

PDPS Community School Council Minutes

4th Virtual Meeting of the 2021/2022 School Year

Monday January 17, 2021, at 7:00pm

Via Microsoft Teams

In Attendance: Samantha Burns, Henrik Ruhwedel, Jessica Wagler, Trish Elcombe, Valerie Stuart, Dawn Richmond, Chrissy Schultz, Kim Maendel, Lindsay Kurt, Crystal Simpson, Stacey Jorgensen. Ann Ofori-Atta and Tina Young – send their regrets they could not attend tonight.

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

Approval of Minutes from last meeting:

Motion to approve December minutes: Valerie Stuart

Motion Seconded: Dawn Richmond

Treasury Report:

Treasurer: Stacey Jorgensen

Previous Month account balance \$ 3,526.18

Expenses \$ 734.75 Forest of Reading book order.

Current Account Balance: \$ 2,791.43

Funds raised, not yet applied to our account: \$ 470.50 hot lunch (pizza and subs)

waiting on funds raised from Dieleman's fundraiser, Dawn Richmond has been in contact via email with them.

Principals Report - Trish Elcombe

Appreciations

Thank you to all families for supporting our recent remote learning period once again. It is a very challenging 'pivot' for educators to move from face-to-face learning to virtual teaching. Now, as we hope to return to 'in-person' learning tomorrow, recognizing that many families have chosen to continue with asynchronous short-term learning opportunities, we appreciate everyone's patience and understanding as we navigate yet another new challenge! We are especially grateful for your understanding with today's unique circumstances due to the inclement weather and staff shortages which led to the closure of the school for the day. Our Superintendent is trying to work with the Board so that, if this were to occur again, the notice of school closure would be available much earlier. We are thankful that the staff and students who were able to make it to the school, only to have to turn around to head home, were all able to make it home safely.

Covid-19 Updates

Due to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, we anticipate that there will be higher rates of absenteeism both for students and staff in the upcoming weeks. It will be critically important for families to complete the provincial daily screening for each child to determine if they meet the criteria to attend school. If not, then the current directive is for ALL family members to isolate for 5-10 days, dependent on vaccination status. The same will be true for our staff members. Both students and staff have access to electronic confirmation of their daily screening status that will be monitored by the office. Each student was provided with a QR Code sticker with their TVDSB email login and password to access the confirmation back in December so direct emails to staff or printing of status daily is not required by families.

Students will each be provided with one 3-ply cloth mask (washable) when they return to in-person learning, and those who will be using them will be provided with a second mask later this week. We have been sent limited quantities at this time and are unsure if additional masks will be provided in the future. Staff have been provided with non-fitted N95 masks if they choose to wear them. They are usable for multiple days as long as their integrity stay intact (e.g., not wet or soiled), however are no more efficient than the medical/surgical masks staff have been wearing previously.

We do not anticipate any additional HEPA filtration systems for PDPS. We have units in the 2 Kindergarten classrooms and SK1 class (mandated in all Kindergarten classes), as well as the Library and Music Studio.

Our school has mechanical ventilation systems (motor-driven fans) in all classrooms. Further information about this system can be found at <https://www.tvdsb.ca/en/our-board/school-ventilation-list.aspx>.

We anticipate the arrival of Rapid Antigen Tests (mini kits of 2 test) in the next couple of weeks. When they arrive, one mini kit will be dispersed to each student and staff member. Additional tests will be provided if a student develops symptoms while at school.

At this time there are no plans for after-hours/weekend vaccination clinics for students 5 - 11 at PDPS. We will continue to update information from Public Health and TVDSB through our usual messaging systems.

School Organization

While some families have chosen to keep their child home to continue with asynchronous learning opportunities, they are still counted in our student enrolment of 240 in-person learners, 20 students in our virtual classroom, and 8 others registered in remote learning. We are still looking for someone to fill our Student Support Supervisor position from 10:35 – 11:35 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Anyone from the community who is interested can contact Ms. Elcombe at the school.

We are pleased to welcome our new Early Child Educator, Ms. Monica Hart, who began with Mrs. Harkness and the K2 class on January 5. We wish Ms. Wilkins all the best in her new position at Blenheim District Public School.

We are welcoming Maizie Dunlop, a Child and Youth Care student from Fanshawe, and Simran Kandola, and Early Childhood Educator student from Fanshawe, as they complete their practical placements with our school.

Student Photos

Individual student photos are still scheduled for Wednesday, February 23, 2022. Students in remote learning will be invited to their home schools to have their pictures taken. More information will follow closer to the date.

Upcoming Dates:

Jan. 17 – Feb. 4	Kindergarten Registration
January	Hot Lunch Program postponed
February 11	Term 1 Report Cards, Kindergarten Communication of Learning and Term 2 Individual Education Plans (IEPs) home
February 21	Family Day
February 23	Individual School Photos

Fundraising:

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

Next fundraiser will be Elmira Poultry. Fundraiser to open week of January 24. Orders are due back February 07.

Delivery date will be Saturday February 26; pickup will be outside the front of the school in the parking lot.

Orders will be placed using an online order form. We will need volunteers to help on February 26 with order pickup.

Future fundraising campaigns: local restaurant fundraiser-Sam will compose a letter that we can approach our restaurants in town to see if they would like to participate in this type of fundraiser.

Hot Lunch Program:

Committee Members: Samantha Burns

Unfortunately, our Hot lunch program will be cancelled for the next 2 weeks because we are not yet able to have volunteers in the school to help with distribution.

Parent Engagement Fund:

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

No updates at this time.

Safe Schools:

Committee Members: Valerie Stuart, Tina Young

No update currently. We are supposed to be doing a Safe Schools report for the end of January, but the deadline has been extended. We will try to meet by end of January as a committee to prepare the report.

Call For New Business

Graduates from 2021 - second letter (Samantha Burns)

The motivational letters are printed, and are in the mail, students should receive them in the next week. The letters are a friendly reminder that we are thinking of our past graduates and encouraging them. January is mental health awareness month; the timing of these letters ties in with that initiative.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 pm – Thanks for Attending!

Next Meeting Date: Monday March 07 at 7:00pm