

## PDPS Community School Council Minutes

### 4<sup>th</sup> Virtual Meeting of the 2020/2021 School Year

Monday February 8, 2020 at 7:00pm

Via Microsoft Teams

**In Attendance:** Samantha Burns, Jessica Wagler, Trish Elcombe, Tina Young, Krista Allen, Becki Hamilton, Michelle VanDergaag, Henrik Ruhwedel,

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

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

Motion to approve minutes: Krista Allen

Motion Seconded: Michelle VanDergaag

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

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

**Appreciations:** Thanks to all families for their support and encouragement during our period of remote learning and with the very quick turnaround back to in-person learning. We have appreciated families heeding our request to be good role models for masking and distancing on the yard. Thanks to staff for all of their commitment to making online learning and the transition back to classes so successful. It is not an easy feat to switch back and forth between these two vastly different learning platforms!

**School Organization:** There have been a few staff changes since our December meeting. Ms. Johnson has begun in the Grade 6/7 class and will continue there until the end of this school year. Ms. Howes-Jones, who has been with our Grade 5/6 class since September, completed her Long-Term Occasional position as Mr. Barry returned from his leave on February 1. Welcome, officially, Mr. Barry! Mr. Lemke, our midday custodian, was transferred to Blenheim, so we welcomed Mr. Walker in January to that position. Unfortunately, he has also been transferred, and we are currently without a midday custodian. We also said 'good-bye' to Mr. Zalitach as we welcomed back Ms. Chatterson who has returned as charge custodian. Mrs. Werth, one of our Noon Hour Supervisors, has left her position as she has secured full-time employment elsewhere. We currently waiting for approval from the Board to add another Noon Hour Supervisor to our staff. In the meantime, Mrs. Fletcher has been assisting, filling in for Mrs. Werth's schedule.

We are currently at 212 students learning in person at PDPS. We had 3 students return from Full Remote Learning and Home Schooling, as well as a new family of 3 join us in January. Our total number of students, including FRL, is 239 students. We have already registered 22 new JKs for September and encourage families who went to Home School or who have school-aged children to register as soon as possible so that we can provide accurate enrolment projections to the Board, which will determine the number of classes and staff for next year.

**School Goals:** We continue 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.

**Report Cards/Kindergarten Communication of Learning:** Reports will be sent home on Friday, February 12. Questions or concerns should be directed to your child's teacher. Those students with Individual Education Plans will also receive copies of the term 2 plans on Friday.

**Family Day:** Monday, February 15 is Family Day, with schools closed across the province. We encourage our PDPS families to 'unplug' for the day and enjoy each others' company in 'low-tech' ways! Here's a site with some great 'screen-free' ideas for the day! <https://cricketmedia.com/blog/5-screen-free-family-activities-beat-winter-break-boredom>

**Outdoor Education Funding:** Our school has received a small amount of funding from the Outdoor Education program to purchase items to benefit outdoor learning from JK-8. We are looking into the possibility of obtaining some outdoor garden boxes from a Woodstock High School to promote science, social studies, health, math and language curriculum extensions. We would then use our funding to purchase the necessary equipment (e.g., hoses, watering cans, gardening tools, etc.) with our limited funding amount. We are looking for a commitment from the community to help care for these garden beds throughout the summer months so that they do not become weed-infested or damaged due to misuse. We are hoping that perhaps someone from the Parent Council might take on the leadership task of managing volunteers throughout the summer months. Mrs. Finnie and Mrs. Livingston are spearheading this project for PDPS.

**Toonie Tuesday:** For more than 10 years, schools across Thames Valley have been fundraising for the Caring Fund through the Toonie Tuesday campaign with resounding collective impact. A division of the Thames Valley Education Foundation, this Fund has been established in order to respond to emergency requests by principals on behalf of students in need, or who are facing issue related to poverty. However, given the pandemic and challenges that may arise on any given day, the Foundation has decided to forgo a formal Toonie Tuesday this school year.

At PDPS, we would like to continue this spirit of giving by collecting money through School Cash Online. The campaign will begin on Tuesday, February 16 and run through Friday, February 19. We will only be able to receive donations online, no cash. Based on our current population, we would like to set a goal of raising \$200 at least. Every little bit helps to keep our students safe while ensuring they learn to the best of their ability!

Also, TVEF will be running a virtual 5K event this spring, as an alternative to our regular Run for the FUNd. Further details will be provided as they are received.

**Safe Schools Team:** Each year, the Safe Schools Team, comprised of school staff, students, parents and community members, meets to analyze school data, then develops the Safe Schools Action and Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plans for the next school year. This year, these two plans have merged in to the Safe and Inclusive Schools Plan (SISP). We are looking for parents and community members (not necessarily parents) to sit on this committee. We will be meeting virtually this year, due to Covid restrictions. We hope to have our initial meeting before the end of February to begin to develop the plans for the remainder of this school year, and the beginning of 2021-2022. The new 'revision' date for the SISP will be January of each year. If you are interested in becoming a member of this team, or wish additional information, please contact Ms. Elcombe.

**Feb. 5 Fire at PDPS:** In the early evening of Friday, February 5, the Plattsville community experienced a 'brownout' of their hydro. The subsequent 'return' of the full hydro apparently shorted out a part in the motor of one of our rooftop heat exchangers over the gym. Mrs. Livingston was still in the building and detected an odour in the hallway, and reported it to Ms. Hutchinson, our evening custodian. During her investigation, the odour became more prevalent, and Ms. Hutchinson called 911, tripped the main breakers, cleared the building and waited outside for support. Fire trucks were dispatched from both Plattsville and Drumbo, and a small fire was located in the motor of the heat exchanger. By this time, black smoke had come through the vents into the gym, leaving a very strong odour and some soot covering portions of the walls and floors. The fire was quickly extinguished, large fans were placed in the gym to move out the smoke and odours, and air quality/CO2 levels were assessed to be fine. Over the weekend, WinMar cleaned the gym, and by Monday morning, there were no remaining signs of either the odour or soot in the gym or anywhere else in the building. Unfortunately, as there had been no heat in the area since Friday afternoon and as some of the WinMar equipment remained from the weekend, the gym remained closed to students on Monday. The part for the motor on the air exchange was being installed by Radcliffe on Monday afternoon, so the gym should be ready to go for Tuesday.

Thanks to Mrs. Livingston and Ms. Hutchinson for their quick responses, to the Plattsville and Drumbo Fire detachments for their work in containing the fire and its effects, and to WinMar and Radcliffe for their efforts in getting our gym back up and running so quickly.

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

Budget Updates: \$525.00 budgeted and spent on Forest of Reading books. \$53.59 earned through ongoing fundraiser Mabels Labels. Current Account balance: \$3045.59

### **Committee Updates:**

- a) **Safe Schools:** More Info. in principals report. Looking for volunteers for this committee, more info to come out on school communications, Facebook page, etc.
- b) **Fundraising:** Committee to confirm target for this year – goal is to help replace some of the tech. Set a time for a subcommittee meeting – those who are looking to help out with fundraising. Fundraising selection/options: rain barrel- green initiative, environmental impacts, \$65 each including the \$10 delivery charge direct to home. Plant seeds; Produce Express; Birthday Card Box; Mabels Labels; Committee to set a date for a meeting and confirm participants- Becky Hamilton, Krista Allen, Michelle VanDergaag.  
**Trish comments on tech needs:** 40 Chromebooks and 4 to 5 iPads are all out on loan to families for distance learning. Not able to use about 15 of our remaining Chromebooks, the technology is too old to update and use for current programs. We don't even have enough Chromebooks currently to have a full class use them. The board donated 10 new Chromebooks to our school. Approx. 6 Chromebooks for each classroom is what we currently work with. We are being very cautious making sure classrooms have basic supplies. Hoping when tech is returned from families they come back in working condition, and with the charging cords as well. It is an ongoing expense, and any help from the Parent Council would be greatly appreciated.  
Desktop computers that run the smartboard computers in classrooms are now dying as well. We are in a situation right now where we are hoping that what we have lasts the rest of the year...  
**To Be clear-** the school is not allowed to accept donated goods from parents. All purchases must go through the school board tender process, and all purchases must be approved through the school board.
- c) **Parent Involvement** - Follow-up to email forwarded from Principal about a possible guest speaker for parents, or families. Sarah Westbrook – mental health topics, could she provide a pre-recorded version for parents to access whenever they would like, rather than a formal evening time for a virtual meet? Looking into that further.

**New business:** (Presentation provided by Trish Elcombe) Garden Bed project. PDPS has received a \$300 grant to benefit outdoor learning. Installing the garden beds will mean the need for community and school volunteers to help maintain beds over the summer. This initiative will tie in with the outdoor classroom idea, utilizing under used space on our school grounds, and has the potential to become a community garden someday.

### **Parent Engagement** (Presentation provided by Trish Elcombe)

Topic: Literacy – Building vocabulary, and strategies to help with that. Building Literacy is not just for early readers, but for reading comprehension at all ages.

**Next Meeting Date: Monday March 29 7:00pm**

**Meeting Adjourned at \_8:29\_ pm – Thanks for Attending!**