

## PDPS Community School Council Minutes

### 6<sup>th</sup> Virtual Meeting of the 2021/2022 School Year

Monday April 25, 2021, at 7:00pm

Virtual Via Microsoft Teams

**In Attendance:** Samantha Burns, Henrik Ruhwedel, Jessica Wagler, Trish Elcombe, Dawn Richmond, Kim Maendel, Stacey Jorgensen, Ann Ofori-Atta and Tina Young

**Welcome to the Meeting:** Co-Chairs Henrik and Sam welcome the group.

#### **Approval of Minutes from last meeting:**

Motion to approve March minutes: Henrik Ruhwedel      Motion Seconded: Kim Maendel

#### **Treasury Report:**

Treasurer: Stacey Jorgensen

Previous Month account balance \$ 2,791.43

Expenses \$ 0.00

Current Account Balance: \$ 2,791.43

Funds raised, not yet applied to our Parent Council account: \$ 1,115.00 Dieleman's & Elmira poultry \$ 2,425.00

Trish will work with Erin Knight to sort out the transfer of funds from the school account into the council account.

Erin is still learning about the financial aspects of her role as Office Administrator for our school.

#### **Principals Report - Trish Elcombe**

##### Appreciations

A huge shout out once again to Dawn R. and the fundraising committee for the very successful Colour Paradise fundraiser, and to the community members for their support. We asked staff to speak with their students from each division to see what types of equipment /resources they would like to have purchased with the profits for their outdoor activities – mainly utility balls (can be used for multiple sports/grade levels, more durable than ones we currently have), blitz balls/bats, pop-up nets, disc frisbees, mini basketball stand (e.g., Little Tykes to be kept in K shed and brought in/out), quality plastic shovels for the sandbox, soccer balls/volleyballs and flag football ribbons. As always, thank you to all members of the School Council for your continued dedication and support for our students and staff.

##### Covid-19 Updates

We were hoping to have a better update, but we continue to see higher than typical absences from students and staff that are Covid-related. Unfortunately, we are in an almost daily position of having one or more unfilled staffing jobs, having to fill internally, and taking away again from regular classroom programming. We are doing our best to be as consistent as possible with coverage when staff are away multiple days without supply teachers, but it is not always possible to do so. There still may be days upcoming when we are required to put two classes together in the gym to be supervised during the day if our staff shortages for the day do not allow for the 1:1 class coverage for internal coverage. This is a last resort. There are now 'uncertified' Occasional Teachers who have completed their Faculty of Education programs but are just waiting on their Ontario College of Teachers official certifications that can be contacted to fill some of these unfilled positions, but unfortunately, they are being 'scooped up' just as quickly to cover jobs across the Board. TVDSB is continuing to recruit and hire new OTs continually.

We have received a large supply of Rapid Antigen Test kits which available at the school for students/staff who are experiencing symptoms and would like to test for Covid. We have a large quantity of student masks available for families as well. The Board, on the advice of the Board of Health, are strongly encouraging that masks be worn once again, as outlined in their update to families on April 11.

### School Organization

Ms. Erin Knight is now active in our secretary role at PDPS. Unfortunately, we had to say 'goodbye' to our Charge Custodian, Tish Eggett, who has taken over the charge role at Hickson. We are still waiting to hear about a new hire for the position here at Plattsville. Jillian Hutchinson, our night custodian, will be supporting us during the day at least this coming week. We also said goodbye to our Child and Youth Worker Student who had been with us since January and has now completed her placement with us. We continue to have a co-op student from WO who is with us during the day on Tuesdays through Fridays through to the end of the school year.

We have been able to secure two community members who are available on an 'on call' basis as Student Support Supervisors. We will continue to look for someone to fill our Student Support Supervisor position from 10:35 – 11:35 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for the remainder of this school year, and into next year as well. Anyone from the community who is interested can contact Ms. Elcombe at the school.

We currently have 19 students pre-registered for JK next year. This is similar to the trends from the past two years where our actual totals by September were 34 and 35 students registered for JK/SK respectively.

Teaching staff has been allocated for 2022-2023. At this time, we do not have any surplus staff or vacancies to fill. As of right now, all 20 of our current virtual students will be returning to in-person learning again next year. While this is equivalent to one primary class, our organization (11 classrooms total) remains unchanged for 2022-2023. Our school organization plan has been submitted with two JK/SK classes, Grade 1, Grade 1/2, two Grade 2/3, Grade 3/4, Grade 4/5, Grade 5/6, Grade 6/7 and Grade 7/8. All classes at Kindergarten and Primary levels are at their cap limits as these are our largest numbers, but they did not grant us any additional classrooms at these levels. We will re-submit our numbers at the end of May. If you know of any children who would be eligible to begin JK in September (born 2018) but have not yet registered them, please encourage them to do so ASAP!

### Kindergarten Orientation/Classroom Visits

Our In-person JK Orientation will take place on Thursday, May 5 2:15 – 4:00 pm. We will be hosting a few community partners, as well as our new JK families in the gym from 2:15 – 3:30 pm for the orientation session. We will then open the K1, K2 and SK1 classrooms to parents who wish to have a 'tour' of their child's classroom, as our current JK and SK families have not had the opportunity to come into our school due to Covid. We are hoping to have an informal 'open house' the same night as the School Council Family BBQ in June to welcome families to see the classrooms before the end of the year. Invitations to our new JK families and current JK and SK families went out last week. If any School Council members would be available to attend the in-person orientation session to speak with families about School Council activities, etc., we would welcome your participation.

### Grade 8 Graduation

Grade 8 graduation will also be held in-person in our gym on Tuesday, June 28. A committee of parents has been invited to help with the organization of this event. We would love to have a representative from School Council say a few words to our graduating class at the ceremony, and perhaps present one of the awards. If anyone is interested and available that evening, please let Trish know.

### EQAO – Grades 3 & 6

We will be completing the new online EQAO assessment with our Grade 3 and 6 students during the weeks of May 16 to 20 and May 24 to 27. Information from this year's assessments will be used as baseline information for future EQAO assessments at these grade levels. Once schedules have been finalized, information will go home to parents.

### Student Photos

Individual student photos will be taken April 28, 2022. Students in remote learning have been invited to have their pictures taken in the school between 8:30 – 9:00 am. More information will follow closer to the date. We don't have a secured 'retake' date available currently...it will depend on the number of students requiring retakes after Thursday. At this time there are also no plans for 'formal' class pictures to be booked due to the delay now in individual photo dates. We will be looking into options for more casual class photos to be done at the end of the year.

### Scholastic Book Fair

The book fair will be both in-person and virtual and will run May 2 – 6. Mrs. Finnie is looking for parent volunteers to assist before, during and after school, if possible. Please contact Ms. Elcombe (t.elcombe@tvdsb.ca) or Mrs. Finnie (e.finnie@tvdsb.ca) directly if you're able to assist. At this time, we're asking that Kindergarten and SK1 students do not bring cash to school – they will still have the opportunity to browse and complete 'wish lists' and we will encourage them to come back with parents or to purchase online.

### TVPIC

The Thames Valley Parent Involvement Committee (TVPIC) supports, encourages, and enhances parent engagement at the Board level in order to improve student achievement and well-being. TVPIC often hosts events and symposiums geared towards parents to help build capacity for parent engagement. There is an opportunity to apply for a term positions and membership to TVPIC at tvdsb.ca/TVPIC. Each School Council should have a TVPIC representative to receive direct email information for parents (Chair or another appointed member). A short video on TVPIC was shared at the meeting.

### Upcoming Dates

April 28	Individual School Photo Day (& Grade 8 graduation retakes)
May 2 – 6	Scholastic Book Fair (see LLC website for information)
May 2	Town Meeting 7:00 -Ukrainian Refugee Assistance
May 4	Virtual Family Engagement Event 6:30 – 8:00 pm
May 5	Kindergarten Orientation 2:15 – 4:00 pm (invitations sent to new and current K families)
May 8	Mother's Day
May 12 (13)	PDPS Track & Field Meet (Gr.4-8)
May 16 – June 2	Grade 3 & 6 EQAO (specific dates, additional info. to come in next week's update)
May 23	Victoria Day
May 31	CASS Regional Track & Field Meet (Gr.4-8)
June 2	Provincial Election
June 3	PA Day
June 9	Family BBQ (School Council)
June 19	Father's Day
June 27	Reports & IEPs home
June 28	Grade 8 Graduation at PDPS
June 29	Last day of school
June 30	PA Day

### Hot Lunch Program:

Committee Members: Samantha Burns

After May long weekend we may need to shift vendors for our pizza hot lunch program. Plattsville pizza has been sold, and the ownership will change as of the May long weekend. Current owner also owns Ayr Village pizza and she will continue to do our hot lunch orders from the Ayr location, if the new owners of Plattsville Pizza decide not to honour our pizza hot lunch program. The hot lunch program is going well, no issues brought forward by council.

### Fundraising:

Committee Members: Dawn Richmond, Samantha Burns, and Henrik Ruhwedel, Kim Maendel.

Colour Paradise fundraiser is now finished, it went smoothly, and we raised \$825.00.

A few ideas for next year: maybe have different denominations available to purchase \$50 / \$100

Some people are not familiar with Colour Paradise Greenhouse and didn't know what they had to offer, so were not inclined to purchase. Their website wasn't too informative which may have limited what people thought they would want to buy there. Not even a third of the PDPS families participated in this fundraiser; approx. 41 families participated.

### **Parent Engagement Fund:**

Committee Members: Tina Young, Henrik Ruhwedel, Samantha Burns, Ann Ofori-Atta

Parent Engagement event: Year End Family BBQ – Thursday June 9<sup>th</sup> Rain date: Thursday June 16<sup>th</sup>

Waiting for answers from a few food truck vendors. Some vendors are donating 10% of sales back to our school council if they hit \$500 sold. Possible vendors: Beaver Tails -confirmed. Awaiting confirmation: Born2Eat, Kono Pizza, Todd's Dogs, Moreish Ice cream and Milkshakes. Other possible activities for the night : Bike rodeo, Fire truck spray hoses, open to other suggestions for activities.

### **Safe Schools:**

Committee Members: Valerie Stuart, Tina Young

No update at this time, have not had time to meet up.

### **Call For New Business**

Sam asks if a date has been set for staff appreciation day. Teacher's week is usually the first week in May.

Trish said they have not yet set a date within the school; we can choose any date to appreciate our teachers.

Parent council selected Wednesday May 11 for teacher appreciation day this year. We are allowed to bring in potluck style foods as we have done in the past. Sam will organize the donations for the day and when drop off and pickup will occur. In past years families have donated coffee, muffins, donuts, homemade soup, chili, wraps, sandwiches, desserts, gift cards, anything to appreciate our teachers and the hard work they do.

Sam will post on the Parent Council Facebook page for families to know about the event and provide donations.

Discussion about different grants available for Parent Council to apply for.

PRO Grant (Parents Reaching Out) up to \$8000 available, with a focus on inclusion and diversity. This application is due in 5 days. Will need to look at applying for this next year since we don't have enough time to gather the required information to apply in time. PEF Grant -Parent Engagement Fund \$500. PIF -Parent involvement fund \$500  
Sam will review the available grants and all the separate criteria required to apply for each, and have the information ready for the school year 2022-23. Sam will make it one of the first items to discuss and plan for in the first parent council meeting of the next school year.

Request for Funds for Grade 8 Graduation: Jessica (member of Grade 8 Grad. committee) will work with Trish to make a formal request to Parent Council for funds to be used for the graduation ceremony.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 pm – Thanks for Attending!**

**Next Meeting Date: Monday June 20 at 6:00pm**

“Parent Council Closeout Night” this meeting will be an informal, in-person meeting at the school