

PDPS Community School Council Minutes

5th Virtual Meeting of the 2020/2021 School Year

Monday March 29, 2020 at 7:00pm

Via Microsoft Teams

In Attendance: Samantha Burns, Jessica Wagler, Trish Elcombe, Dawn Richmond, Krista Allen, Henrik Ruhwedel, Michelle VanDergaag, Becki Hamilton – not able to attend.

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

February Minutes Approval/Change Requests:

Motion to approve minutes: Dawn Richmond

Motion Seconded: Krista Allen

Principal's Report – Trish Elcombe

(notes provided by T. Elcombe)

Appreciations

We continue to be grateful for the support of our Panther families as we navigate this 'Covid-19' school year. Everyone has been very patient with the protocols we must follow, especially in terms of when we are to send students home with possible symptoms. We really appreciate those families who have made contact with their child(ren)'s teachers to let them know about 'typical' spring symptoms to assist us with our decision-making. Please remember that our local Public Health is no longer providing a 'decision tool' for parents – everyone is to use the provincial school screening tool daily.

School Organization

There have been a few more staff changes since our February meeting. Mrs. Harkness has begun her Return to Work Plan, currently 0.2 FT, and will be extending her time to 0.4 FTE after the break in April. We have been without a midday custodian since February but have welcomed Mr. Smith who began last week to the position. Welcome also to Mrs. Ruhwedel, our new Student Support Supervisor (formerly known as Noon Hour Supervisor).

We are currently at 210 students learning in person at PDPS with 29 students continuing in full remote learning. We have 251 students currently registered for 2021-2022, and as such, will be adding an additional homeroom classroom for next year. Over the next few weeks, we will be organizing staff and starting to look at class sizes for 2021-2022. We will begin the process of assigning students to classes in early May.

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.

Outdoor Education Funding

Thank you for your commitment to supporting our outdoor garden box project. We have been advised that our boxes are ready, as soon as our plan has been approved by Facilities, which is currently in progress. Mrs. Finnie and Mrs. Livingston are spearheading the project for PDPS on the staff side, and will be working with Parent Council to create a schedule for families to tend to the gardens over the summer months.

Toonie Tuesday

Thanks to the generosity of our Panther families, \$184 was raised and donated to the Toonie Tuesday campaign.

Also, the Thames Valley Education Foundation (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

We are looking to have our first Safe Schools Committee meeting during the week of April 19. We have put out an appeal for members from the PDPS community as well as parents. The main goal of the team will be to work with school-based data to determine a goal for our Safe and Inclusive Schools Plan (SISP), due at the end of May.

Educator Appreciation Day

Educator Appreciation Day will be Tuesday, May 4 this year. With all of the 'twists and turns' our educators have been through this school year, it would be great to have a day to celebrate all they do to support the students of PDPS. If anyone would be interested in working with Ms. Elcombe to plan something special for the day, please contact her directly.

Cell Phone/Personal Devices

We have been having some issues with misuse of cell phones/personal devices at school. Misuses include texting parents to ask to go home/go out at lunch, using them for non-educational purposes, refusal to put away when asked, etc. We have re-instituted the 'lockers' in Grades 6/7 and 7/8, and are looking into a similar solution (smaller scale) for Grades 5/6 and 4.

Grade 8 Grad Photos

All being well, our Grade 8s are scheduled to have their graduation photos taken on April 26 by EdgelImaging.

Grade 7 Vaccinations

At this time, Public Health have postponed the second Grade 7 vaccinations at the school this spring.

Upcoming Dates

Friday, April 2	Good Friday
Monday, April 5	Easter Monday
Tuesday, April 6	Wear blue for Autism Awareness
April 12 – 16	Spring Break
Tuesday, April 13	First of Ramadan
Thursday, April 22	Earth Day

Treasurer's Report:

Budget Updates: Becki not able to attend

Committee Updates:

Safe Schools: More Info in principal's report. Looking for volunteers for this committee. Need at least 2 volunteers for this committee, will post to the Facebook community page as well – community members are welcome to be on this committee.

Fundraising: Meeting brief: the group gathered to discuss fundraising needs; decided to shift focus to include technology needs, rather than all funds focused towards the outdoor learning space. We will focus on rain barrel fundraiser this year. Hoping to do a "seed packet" fundraiser for next year, targeting a time for early winter, so that people can plan their gardens and be ready for spring planting.

Rain Barrel launch- April 30 is the online purchasing deadline. May 8 is the possible delivery date if we make the goal of 50 rain barrels sold. If not we will need to piggy back on a neighbouring community delivery date. Lions club will promote our rain barrel fundraiser free of charge on the community message board in front of Shakers restaurant. A poster will be sent out to families to allow for sharing the information with anyone they wish.

New Fundraising Opportunity – “Community Dining” – an opportunity to fundraise while boosting our own community resources. Our local restaurants have all been hit hard by covid restrictions. The idea is to promote each of the restaurants during a specific week in May. Promote the restaurant by inviting our community to purchase food from them with a portion of the proceeds going back to our school. The restaurant could offer a specific item or meal, or just a percentage of sales for a certain day or whatever option they wish. Restaurant would gift their donation amount to the school, and then the school board would issue a tax receipt for their donated amount.

New business:

Parent Involvement Funds (PIF) for 2020 – 2021

▪ Develop Sub Committee - \$500 available for the PIF these funds can be spent during this current school year on anything that would help engage families with our school. Some ideas to spend the available funds: communications to families, welcome kits to new families moving to Plattsville, Literacy nights, virtual guest speaker, virtual magic show, something for the grade 8's since they won't likely get a graduation night.

Sub Committee Volunteers- Krista Allen, Samantha Burns, Henrik Ruhwedel to come up with ideas for the Community welcome package.

Future discussion items – The school board is looking for school council input regarding school administration; looking for feedback on administration within our school, to help build an understanding of what type of leadership we need within our own school community.

Define our unique characteristics of our school community: farming families different responsibilities for students, rural connections, generational families which have attended the same school – long term community members. Community library is within our school building – students have the opportunity to interact with members of the community coming into the library (in a non-covid year)

What leadership qualities would bring value to our school community ? well-being is high on the list of requirements of a leader – strong understanding of social emotional learning. Wholistic learning, restorative practices rather than suspension in terms of student discipline. Discipline as a form of teachable moments, rather than a form of punishment.

Parent Engagement : Topic - Well-Being

(Presentation provided by Trish Elcombe)

Discussing the Board's strategic plan and goals on well-being within our school, and for our students.

Trish shared a presentation about well-being and how it is approached by educators in our school.

Next Meeting Date: Monday May 03 7:00pm

Meeting Adjourned at _8:17_ pm – Thanks for Attending!