

PDPS Community School Council Minutes

6th Virtual Meeting of the 2020/2021 School Year

Monday May 03, 2021 at 7:00pm

Via Microsoft Teams

In Attendance: Samantha Burns, Jessica Wagler, Trish Elcombe, Krista Allen, Henrik Ruhwedel, Tina Young, Becki Hamilton, Dawn Richmond, Brigitte Balzer, Michelle VanDergaag, Guest Speaker Leah Schwartzentruber SLP.

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

February Minutes Approval/Change Requests:

Motion to approve minutes: Tina Young

Motion Seconded: Krista Allen

Principal's Report – Trish Elcombe

(notes provided by T. Elcombe)

Appreciations

As we have shifted to remote learning once again, we continue to be grateful for the support of our Panther families. We know everyone is doing the best they can to support their children, while at the same time making well-being the focus for the family. Thank you so much for the thoughtful contributions to Educator Appreciation Week – I know they will be very much appreciated. Items will be delivered on Tuesday and Wednesday to staff.

School Organization

All families across TVDSB have been asked to declare their 'return to learn' platform (in-person or full remote) for the entire school year beginning September 2021 by Thursday, May 13 to complete staffing re-organization ahead of September. We understand this is a difficult decision for many of our families as there are so many 'unknowns' at this time. Ms. Elcombe will be contacting all families who have not responded by the May 13 deadline as 'no response' will automatically be assigned to 'in-person' learning.

We are currently at 210 students learning in person at PDPS with 29 students continuing in full remote learning. We have increased our numbers from the last report to 256 students currently registered for 2021-2022. The information from the declaration will determine whether we are able to keep the current staffing as reported last month (11 classrooms, 14.2 teachers).

Mrs. Harkness has increased her Return to Work Plan, currently to 0.6 FTE. We also have hired Ms. Keely Snider as our school's Itinerant Long term Occasional teacher (share with 5 other schools) and have said 'goodbye' to Ms. Brooks, who is returning to the private sector.

We have posted for one full-time position (Grade 6/7) for 'round 1' of staffing, as Mrs. Justrabo will be retiring at the end of June. Interviews will be taking place later this week.

Safe Schools Team

Our Safe Schools Committee had a productive meeting on April 21 to look at school and system level data, and to determine the direction for our Safe and Inclusive Schools Plan (SISP), due at the end of May. We will be meeting on Monday, May 10 to narrow our goal and to determine school and community based strategies around the theme of 'Empathy'.

Educator Appreciation Week

Thank you so much for your contributions to our Educator Appreciation Week. We are so fortunate to have such support families!

Grade 8

We will be planning a 'drive thru' graduation celebration at the end of June for our Grade 8s, with a date to be determined. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our formal photos, but Mrs. Dickson was able to get an informal photo for almost all in-person students' before remote learning. We will be reaching out to those students in Full Remote Learning to have them also submit a photo and plan to do our own 'composite' and video celebration. We are currently in the process of meeting with High School Guidance and Special Education departments to complete transition meetings for our Grade 8 students.

Virtual Scholastic Book Fair

PDPS will be holding a second virtual book fair with Scholastic Canada from May 19 – 26. More information will be posted this week.

Upcoming Dates

May 3 – 7	Educator Appreciation Week, Mental Health Week
May 6 7:00 pm	Community Connections – Trustees presentation
May 9	Mothers' Day
May 10 3:45 pm	Safe Schools Committee Meeting
May 12 sundown	Eid al Fitr
May 17	Pride Day
May 19 –26	Scholastic Virtual Book Fair
May 24	Victoria Day – no school
May 27	Term 3 Individual Education Plans (IEPs) home for students in Special Education

Treasurer's Report:

Nothing to report currently; next month with the Rain Barrel fundraiser completed, will have more to report.

Committee Updates: Fundraising:

Rain Barrel fundraiser has officially ended. We did not meet our 50-barrel goal. We currently sold 29 barrels. The website for orders will be kept open for additional orders, to try to fill a truck if possible. Ordering will close by end of week, to combine orders for delivery. Deliveries should occur around May 8, families will be contacted if delivery will be later than May 22nd. Feedback from this fundraiser: some colours of barrel choice were not available, stock issues made it limiting on what was available to purchase, which became frustrating for people; competing with Ayr (doing the same fundraiser) for selling to our neighbouring communities.

Restaurant fundraiser idea: Sam has drafted letter and delivered to our 3 local restaurants in town explaining our proposal; we hope to hear back from the restaurants by end of week. Parameters can be set by the restaurant as to what proceeds are given back to the school. Hoping to have more news by the next meeting. Watch for more information in our weekly emails, and school Facebook page for updates.

PIF - Parent Engagement Fund:

Subcommittee met to talk about creating a welcome package for JK students. The fund offers \$500, which is not a lot of money. Subcommittee decided to focus on the JK welcome package, we can't do much more with only \$500. We hope to revisit and strengthen the "welcome to our community" package idea at a later time. What would JK families like to receive? Subcommittee came up with the theme of: "Connection" So far ideas include: the book "The Kissing Hand" to help with anxiety of starting school and separating from parents. Playdoh recipe cards and cookie cutter, to promote fine motor skills and strengthen hand muscles to prepare for printing. A picture of the school, and a picture of the kindergarten classroom, to help familiarize new students with their environment, since in-school visits are not permitted at this time. Numeric set of wooden discs in cloth bag, custom-made by a local Plattsville business, to help with number recognition and counting. A custom made "Future Panther" T-shirt, donated by local Plattsville business for each JK student. We should plan for 35 welcome packs (currently 32 JK's enrolled).

Future Idea: “Welcome to Plattsville” package: This would be a package of printed literature to give to new families joining our community. Ideas of Information to include would be: sports, dance, clubs, social media groups and pages to join, information on garbage pickup, bag tag costs, recycling, library contact info, special days and yearly community events, school contacts, parent council information, school fundraisers, medical clinic info, local business directory, local restaurant directory, local walking and hiking trail information etc etc etc. Many more ideas could be included. If there are leftover funds from the PIF we will direct those funds to this initiative to go against costs of printing the welcome packages.

Question from a Parent: Are families allowed to use the basketball courts on the playground during this current stay at home order ? TVDSB posted a confusing post on their social media site, saying that playing on TVDSB playgrounds and tarmac areas are prohibited – Trish will look into further for an answer.

Parent Engagement : guest speaker Leah Schwartzentruber (SLP) on Phonological Awareness

Recorded version of the presentation shown by Leah Schwartzentruber will be posted to the Parent Council page on our school website soon.

Reading Rockets <https://www.readingrockets.org/>

TVDSB SLP <https://sites.google.com/gotvdsb.ca/tvdsbspeechlanguageservices/home>

Next Meeting Date: Monday June 7th 7:00pm

Meeting Adjourned at 8:09 pm – Thanks for Attending!