

**Elmdale School Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday September 20, 2023**  
**Held in Person and Online (Hybrid Google Meet)**

**1. Welcome and Opening of Meeting**

The Elmdale School Council elections for the 2023/2024 academic year was called to order by the Council Co-Chairs, Andrea Anastassiades and Kimberly Patriquin, at 1815 hrs.

Welcomed participants, delivered an Indigenous land acknowledgement to the Anishinabe Algonquin peoples as an opening to the event, remarked on upcoming National Day of Truth and Reconciliation – asked people to mark the event. Welcomed new families to Elmdale, encouraged all to join Facebook Elmdale Families group. Emphasized this is a safe and inclusive space and reiterated the Council's no tolerance for harassment/discrimination policy.

Indicated that those that wish to submit their nomination for 2023-24 Elmdale School Council membership (self or for others) encouraged to do so—will be voting tonight.

**2. Co-chairs 2022-23 Year in Review Report: Kim Patriquin and Andrea Anastassiades**

2022-23 was a year of renewal – return of clubs, sports, classic events for the Elmdale school community. Last year we had a 45 member committee – want to recognize the many people that have made a difference.

- ☐ School council Treasurers – well managed finances – council fulfilled staff wish list – transport, reading materials etc.,
- ☐ Communications Committee – leadership from external and internal coms, developing social media group, presence.
- ☐ Fundraising – hard work for spirit wear, dance-a-thon, pizza and sub lunches, coffee, and tea sales. Two events revived – Funfair and Bookfest – most successful in recent times. Sponsors and donations appreciated.
- ☐ Education Representative – planned parent sexual and reproductive health workshops for the coming school year.
- ☐ Healthy Earth Committee – led school yard clean ups, established plans for gardens, native plants, reinstated the newsletter.
- ☐ Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee – advocated for students – non-binary student inclusion in sports, library renewal. Collaborated with the Arts Committee to deliver workshops to the students.
- ☐ Arts Committee – organized a variety of workshops for student from junior kindergarten through to grade 6.
- ☐ Safe Travel Coordinator – liaised with Ottawa School Transportation Association (OSTA) to resolve bus issues, advocacy with the City of Ottawa

and School Board Trustee for snow removal, work with neighbours and car travelers regarding traffic issues and bike safety.

- Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC) Representative – liaised with school councils across city in monthly meetings.
- Truth and Reconciliation – a new committee was created that liaised with the OCDSB and laid groundwork for this coming year.
- Elmdale Cares – grade 6 students in collaboration with staff, created partnership with a sister school to support materials and playground.
- Community rep – connected to Mothercraft program, work on traffic issues.
- Staff - Line painting in yards, enrichment activities, Principal and VP recognizing important days within the EDI calendar.
- Teacher rep – support for numerous sport activities, tournaments, resources, ducks, grow towers, regular reports on activities, student council – the student led Santa for Seniors program, fundraisers, fun days.
- Other supports – administrative staff of the school, custodians, Mothercraft educators, volunteers, parents and guardians, members at large.

Hope for the coming year is to explore ways to share good fortunes with greater community. Thanks to 2022-23 council!

### **3. New business – Election of Council**

Acclaimed for Committee Lead Positions:

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator – Katie Muldoon  
Arts Committee Coordinator – Natasha Beg  
Education Coordinator – Jennifer Becker  
Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC) Representative – Kristin Honshorst  
External Communications Coordinator – David Froom  
Community Representative – Susie Munro  
Fundraising Coordinator– Amanda Ethier  
Healthy Earth Representative – Megan Hamilton  
Teacher Representative – Kelley Voros

Vacant positions: Treasurer, Internal Communications Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator, and Safe Travel Coordinator.

Members at Large:

Amanda Shane, Stephen Froom, Joanna Dymont-Carrasco, Kouko Sawadogo-Lewis, Ashley Mullin, Erin Hetherington, Sofia Ribchinsky, Liz Shouldice, Holly Kardish, Rob Near, Tanya Christidis, Vanessa Smith, Megan MacDonald, Anne Benoit, Sheila Howe, Meghan McLaren, Lindsay Crawford, Alison Clegg, Branko Boskovic, Jessica Robinson, Stephen Bugden, Heather

Pysklywec, Teresa Hanna, Rae-Anne Moss, Mildred Leung, Traceylyn Watchorn, Alisha Smith, Kat Hoysted, Larry Shamash, Liz Majic.

#### **4. Principal's Report and Update (Nadine Saikaley)**

- ☐ Welcome to new vice principal – Mark Keeping.
- ☐ Mme Kelley will also be the Teacher Representative on School Council.
- ☐ Thank you to the Council members that are outgoing as well new members.
- ☐ Busy first 12 days at school: teachers and educators focusing on building relationships with students, building community within classrooms. Developing routines and expectations.
- ☐ New language curriculum is coming in – reflection of the Right to Read Ontario Human Rights Commission report – will be based on science of reading, strengthens practices already in place at Elmdale. Teachers are now doing screening and diagnostic tests.
- ☐ Individual Education Plans (IEPs) are now being worked on via consultation with parents and guardians for finalization by October 16<sup>th</sup>.
- ☐ District is experiencing significant decreased enrollment across the board – issues with transportation a driving factor. Hopeful we will stay at same 25 homerooms that we have now.
- ☐ Extra-curriculars: cross country has started, junior soccer meetings starting, plans in the works for primary soccer as well. Other non-sports activities coming – staff working on ideas. Teachers do this on their own time. We also know many parents have skills – if you are interested in helping with anything, please step forward and discuss with Nadine. More variety the better.
- ☐ Annual Terry Fox Run October 5th. This year – different approach – assembly this Friday to educate children, then encourage them to raise funds in the next two weeks. Perimeter of school run – need parent volunteers. Different fundraising goals – levels of goals to bring in school spirit.
- ☐ Focus on more assemblies, get involved in school spirit.
- ☐ Please sign media permission if you wish – educators can then share pictures!

#### **5. Round Table/Other business:**

Ashley Mullin (acclaimed member at large) self-nominated to be the Volunteer Coordinator. Gabby Schaeffer indicated an interest to assist.

#### **Adjournment**

Co-Chairs adjourned the meeting at 1925 hrs.