

## PDPS Community School Council Minutes

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Virtual Meeting of the 2020/2021 School Year**

Monday December 7, 2020 at 7:00pm

Via Microsoft Teams

**In Attendance:** Samantha Burns, Jessica Wagler, Trish Elcombe, Chrissy Schultz, Becki Hamilton, Dawn Richmond, Michelle VanDergaag, Henrik Ruhwedel, Krista Allen, Kim Maendel. Tina Young – sends her regrets.

**Welcome to the Meeting:** Samantha welcomes the group, discussion of previous minutes.

#### **October Minutes Approval/Change Requests:**

Motion to approve minutes: Becki Hamilton      Motion Seconded: Jessica Wagler

#### **Principal's Report – Trish Elcombe**

**(notes provided by T. Elcombe)**

##### **Appreciations**

In this very different school year, thank you for taking on the roles you have as Parent Council members. We so appreciate all of the support and generosity of the Plattsville Community. We were able to donate more than 10 boxes of food each to the Woodstock Food Bank to the Wilmot Family Resource Centre. In addition, staff raised \$245 for the Salvation Army, and the Me to We Club were able to donate to \$250 to the Christmas Place in Woodstock, and purchased \$450 worth of food hampers for the WFRC from funds remaining from last year. On a personal note, I really appreciate you keeping me informed as to what information the community is looking for from the school. It does help to shape this report, and to try to meet the needs of our families as best we can.

##### **School Organization**

We have been able to fill Ms. Baker's Educational Assistant position, welcoming Ms. Sargent in the Long Term Assignment. Ms. McNamara has left on an early maternity leave. We have been fortunate to have Mr. Curtis and Mr. McKinley look after her Grade 6/7 class over the last couple of weeks. Ms. Myers began in the position today, and will be with us until December 18. We will be welcoming Ms. Johnson to the position from January through June. Mr. Deschenes, our midday custodian, was transferred to Huron Park, so we have welcomed Mr. Lemke to that position.

##### **Communication with Home**

As soon as Ms. Elcombe receives communication from the Board (e.g., school closure, bus cancelation/delay, etc.), messages will go out to the PDPS community via SchoolMessenger, the PDPS website, and Facebook. These types of decisions are not made at the school level, so a set time for notification to families is not always possible. Families with students who ride the bus are encouraged to use the Bus Planner Delay app or check mybigyellowbus.com if there are questions around delays or cancelation of buses for the day. The bus decisions are usually made by 6:00 am.

##### **Snow Days/Bus Cancelations Days:**

TVDSB schools remain open when buses are cancelled for the day (PDPS only has 2 buses). If schools are closed (e.g., power outage, snow-related, etc.), there is no expectation, at this time, that students will be expected to do online learning for the day, however, their online classrooms would be available should they choose to access them. We do NOT adhere to the same policies as Waterloo Region District School Board.

##### **Covid Classroom/School Closure:**

Should a classroom or the school be closed for Covid-related reasons or on order of the Province, our virtual classrooms have already been set up and are operational. Staff are uploading resources and are working through learning opportunities both at school and through 'home' opportunities. This will minimize the disruption to student learning, should we need to pivot to online learning. Students who are home for an extended period of time may also access the online classroom and communicate with their teachers asynchronously during their absence from school. If at some point we do find ourselves back online, as with the Full Remote Learning, there will be more 'synchronous' expectations of staff and students (required times to be online for learning), and the 'classroom'

programs started through face-to-face learning at the school will carry on for the remainder of the school closure. It will be much more 'formal' than last spring's Emergency Distance Learning.

**Classroom Photos:** Ms. Elcombe will be taking photos of staff and classrooms this week to share with families.

### **Holiday Events**

We are unable to hold a holiday concert this year. Our school is planning a two night 'ArtWalk' for families to come to the school to enjoy. More information will go out about this event later this week. The students will also have spirit dress up days next week, and there are in-school trivia contests happening throughout the month. Individual classes may now have a 'celebration' as well during the last week before break, as long as proper protocols are being followed.

### **Safety Alert**

Unfortunately, last week's safety alert that was sent out was not accurate and turned out to be a misunderstanding, not a safety concern. Families are reminded that in the event that there is a perceived danger in the community, it should be the priority to contact the OPP or local law enforcement BEFORE posting on social media.

Here's a great article on raising street-smart kids:

<https://www.parents.com/kids/safety/stranger-safety/raising-street-smart-kids/>

### **School-based Fundraising**

We have been given some parameters in which we can begin some fundraising efforts in the new year. These opportunities would involve direct payment to the company or service, and direct delivery to homes.

### **School Goals**

We are working to build foundational skills in Literacy, Numeracy and Well-being for 2020-2021. Our Literacy goal will focus on building vocabulary, both sight and contextual, to increase comprehension skills. Automaticity of facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) will support problem solving in Numeracy. In all areas, a focus on persevering when faced with challenges or perceived challenges will support students to 'try' or 'keep going', an important life skill.

### **Other Information**

**Lower Parking Lot** – The maintenance and care of the lower parking lot is the responsibility of the Township. The school is responsible for the maintenance and care of the steps only. If there are issues on the stairs, or anywhere else on the school property, please notify the school as soon as possible so appropriate action can take place immediately.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Budget Updates: \$3,517.00 0 revenue / 0 expenses

### **Committee Updates:**

**Safe Schools-** nothing to report

**Fundraising-** some fundraising options have been approved by the board, only those that offer direct delivery, direct payment will be considered. Parent Council will post a poll online to find ideas of what parents would like to see us do as a fundraiser in 2021.

### **New guidelines**

**Goals of fundraising** – possibly replace some chrome books. Our Chrome books are starting to fade, and a lot of devices are out with family's for remote learners. Technology could be a good focus. Monetary donations to the school can be made by personal check; "Gift to School" tax receipt from Thames Valley will be sent to parents directly when they make a donation, parents can suggest where they would like to see the funds directed, but a balanced distribution is the goal. Technology items must be purchased through the school board, parents cannot directly purchase technology and donate it to the school. Donations need to be received before December 31.

### **Parent Involvement**

Follow-up to Facebook survey/interest – guest speaker topic of interest, no feedback has come back at this point.

### **New business:**

Future discussion items- Who to contact if parents have a question for our parent council? Doing a who's who of parent council to give the community an idea of who to contact if they have a question to be brought forward.

When a new family moves into our community it would be good to have information to give them about what parent council is about, who is involved, and what we do, and how to be part of our school group.

### **Parent Engagement**

Trish shared a slideshow with the parent council group on: Numeracy strategies to build automaticity of facts, looking at multiplication and division strategies. The slideshow is posted on our Parent Council tab on the Plattsville School Page.

**Next Meeting Date: January 11 at 7:00pm**

**Meeting Adjourned at–8:10pm Thanks for Attending!**