

PDPS Community School Council Minutes
2nd Virtual Meeting of the 2020/2021 School Year
Monday October 26, 2020 at 7:00pm
Via Microsoft Teams

In Attendance: Tina Young, Samantha Burns, Jessica Wagler, Trish Elcombe, Chrissy Schultz, Becki Hamilton, Dawn Richmond, Michelle VanDergaag, Henrik Ruhwedel

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

September Minutes Approval/Change Requests:

Motion to approve minutes: Dawn Richmond

Motion Seconded: Tina Young

Principal's Report – Trish Elcombe

(notes provided by T. Elcombe)

Appreciations- Thank you to the Parent Council for your continued work as liaisons between the school and our school community members. To our Nutrition Program coordinators and distributors, thank you for making sure our students have this critical program available to them each week. We are also grateful for generous donations from North Blenheim Mutual Insurance and Plattsville & District Lions Club to purchase items to benefit students and our school community. We are blessed to have such a caring, innovative and flexible staff of educators here at PDPS who continue to provide amazing learning opportunities to our students within our restricted and ever-changing learning environments. We have a fantastic PDPS School Community all around!

School Organization - We were very fortunate to be able to go through the last Board 'reorganization' phase without any changes to our 10 existing classrooms. Since September's return to school, we have had three students change to Full Remote Learning (FRL), with one additional student currently on the 'waitlist' for the November 2 shift date. We have had three students return to PDPS from FRL as there is no longer a waiting period for students who wish to return to in person learning. We do not anticipate a significant number of changes to our classrooms over the next few weeks in terms of students returning around the original November 2 date at this time. We did not have any applicants for our 0.6 position (Grade 2/3), so we were able to offer the Long-Term Occasional (LTO) position to Mrs. Lowrick for the remainder of the year, which she accepted. We do not currently have Ms. Baker's position (Educational Assistant) filled with a Long-Term Assignment (LTA), but do have a casual EA in place at least for the next couple of weeks. We are hoping that we will be able to secure the LTA for the remainder of the year before the end of November.

Communication with Home- Communication directly from the school is through SchoolMessenger with weekly updates sent each Friday. Important items and bulletins will be posted on the school website and on Facebook Page, separate from the Parent Council page. To access the new Facebook page, please search "Plattsville & District Public School PDPS".

Staff communication with families may come in different forms including SchoolMessenger, emails, newsletters, texts and phone calls. If you have not been receiving updates or information, please send a note to school with your child asking for the staff member to contact you directly.

Now that we have gone through the reorganization phase, we can begin to make plans for virtual 'Meet the Staff' opportunities. These may include virtual tours of classrooms, videos and class information shared by staff, scheduled Google Meets with staff so that families have opportunity to attend/ask questions. More information will be shared following our staff meeting next week.

Progress Reports and Initial Communication of Learning for Kindergarten will be coming home on November 13. Opportunities will be provided by individual staff members to schedule virtual or telephone meetings with families to discuss reports after they have gone home. This year, there is no dedicated Professional Activity Day designated for interviews. As always, there should be no 'surprises' for families as information regarding student achievement should have been previously communicated in terms of difficulties. Progressing With Difficulty (PWD) at the time of

a Progress Report simply means a student has not yet met an expectation for their grade level. Given the lengthy school closure in the spring and our late return to school, this is to be expected for many of our students as we determine where there are learning gaps, and then plan and implement learning opportunities to fill them at an accelerated rate. Unfortunately, there is no option on the Progress Report for students who are 'almost there'. Should the school be closed for Covid-related reasons or on order of the Province, our virtual classrooms have already been set up and are operational. Staff are uploading resources and are working through learning opportunities both at school and through 'home' opportunities. This will minimize the disruption to student learning, should we need to pivot to online learning. As with the Full Remote Learning, if we do find ourselves back online, there will be more 'synchronous' expectations of staff and students (required times to be online for learning), and the 'classroom' programs started through face-to-face learning at the school will carry on for the remainder of the school closure. It will be much more 'formal' than last spring's Emergency Distance Learning.

School-based Fundraising- There will be no school-based fundraising for the immediate future. We have been approached about receiving donations of sanitizer or masks from the community. At this time, we can only accept and are being provided with specific items and PPE approved through the local Public Health units and the TVDSB. While we currently have no 'urgent needs' at the school, we have used community donations (NBMI) to supply some additional equipment for each classroom to be used for outdoor learning and recess times, rather than depleting our gym equipment supplies. This is an area where additional items would be welcomed, as we are now able to use our gym again with a modified schedule. Financial donations (gifts to school) would be preferred rather than 'in kind' items so that they can be ordered and distributed to classrooms equitably. The Lions Club donation has been specifically requested to go towards new chairs for the gym for when we can meet again as a school community. The Greening Project funds have been allocated through the Board and tenders accepted. Unfortunately, due to delays from the manufacturers and vendors' sides, the construction of the amphitheatre, slide and stage will not get underway until the spring.

*We may be receiving further information about fundraising opportunities that would involve direct payment to the company or service, and direct delivery to homes in the next week or so. This information will be passed on to the Executive once we know more.

Nutrition Program- We have begun our Nutrition Program as of Monday, October 19. It looks different from past as non-perishable, pre-packaged or naturally packaged food will be delivered at the beginning of the week to classrooms for students to take as they wish. Our thanks to Mrs. Braunig, Ms. Moore and Mrs. Meyer for their planning and purchasing, and to Mrs. Tickner for organizing the food and clean up each week. We will also continue to access the Woodstock Salvation Army program who provides a bucket filled with 'extra food' for students who may be hungry or have forgotten their lunches, and who will 're-stock' the bin as needed. We're grateful to have such amazing community support.

School Goals - We are working on narrowing our Literacy, Numeracy and Well-being goals for 2020-2021. In general, we will be focusing on insuring strong foundations in Reading and Number, and encouraging student to 'try' or 'keep going' when faced with perceived challenges.

Other Information - Our sympathies go out to Mr. Zalitch, our temporary Charge Custodian in for Ms. Chatterson, who lost his mother on October 16.

Treasurer's Report: Becki Hamilton - This would be the usual time Parent Council would create the budget for school year 2020/2021, but this year we don't anticipate spending any money, everything is on pause for now. Current estimated assets \$ 2,992.00

Forest of Reading Request : Approval- majority in agreement for payment up to \$525 for the Forest of Reading Program. All those in favour: Tina Young, Jessica Wagler, Becki Hamilton, Krista Allen, Michelle Vandergaag, Samantha Burns. Request for funding granted. Vote held on Thursday October 8, 2020 via Email.

Committee Updates:

Safe School – Nothing to report at this time, no committee meeting has been held.

Fundraising – Nothing to report at this time, no committee meeting has been held.

Parent Involvement – Is there an opportunity for a parent workshop or info session? Could be done online, a virtual workshop. Topics: Resilience, mental wellness, etc. Trish can look into any opportunities that come her way for speakers and workshops. Sam will setup a poll on our Council facebook page to see what types of parent engagement topics parents might be interested in.

Parent Engagement Trish shared a powerpoint.

Topic: Numeracy - Strategies to Build Automaticity of Facts. Discussed strategies to help get our kids to be more comfortable doing mental math, not necessarily just memorization as a strategy. Helping children find the strategies that work best for them, by offering many different types.

Topic: Literacy- Strategies to Build Readers. Problem solving, active thinking, finding meaning in the words. It is about engaging our children when reading, not just memorizing sight words. When we read words with no context, and no framework this leads to guessing at words, and errors, and frustration. Reading in context is the key to building readers. 3 Literacy goals: Comprehension, Fluency, Motivation.

Next meeting date: Monday December 7 - 7:00pm

Meeting Adjourned at _8:33_ pm – Thanks for Attending!