

# Keatsway School Council Minutes

June 5, 2023, 6:30 PM

Keatsway Library and Google Meet (hybrid)

14 parents in attendance: Caleb Lauer (Chair), Doro Coskun (co-Secretary), Rebecca Steinmann (co-Secretary and note-taker), seven other parents present in person, four other parents on-line

4 staff in attendance: Christine Hristov (Principal), Julie Turner (VP), Carrie Bentz (teacher rep), Lisa Gillians (teacher rep)

Welcome, Introductions and Land Acknowledgement

Minutes from April meeting

- Motion to approve – Caleb, Seconded by Doro

Chair's report - Caleb Lauer

Cricket

- Cricket at Keatsway is going well. 30 students are participating and there are lots of great volunteers.
- There will be money leftover from the grant which we will use to top up Keatsway sports supplies. Ideas include buying pickleball supplies, Spikeball sets, new basketball nets (just the netting), a trolley for balls at recess, and other basic sports equipment. There was a suggestion for new bike racks, but these are supplied by the Board (Christine will make this request with the Board).
- Classroom balls often go missing during recess. Christine suggested having older kids do the sign-out and sign-in so that someone is keeping track of the balls during recess.

Fun Fair

- Tues. June 13, 4:30 – 7 pm
- We estimate 300-400 people will attend.
- We will provide free popsicles for kids who complete the scavenger hunt (we will give them a stamp on their hand when they get one so we know they've had one).
- There was a suggestion to have beverages available for volunteers. We will need runners to go around to relieve people at their stations.
- There was a question about how to submit receipts. Caleb will touch base with Sherry Claydon to find out the best way to do this, since multiple people will have expense claims.

Grade 6 grad

- Fri. June 23, 2 – 3:30 pm
- There are approx. 50 Grade 6 students at Keatsway.

- Doro is organizing refreshments for this event (water, juice boxes, cupcakes). She will get enough for 150 people.
- Steven is putting together gifts for the Grade 6s (locks for lockers).

#### Chocolate Fall Fundraiser

- Doro and Caleb will lead this with support from Rebecca. They have already met with Andrea Oakes (our rep) and chocolate boxes have been ordered for the fall.
- This fundraiser will start before Thanksgiving weekend and run for two weeks (like previous years).
- Chocolate bars will be bigger this year and will be sold for \$5/each.

#### Nutrition for Learning

- Cheryl Lau runs this program at Keatsway.
- Volunteers are needed. Cheryl will work with Christine to put out a message through School-day to recruit new parents.
- Volunteers are needed Tuesday and Thursday mornings for 1-2 hours.

#### Pizza lunches

- This has been a good fundraiser in the past, and parents and students like this.
- This would be a good thing to run in the fall and is fairly simple to organize. We need someone to coordinate it and a few volunteers who have time during the day.
- In the past, the students have brought in cash on pizza day rather than pre-ordering—this has worked well. Other options include pre-ordering through School-day or using an app like “CheddarUp.”
- Cheryl Lau can offer suggestions/expertise to a new coordinator about how this was done in the past.

#### Long-term fundraising

- Caleb reminded us that this year the Council focused on community-building rather than fundraising. In the future, the focus for Council might need to be fundraising.
- There was a suggestion for Council to figure out a long-term fundraising goal (e.g. playground) in the fall. We need to find a way to get student input on this.

#### Field trip allocation

- Caleb reported that Council Executive members approved through email the teachers using the field trip subsidy (\$15/student) for on-site field trips this year (groups that come to the school) since it’s difficult and expensive to get buses for off-site trips.

#### DePave Garden

- Katherine Sunday has been engaging her students in weeding.
- The Board does not provide mulch anymore, so we would need to buy it. There was a question about whether mulch is necessary. We’d prefer to not spend Council money on mulch.
- Janine Keller and Dalia Tubis have ideas and are interested in being part of this project for next year.
- Rebecca will invite Patrick Gilbride (REEP) to come talk to a few interested staff and parents about the garden.

- This is a pollinator garden so it needs native plants.
- Ideas for the future included organizing an Earth Day clean-up in April and reaching out to high school students to tend the garden for volunteer hours.
- A large stack of yard waste bags were bought and are in the cupboard in the Council room.

#### Staff appreciation

- Caleb and Rebecca are organizing this.
- Students will write notes of appreciation for their teachers at the Fun Fair and these will be collected and glued onto a card.
- Pastries and sweets will be provided for staff along with this card near the end of June.
- Rebecca will check our budget and work with Doro to order the treats.

#### Welcome to Kindergarten Evening

- Monday, June 12
- Caleb will set up a School Council table at this event to inform incoming parents of our role and welcome them to join us for Council meetings and events.

#### Principal's report - Christine Hristov

- Grade 3s and 6s are currently writing the EQAO standardized test.
- Events this month:
  - Thurs. June 8 - Track and Field at Keatsway
  - Fri. June 9 - Visit from Centennial students to talk to Grade 6 students
  - Mon. June 12 - Welcome to Kindergarten evening
  - Tues. June 13 - Family Fun Fair
  - Wed. June 14 - Grade 6 students going to Centennial for a music concert
  - Wed. June 21 - Area Track meet
  - Fri. June 23, 2 – 3:30 pm – Grade 6 Graduation at Keatsway
  - Mon. June 26 – Report cards go home
  - Wed. June 28 – last day of classes for the school year
  - Thurs. June 29 – P.D. day
- Staffing update
  - Christine and Julie are currently doing interviews to fill open positions.
  - Carrie Bentz is retiring this year! She has been a teacher at Keatsway for 23 years and a rep on Keatsway's School Council for approximately 20 years.
  - Kelly Mitchell is going to Rockway PS (for a full-time contract).
  - Amanda Grundy is going to Groh PS (closer to her home).
  - Question from a Council member: will families know their child's teacher before the first day of school? Julie answered that they should be able to find out on School-day on the Friday before the Labour Day weekend.

#### Teacher's report- Carrie Bentz and Lisa Gillians

- Wed. June 21 – Keatsway Play Day (for primary students and Junior helpers who are not at the Area Track Meet)
- A few teachers have formed a book club and are reading *So you want to talk about Race?*

- Kindergarten educators have had in-service training on Inclusion, Equity and Belonging, which is one of the areas they report on.

The Chair expressed gratitude for Carrie's contributions to Council, said that we will miss her, and offered our best wishes for her retirement. Council members clapped at this point to show appreciation for her dedication to Council and to the school.

WRAPSC – no report

Other comments/questions

- Regarding the lack of buses, there was a suggestion for teachers to plan field trips on days when high schools have a P.D. day. Christine responded to say this isn't always possible or easy to do.
- There was a question about why no special outing or activity has been planned for the Grade 6s as was discussed earlier in the year. Julie explained that the Board has a new policy that all field trips need to fit with the curriculum (e.g. trips to Canada's Wonderland will no longer be allowed) but that some schools had things planned before this rule came out, so these activities will still happen at some schools.
- One Council member asked about a Grade 6 party or dance (as was suggested as a plan B at the last meeting given the difficulty with getting buses). Christine responded that this is not being planned, but that some teachers will have class parties on their own in addition to the graduation event on Friday, June 23 from 2 – 3:30 pm.
- One Council member raised the idea of planting a tree for the graduating class or designating a bench. The Board is reluctant to do this except in specific cases, and it takes a long time to get this approved.
- Janine Keller gave a number of fundraising ideas for next year – selling muffin batter, Spirit wear, FundScript (gift cards at Christmas), Mad Science, or "Slow-down, Kids at Play" signs.
- Janine Keller suggested marking the United Nations International Day of Peace (Sept. 21) and has ideas for doing this.
- Caleb will meet with Christine to plan the first Council meeting for September (elections for positions typically happens at the second meeting in October).

Motion to adjourn

- Caleb, seconded by Jennifer

A follow-up note from the Chair about the hybrid format:

*The chair apologizes for audio problems encountered by those who attended the meeting virtually and will ensure this doesn't happen at future meetings.*