

Brant Ave School Council Meeting

February 16, 2021

1. Financial Report

- i. \$500.00 School Council supplies
- ii. \$371.00 Other
- iii. \$529.71 - Playground Equipment
- iv. \$2,211.35 - Playground Maintenance

2. Teacher's report

2. Remote learning

- i. The feeling among staff was that we were really happy with the success we had with students, lots of participation, amazing families out there. Parents were trying to do their best as were the teachers, it was a really positive experience.
- ii. Students are adjusting really well to wearing masks outside.

3. Principal's Report

- i. A big thank you to our support that came from JF Ross and Fred A Hamilton, they were instrumental in getting chrome books out to kids. Every family that needed tech got it.
- ii. On our website there is a parent engagement event on March 4th that is being communicated. I'm also going to send out an email to try and get parents involved. Sign up through Eventbrite, <https://www.ugdsb.ca/brantave/2021/02/10/ugdsb-and-pic-to-host-second-parent-engagement-event/> Please share out to your communities as well.
- iii. Lots of questions about the process of switching from remote school to bricks and mortar school. <https://www.ugdsb.ca/ers/2020/11/20/request-for-mid-term-enrollment/> The process from moving back and forth was initially set up so there was going to be a single when families could switch. Now there is a different process, follow the link on the boards website to put your family on a wait list. While on the wait list learning will be asynchronous until they have enough numbers to create a new class and hire a teacher. Switching to Brant is a bit different, it really depends on how many students are in the classroom already and if there is room. Otherwise, same thing happens and we have to create a wait list. Primary classes can go up to 23 before creating a wait list. The goal is to avoid a big reorganization that involves shifting kids from class to class. We need to take into consideration both their emotional well being, as well as trying to keep them in a cohort. More specific details to follow.
- iv. January 28th Junior students had an Anti-Racism presentation from Get REAL. Given by two presenters who were really able to connect with the students. They demonstrated to us how we can discuss these topics in a delicate and meaningful way, because they kids are already talking about it. Lots of follow up after in individual classes. Lots of great participation. The UGDSB has made a pledge to work on anti-racism now and going forward. Terminology was introduced. And they shared some of their own life experiences as well. Feedback was really positive.

- v. Fundraising - in the next communication I'm going to be putting out a specific form that can be found on our school webpage that is in coordination with the learning foundation and Canada Helps.
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/upper-grand-learning-foundation/>
 and <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/59512> It's a donation page that is linked to our school and parents can go there to donate directly to our school. Our greatest need is tech.
 - vi. Brant Spirit Wear, the sale happened during our pivot to remote learning. We still had quite a few sales \$2,000. May not have been as much as in the past but could have been timing. Extended deadline past the 25th a bit, should be at school within 2 weeks.
 - vii. In terms of wearing masks on the school grounds, we have been asking parents for enhanced safety. Also we've asked that students come to school much closer to the bell time 9:55AM. We don't want to run into social distancing issues. Pick up as well parents are encouraged to come right at 3:10PM. Please communicate this to other parents if you get a chance.
4. Questions:
- i. Are there any grants we can apply for Tech?
 - i. I've applied for 2 so far, we weren't successful with the first one
 - ii. If there are any other grants that parents know about, let Gerard know
 - ii. How will spirit wear be distributed
 - i. Same as last year. If we're doing hand sanitizing and following our protocols it will be safe. We will let it sit for a bit and we will have one person distributing to the classroom.
 - iii. Do we have an online platform, social media, facebook group?
 - i. Gerard would love to see that, communicating and connecting with parents.
 - ii. Kim volunteered to create one.
 - iii. Krista volunteered to be an admin as well.
 - iv. Can Jay offer Gr. 6 Grad Wear?
 - i. Gerard will look into that and bring it to staff
5. Any feedback on the March Break change?
- i. Not so far. I think there is a certain break for a certain reason and timing is important.
 - ii. This is a tough year, so I think we need to keep an eye on staff and kids. Everyone has been so resilient, staff, kids, parents but having to pivot has created a great amount of stress. It's another one of those things we're going to have to get together and support each other through this.
 - iii. We often talk with our students about factors that are within our control and how we deal with those things that are out of our control. There is always a chance that the break may come in the crest of another wave, but we're going to work through it and support each other through it.

6. Could we do some remote field trips for a bit of a break for the kids?
 - i. March would be a good time for those. Outdoor education centers, maybe we can take advantage of those too.
 - ii. Scientist is the school is still happening and we had 10 free sessions provided through a grant.
7. Are the Kindergarten areas shared with all the kindergarten classes?
 - i. Both classes are using the yards, day 1 and 2 Christine's class goes outside the gate during outdoor learning. Opposite times to all other grades.
8. Will siblings close in age be in the same class next year?
 - i. We can't make any predictions at this time. It's really about keeping kids in a cohort.
 - ii. I believe when dealing with conflict at school that parents are stakeholders, call parents first and ask them what works, more about the conversation and how students deal with the de-brief. Whether they're in the same family or not we are still going to have the conversation and we have progressive discipline strategies that we use often that are helpful.

Next Meeting: April 20th, 2021 – 6:30 pm