

Parent Council Meeting - October 5, 2026

In Attendance: Kim Simpson, Sarah Collins, Sierra Wentzell, Fathom, Karen Conrad, Laura Bennett, Rouba Hoteit, Brian Skoyles, Sween Kaur

Opening Comments

- *Karen was advocate for school with reorganization that happened this year
- *Fathom did bottle drive in summer and raised about \$1442, will continue doing this until the end of November
- *Kim sent policy and procedure plus guidelines and tips for school council, mandatory to meet a minimum of 4 times per year
- *parents more interested in the PTA aspect - this is actually the fundraising and volunteering portion of school council
- *school council is advisory to administration - we listen to parent feedback
- *meeting minutes and financials are to be posted online

Reorganization

- *parent concern from other schools joining Annandale about portables being needed here - response from capital planning said that all 3 schools will have portables before a new school is built
- *with construction we added a meeting space in the staff room and a regulation room in the library
- *decisions with reorganization come from the ministry, to board, to school - while Annandale was in compliance, lowering numbers helped because all class sizes in J/I were large, lowering our numbers helps lower class numbers across the system
- *calls were made to parents - just like original planning where tried to have Annandale, Westfield and Southridge students balanced together, same for reorganization
- *new class is a % that is currently in the library, teacher started today
- *new portable will be located outside the FDK yard, swipe cards for entry, additional cameras requested as well as request to extend FDK fence

EQAO

- *scores just came out - shared at staff meeting earlier tonight
- *Annandale is a math priority school - has been the last 3 years (for Grade 3&6 students)
- *CMST helps with tiered intervention, intensive support
- *math scores went up - many kids sitting at 2+, just shy of the provincial standard
- *Primary reading and writing went down (previous Acadiance scores showed they were struggling) - had 40 students write, 12 are now in Empower, some in Phonics on the Move, Lexia licences

Parking Lot/ Yard

- *No major complaints, has gone better than anticipated
- *concern about how things will go when winter arrives
- *can we switch the first row in East parking lot to have staff in a different row (concern was brought by M. Widmer that parents in first row backing up will cause a safety risk)
- *kiss and drop has been working well
- *Fathom spoke with the owner of the multiservice centre to see if at the end of the laneway it can be made a right turn only going out to Tillson Ave to reduce backlog - she will follow up with this

*note that the overflow parking is getting full - worry about parents with younger siblings having to walk across the parking lot in the winter

Playground Equipment

- *this is the school's main fundraising goal
- *Kim submitted a grant proposal for potentially more \$
- *letters were supposed to be sent to businesses in the summer - Sierra will create a new list and resend new letters
- *Execulink reached out and donated \$2000
- *Melissa Phillips will be presenting to other clubs in town and is trying to secure Annandale as the smile cookie recipient

Council Elections

- *need to select for specific roles - chair, vice chair, treasurer
- *no nomination letters were received this year
- *Chair - Sierra
- *Vice Chair - Melissa
- *Treasurer - Mandy - must attend school council meetings
- *Karen suggested using AI to transcribe meeting minutes
- *request that PTA meeting minutes are also shared with Parent Council
- *school council open to all parents of the school community

Goal Setting

- *playground equipment main focus
- *\$15/student for school trips
- *planners for all students
- *school expenses have increased, while the school budget has been decreased (down 13%)
- *importance of transparency - the thermometer in the front hallway will be updated to show parents the fundraising progress (will be updated for Meet the Teacher)
- *Melissa had hot dogs and buns donated from Zehrs for the MTT, will offer for families to make a donation
- *discussion about the track and what can be done - these conversations happened last year and the board said to hold on because they were in conversation. Jenn McLean has also been in contact with the board about the track. We will get more information and get back to council

Next Meeting: November 2nd at 6pm