms Snell, Ms Ma, Mrs. McMullen

Wednesday, March 9th- Plaid/Stripes Day

Thursday, March 10th-Lighting up SPS with Colour (wear your favourite colour)

Friday, March 11th- Summer Day (Let's pretend it is a hot summer day)

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Annex D

Stittsville Public School Council - 2021-22 Financial Projections March 8th, 2022 Council Meeting

	Revenue Projection (A)	Expense Projection (B)	Updated Projection	Comments
NET REVENUES				
<i>Fundraising:</i>				
Jojo's Pizza or McDonald Nights (3 nights)	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	Confirmed #1 JoJo's @ \$279.15
Spirit Wear (September) (Final)	1,920.75	(\$1,503.29)	417.46	
Pink T-Shirts (April)	800.00	(\$500.00)	300.00	
Mabel's Labels (as at Nov.)	253.01	0.00	253.01	
Avon (Final)	830.00	(\$522.90)	307.10	
Trivia Night (Cheshire)	281.30	(\$100.00)	181.30	
Projected Fundraising	5,485.06	(\$2,626.19)	2,858.87	
<i>Other:</i>				
Stale Dated Cheques (Received)	2,591.76		2,591.76	
OCDSB Start-up (Confirmed Feb.)	500.00	-	500.00	
Total net revenue	8,576.82	(\$2,626.19)	5,950.63	
EXPENSES				
<i>Core Allocations*</i>				
Classroom Allocations	-	(\$4,575.00)	(\$4,575.00)	Updated 3 new, 1 replacement
Grade 6 Leaving Activities	-	(\$1,000.00)	(\$1,000.00)	
Track and Field (Ribbons, Chalk)	-	(\$500.00)	(\$500.00)	
Mulch Top Up (Outdoor Classroom)	-	(\$500.00)	(\$500.00)	
Total Core Allocation	0.00	(\$6,575.00)	(\$6,575.00)	
<i>Council Operating Expenses:</i>				
Banking Fees	-	(\$300.00)	(\$300.00)	Note limit of 20 transactions per month and the extra fees (per transactions) apply.
Quick Books Online	-	(\$158.00)	(\$158.00)	
Miscellaneous	-	(\$100.00)	(\$100.00)	
Total Council Operating Expenses	0.00	(\$558.00)	(\$558.00)	
Total expenses	0.00	(\$7,133.00)	(\$7,133.00)	
Capital Reserve Planning	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Profit/(Loss):	8,576.82	(\$9,759.19)	(\$1,182.37)	

*These are the "core" allocations that previous Council wanted to fund as first priority. The classroom allocations is typically teachers number one "ask".

Other allocations approved in previous years: Scientists in School, Mathletes, Cultural Presentations, Safe and Caring Schools, Outdoor Classroom, Busing for Cross Country/Track and Field

Surplus carried over from PY

13,184.69

2021-22 Loss

(\$1,182.37)

Projected year-end position

12,002.32

Note:

2020-21 SPS Council was comfortable with \$5K Reserve. 2021-22 Council remains comfortable at \$5K, however looking at future sustainability with current year-end position.

