

## PDPS Community School Council Minutes

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

Monday March 07, 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, 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 January minutes: Stacey Jorgensen

Motion Seconded: Henrik Ruhwedel

#### **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 account: \$ 1,115.00 Dieleman's & Elmira poultry \$ 2,425.00

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

##### **Appreciations**

A huge shout out to Dawn R. and the fundraising committee for the very successful Elmira Chicken fundraiser, and to the community members for their support. We have been able to purchase 2 curling sets for our gym which have already arrived. We look forward to being able to offer curling as another 'sport' to introduce students to during PE classes, and perhaps, eventually, through a recess club. As always, thank you to all members of the School Council for your continued support.

##### **Covid-19 Updates**

We continue to see higher than typical absences from students and staff that are Covid-related. Unfortunately, we have had a number of unfilled staffing jobs, and are finding ourselves having to fill internally, taking away again from regular classroom programming. We are doing our best to be as consistent as possible when staff are away multiple days without supply teachers, but it is not always possible to do so. There may be days 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. TVDSB is continuing to recruit and hire new OTs continually. We should have some additional OTs (currently students at the Faculties of Education) available starting in April when they complete their schooling.

We have received a very limited 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 are unsure if we will be receiving additional kits following the March Break. At this time, we have not received any further information about additional student masks being supplied.

We are anticipating some changes to Covid Protocols and Procedures following the March Break. Changes will be communicated as soon as possible once they are received.

##### **School Organization**

With Mrs. Harvey's departure in February, we have hired a new Administrative Assistant, Erin Knight. We are hopeful that she will be able to begin following the March Break. We will be saying goodbye on March 11 to Ms. Snider who currently provides prep coverage for our Virtual Grade 2 classroom, and some in-school student support. We will be welcoming Ms. Vanderwyst to the position as a Long-Term Occasional Teacher after March Break, but she will be working out of a school in London, so we will not see her in our building. We also have a co-op student from WO, Ms. Cave, who is with us during the day on Tuesdays through Fridays.

We are still looking for someone to fill our Student Support Supervisor position from 10:35 – 11:35 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays or for an ‘on call’ position. Anyone from the community who is interested can contact Ms. Elcombe at the school.

We currently have 18 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.

### **Student Photos**

Individual student photos have been re-scheduled for April 28, 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. At this time there are 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.

### **Outdoor Learning Update**

We have received two quotes from APE (Active Playground Equipment) who the Board has as a tendered vendor. The prices quoted are no longer ‘valid’ but give an idea of the cost for the project. For a sensory table, weaving panel, log table and chairs with engineered wood fiber safety surface material and other expenses (e.g., installation kits, delivery, etc.) for a 400 Sq ft area, the cost before taxes would be about \$16 200. For the same 3 items plus limestone screenings, the cost is approximately \$13 000. We have not received any further information regarding an armor stone seating area, just some possible layouts to consider. Please see the attached quotes and layout information.

### **2021-2022 School Budget**

This year, as a school we have been focusing on replacing gym equipment and investing in new equipment for all grade levels. Some of the ‘fun’ new items include pickle ball, spikeball, balancing steps and a number of different ‘primary’ items for early skill development. In addition, another focus has been on purchasing Chromebooks. Unfortunately, a number of our Chromebooks are no longer ‘viable’, meaning once they require any sort of repair, they need to be e-wasted. We will continually have to replenish our devices as they only last about 3-5 years. A large portion of this year’s remaining budget will be going to purchasing new student chairs for classrooms, replacing the wooden/steel stacking tables with folding tables, and purchasing kidney tables for each classroom.

### **Upcoming Dates**

March 9	K2 and SK1 to Vansittart Woods (first field trip!)
March 11	PJ/Comfy Cozy Day
March 14 – 18	March Break
March 21	‘Green’ Day
March 22	‘The Great Gulp’/Water Day
March 25	Earth Hour Dress Up
March 28–April 1	Gr. 3 CCAT Testing
April 1	K1 to Vansittart Woods

### **Fundraising:**

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

We wish to share with parents how successful our fundraisers have been, that information will be sent out to Panther families as soon as possible. Curling sets have been purchased with Parent Council donated funds approx. \$2000.00. Updates to our school library books are in the works; looking to expand diversity in our library. Currently looking at what books we want to choose. Board game drive was very successful for the awesome room, and some of the games will be shared with the other classrooms for indoor recess and classroom activities.

**Next fundraising update (Dawn R.):** Colour Paradise gift card sales – Manheim Greenhouse. 15% is earned by the school on the sale of every gift card. \$25, \$50, \$100 denominations will be available to purchase, looking to do a Saturday morning pickup of the gift cards same style we did for the Elmira poultry pickup. April 6 date to begin the fundraiser – having the numbers back to Dawn by April 20. April 30 possible pickup date for gift cards.

Next fundraising purpose: Council wishes to put it out to parents to see what they want to put money towards. Use social media to gather parents' feedback. We will offer "A/B/C" choices and parents can vote, we will need to act quickly to get the feedback for our next fundraiser purpose. Some parents suggested lockers for the 6/7/8 hallway. Trish has looked into the costs: \$450 for 1 full sized locker. Lockers are not maintained by board staff, which means any repairs or maintenance (painting etc) will need to be paid for by parent council funds in future years. The width of our hallways does not support lockers, which is a fire code issue. Students would have to share lockers, there is not enough room to have a single locker for each student. Just not feasible for such a small school. Locked cell phone lockers are already available and in use for each classroom for valuables. Some schools have chosen to remove their existing lockers due to maintenance fees.

Basketball court on school property will be getting a perimeter fence and lighting around it, provided and maintained by the township, so that it could be used all year round for floor hockey (non-ice surface) as well as basketball. The old baseball diamond on school property was going to be removed due to damage done to the infield, township was supposed to take care of that last summer. Soccer is another popular sport that we could look into getting more equipment for our students.

### **Hot Lunch Program:**

Committee Members: Samantha Burns

New policies for dealing with Hot lunch on days when there is a cancellation/school closure – we are no longer a school that will close when the buses are cancelled. If buses are cancelled we still move forward with hot lunch that day, Subs could be saved for a bus student to pick it up the next day. Parents have the option to pickup their pizza if they wish on a snow day. Pizza orders will not be saved for the next day, because unlike subs they are not individually wrapped. Refunds for hot lunch will no longer be offered, since our school will remain opened on snow days. Update on sub vendors issues: this is a new experience for them to coordinate school lunches, there have been some hiccups to start, but hoping they are ironed out now. They will be closely monitored going forward. Pizza vendor for hot lunch is going very smoothly.

### **Parent Engagement Fund:**

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

\$500 Parent Engagement funds for use yearly. This committee has met and came up with an idea to do a school bbq in June and invite the new JKs that will begin in September. Activities such as: a "window walk" of students artwork posted in their classroom window to be viewed from outside, offer food -invite food trucks perhaps, or bring your own dinner to have a picnic if you do not wish to purchase food. Plan B - could be done without serving food, and just have activities. Plan C – in case a group event could not take place, offer a take home "event package" for families to do together at home: sidewalk chalk, books, bingo cards, scavenger hunt are a few ideas.

### **Safe Schools:**

Committee Members: Valerie Stuart, Tina Young

No update at this time

### **Call For New Business**

Provide Food truck info to Sam if anyone has ideas of which food trucks we may want to look into, and think of next fundraising purpose ideas to have parents vote on using a social media vote.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:37 pm – Thanks for Attending!**

**Next Meeting Date: Monday April 25 at 7:00pm**